

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

City University of New York

ACADEMIC LITERACY AND LINGUISTICS DEPARTMENT**CRT 100/PHI 115 - 0500**

WINTER 2018

Credits: 3

Class hours: ONLINE

Instructor: Rosario Torres-Guevara

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Course Description

This online course is designed to develop the mind and help sharpen students' ability to think clearly, logically, thoroughly, critically, and effectively. Through substantive readings, structured writing assignments and ongoing discussions, students will learn to use analytical skills in reading, writing, oral presentations, researching, and listening. Students will examine concrete examples from their own experience and readings and contemporary issues in the media to learn how to analyze issues, solve problems, and make informed decisions in their academic, professional, and personal lives.

Prerequisites/Co-requisites: ENG 088, ESL 094, ACR 094

CRT 100 Student Learning Outcomes	Samples of Measurements
Demonstrate ability to think clearly, logically, thoroughly, critically, and effectively.	• Short informal writing assignments • Formal essay graded with rubric • Group discussion • Final exam or project
Use analytical skills in reading, writing, oral presentations, researching, and listening.	• Oral presentations graded with rubric • Final exam or project • Class debates/discussion graded with rubric • Formal written projects (essays, min-research projects) graded with rubric
Demonstrate ability to solve problems and make mindful decisions in academic, personal, and professional situations	• Analysis of case studies graded with rubrics • Journal entries/written work focusing on problem-solving
Analyze arguments critically and present a coherent, persuasive argument in writing and in oral presentations (as individuals and in groups).	• Case studies • Quizzes • Final exam
Recognize the credibility, appropriateness, and reliability of sources and biases, e.g., stereotypes and fallacies in thinking.	• Critical analysis of media, graded per guidelines outlined in the assignment
Read, summarize, and evaluate a variety of texts and media	• Critical analysis of media, graded per guidelines outlined in assignment

Pathways**D. Individual and Society**

Learning Outcomes	Samples of Measurements
Students gather, interpret, and assess information about personal, professional, academic, and contemporary issues from various sources, e.g., print and online media or academic discussions.	• Blog informal writing assignments • Group discussion in forum • Assignment presentations graded with rubric
Students learn to recognize the credibility, appropriateness, and reliability of sources and biases, e.g., stereotypes and fallacies in thinking with regard to personal, academic and contemporary issues.	• Case studies discussions • Media analysis • Assignment presentations graded with rubric • Formal written assignments with rubric • Reciprocal Peer Questioning
Students present coherent and persuasive arguments in writing and in oral presentations about contemporary and social issues.	• Formal essay graded with rubric • Discussion graded with rubric • Final exam
Students identify and apply the fundamental concepts	• Class debates/discussion graded with rubric

of critical thinking to examine and analyze the relationship between the individual and society with regard to contemporary and social issues in various disciplines.	• Reciprocal peer questioning
Students examine and evaluate the interaction of different societal dimensions and critical thinking in the individual in order to develop the skills necessary to arrive at well-reasoned conclusions.	• Analysis of case studies graded with rubrics • Journal entries/written work focusing on problem-solving, Blog
Students articulate, defend, and assess ethical views and principles about contemporary and social issues.	• Discussion replies graded with rubric • Final exam • Formal essay graded with rubric

General Education	
General Education Learning Outcomes	Measurements (means of assessment for general education goals listed in first column)
Communication skills- Students will be able to write, read, listen and speak critically and effectively.	Argumentative and reflective writing and discussion
Values- Students will be able to make informed choices based on an understanding of personal values, human diversity, multicultural awareness and social responsibility.	Reading and analysis of critical thinking theory based on classical schools of thought

Your course grade will be based on

- Thorough and thoughtful completion of journal and discussion board assignments. Each activity indicates the number of points in the instructions.
- Completion of reading responses and other assignments. These are worth up to five points each, with a few exceptions for smaller tasks, which are worth three points.
- The quality of your essay drafts. Grading rubrics will be provided for each assignment.
- Midterm and final exams are worth 10 points each.

Your final grade is determined by a simple point system. I will divide the total points you have earned by the total points possible. Weighting is built into the points assigned. For instance, the midterm exam is worth 10 points, and the final exam is worth 12 points, while most day-to-day work is worth three to eight points, all adding up to 100 points total.

Late work policy

Because of the compressed time frame of a winter course, it is absolutely essential that you keep up. Even falling a day behind can lead to disaster. Late assignments will be accepted up to 24 hours after the due date, for reduced credit. Exceptions may be made if you communicate with the instructor in advance of the due date. Please note that unless otherwise stated, all work must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on the due date.

Early work policy

Most assignments will be available on Blackboard at least two days before the due date for those who wish to get a head start.

Time Management

You need to allot four hours per day for completion of all the work, plus extra time for major assignments. If this seems like a lot, keep in mind that an in-person class would meet for 3.5 hours each day, plus homework. It is best if you have a set schedule with time carved out for the class.

Communication

You are encouraged to communicate with the instructor via email whenever you have questions or problems. During the week, you can expect a reply within twenty-four hours. If you email during the weekend, you can expect a response by Monday afternoon.

Academic Adjustments for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments for this course must contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities. BMCC is committed to providing equal access to all programs and curricula to all students.

Required Texts & Readings Selected Podcasts/Online Videos/TED Talks will be available on the Course Materials Section on Blackboard. No need to purchase these. Some of these include or come from:

1. **Critical Thinking, 9th edition**, by Brooke Noel Moore and Richard Parker. ISBN: 978-0073386676.
2. **Black Skin, White Masks**, by Frantz Fanon. ISBN: 9780802143006.
3. **White Privilege and Black Rights: The Injustice of U.S. Police Racial Profiling and Homicide**, by Naomi Zack. ISBN: 978-1442250574
4. **We Should All Be Feminists**, by Chimimanda Ngozi Adichie, TED talk (also in book format, ISBN-13: 978-1101911761).

Outline of Topics

For a detailed distribution of the course, please view the CRT 100 Course Guide.

<i>Week</i>	<i>Blackboard Content</i>	<i>Theme</i>
January 2	Discussion Forum, Class Information	Syllabus and introductions
January 3	Course Materials, Discussion Forum, Assignments	Vagueness and ambiguity
January 4	Course Materials, Discussion Forum, Assignments	Credibility
January 5	Course Materials, Discussion Forum, Assignments	Credibility
January 8	Course Materials, Discussion Forum, Assignments	Argument construction
January 9	Course Materials, Discussion Forum, Assignments	Argument construction
January 10	Course Materials, Discussion Forum, Assignments	Argument construction
January 11	Course Materials, Discussion Forum, Assignments	Rhetoric and Persuasion
January 12	Assignments	MIDTERM EXAM
January 15	Course Materials, Discussion Forum, Assignments	Ad Hominem Fallacies
January 16	Course Materials, Discussion Forum, Assignments	Ad Hominem Fallacies
January 17	Course Materials, Discussion Forum, Assignments	Causality
January 18	Course Materials, Discussion Forum, Assignments	Causality fallacies
January 19	Course Materials, Discussion Forum, Assignments	Moral and Ethics
January 22	Course Materials, Discussion Forum, Assignments	Moral and Ethics
January 23	Assignments	FINAL EXAM

BMCC Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Statement

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations, require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.

Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The library has guides designed to help students to appropriately identify a cited work. The full policy can be found on BMCC's web site, www.bmcc.cuny.edu. For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).