PURDUE LIBERAL ARTS

CORNERSTONE INTEGRATED LIBERAL ARTS

SCLA 102 Transformative Texts: Critical Thinking & Communication II: Modern World

Instructor:
Term: Spring 2019
Office:
Email:
Office Hours:

Course Description:

SCLA 102 is based on the fundamental premise that great texts -- whether famous speeches, essays, or poetry as well as film and digital media -- inform and inspire students, encouraging their creative and imaginative capacities, helping students see the world from different perspectives and broadening their worldview. In this class, we will examine a series of texts (including digital media); seeking to understand the contexts in which these texts were produced as well as what these texts mean to us today.

SCLA 102 is part of Level I of the Cornerstone certificate program. It fulfills the Oral Communication requirement in the University Core Curriculum. It is dedicated to developing and enhancing the ability of students to convey information through oral presentations, advancing their understanding of the importance of rhetorical situations and choices; analyzing and constructing presentations for different audiences; gathering and evaluating sources for presentations and using visual aids effectively.

Learning Outcomes:

Oral Communication
By the end of the semester, students will:

1. Demonstrate effective, professional delivery, designing and adapting appropriate verbal appeals through vocal intonation and non-verbal cues.
2. Distinguish and apply appropriate informative, persuasive, explanatory, interrogatory and argumentative strategies and techniques in the discussions and in formal presentations.
3. Organize presentations with effective supporting materials.
4. Locate and evaluate effective sources of information.
5. Engage critically with transformative texts, drawing on multiple perspectives, including the individual, the historical, and the contemporary.

Required Texts:

1. Aldous Huxley. *Brave New World*. Harper Perennial; Reprint Paperback Edition, 2006. ISBN: 978-0060850524.
2. Kurt Vonnegut. *Slaughterhouse-Five*. Dial Press Trade Paperback, 1999. ISBN: 978-0385333849.
3. Albert Camus. *The Stranger*. Vintage: 1989. ISBN: 0679720200.
4. Franz Kafka. *The Metamorphosis*. A New Translation by Susan Bernofsky. W.W. Norton & Company, 2014. ISBN: 9780393347098.
5. Frederick Douglass. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*. Dover Thrift Edition, 1995. ISBN: 9780486284996.
6. *Cornerstone Readings*. McGraw-Hill Create Custom Text, 2018. ISBN: 9781307236767. [This is a custom text by McGraw Hill. If you need it, the order # is 1105120745035.]
7. Antoine de Saint-Exupery. *The Little Prince*. Mariner Books; 1st Edition Paperback: 2000. ISBN: 978-0156012195.

Grading

Student performance is evaluated according to the following criteria: 1) the scores of three reading comprehension tests, 2) the grade of one writing assignment, 3) performance on two oral presentations, and 4) your active participation in classroom discussions. These determine the final grade as follows:

Test 1	10%
Test 2	10%
Test 3	10%
Oral Presentation 1	15%
Oral Presentation 2	20%
Paper	10%
Discussion	25%

The grade scale I use to determine your final letter grade is below. There is no rounding of scores to determine the final letter grade.

A	100-93	B+	89-87%	C+	79-77%	D+	69-67%
A-	92-90%	B	86-83%	C	76-73%	D	66-60%
		B-	82-80%	C-	72-70%	F	below 60%

Reading, Writing, and Speaking

The first two words in the title of our course are "transformative texts." If any growth or transformation is to occur, the first and most important requirement is to **read the texts**. Please complete the reading by the date indicated in the *Reading Schedule*. Come to class with questions or topics from the reading you wish to discuss. The more you participate in classroom discussion, the higher your discussion grade will be. You are required to purchase print copies of the texts and to obtain the correct edition. You must bring the text we will discuss with you to class.

There is one writing assignment required for the course. You will receive a handout that explains the requirements of the paper assignment. Please don't hesitate to talk to me if you have questions about the nature of the assignment. The paper should be written with 12-point font in Times New Roman using standard margins and paragraph spacing. Papers are due on the date indicated in the *Reading Schedule*. A late penalty of one-half grade will be assessed for each day the paper is tardy.

As indicated in the learning outcomes, SCLA 102 focuses on the improvement of oral communication skills. The class is conduction in an informal seminar format in which **your role as a participant in active and reflective discussion is critical to the success of the course**. There are also two formal presentations required in the course. The first is a 5-7 minute creative presentation on a transformational poem, text, or piece of art. The second is an 8-10 minute persuasive speech in which you will defend a thesis with compelling evidence and cogent reasoning. You will receive a handout explaining the requirements of both presentations. The scheduling of these will take place at the beginning of the semester.

Attendance

You are expected to attend all classes. There will be a sign-up sheet each day in the classroom for you to initial when you first arrive. Students have two "sick days" they may utilize during the semester. These first two absences will not count against you. Each absence after these, however, will result in a reduction of your final discussion grade. If at the end of the semester you have not used any of your sick days and have maintained perfect attendance, your final discussion score will be raised by five percentage points. A student will receive a failing grade for excessive absences.

Special Needs

If you are a student with a documented disability, please see me during the first two weeks of the semester to discuss any accommodation you may need to succeed in the course. Please also register with the Disability Resource Center in the Office of the Dean of Students.

Cell Phones and Laptops

Please silence your cell phones and put them away. As a general rule, laptops are not permitted in class. This is a discussion-based course and laptops will only serve as a distraction. Purchase a notebook and a pen to take notes and to record questions and discussion topics/reflections. Several reputable studies indicate that note taking by longhand is better than by laptop. There are some class activities that may require laptops but the instructor will let you know when these occur.

Academic Honesty

As a learning community, the students and instructors at Purdue depend upon and cherish the virtue of trust. This virtue is undermined when academic dishonesty takes place. Violations of academic honesty include but are not limited to:

1. cheating on a test or assessment
2. plagiarizing the work of another author
3. submitting the same paper for two different courses without the prior approval of the instructors
4. providing false information to receive a postponement on a test, paper, or oral presentation
5. sharing test questions with a student in another section of the course

Disciplinary penalties will be taken against students who commit academic dishonesty. These sanctions may include failure on the assignment or in the course as a whole. For more information, please see https://www.purdue.edu/odos/osrr/academic-integrity/.

Syllabus Modifications

The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus for pedagogical purposes with sufficient notice to students.

Reading Schedule

I. Peculiar Transformations

Author	Date	Topic	Required Reading
Franz Kafka	01-07	Getting to Know You	No Reading
	01-09	First Discussion	Handout
	01-11	Ground Rules for Discussion	*Metamorphosis*, Part 1
	01-14	Alienation and Identity	*Metamorphosis*, Part 2
	01-16	Exploitation and Transformation	*Metamorphosis*, Part 3
Albert Camus	01-18	Death and Grief	*The Stranger*, pp. 3-46
	01-23	Living in the Moment	*The Stranger*, pp. 47-97
	01-25	Justice and Capital Punishment	*The Stranger*, pp. 98-123
Antoine De Saint-Exupery	01-28	Obstacles to Friendship	*The Little Prince*, Ch. 1-14
	01-30	Love and Intimacy	*The Little Prince*, Ch. 15-27
	02-01	**Test #1**	No Reading

Reading Schedule

II. Historical Transformations

Author	Date	Topic	Reading
Thomas Hobbes	02-04	Government and Human Nature	Selection from Leviathan in *Cornerstone Readings*, pp. 1-5
	02-06	The Social Contract	Selection from Leviathan in *Cornerstone Readings*, pp. 5-11
John Locke	02-08	Natural Rights and Limited Government	Selection from The Second Treatise on Government in *Cornerstone Readings*, pp. 12-24
Thomas Jefferson	02-11	Human Rights	The Declaration of Independence and Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen in *Cornerstone Readings,* pp. 25-30
James Madison	02-13	Individual Liberties	*Bill of Rights* (Handout)
Frederick Douglass	02-15	Dehumanization	*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, Ch. 1-6
	02-18	Empowerment	*Narrative of the Life of Frederick* Douglass, Ch. 7-9
	02-20	Slavery and Human Dignity	*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, Ch. 10-11

Reading Schedule

Abraham Lincoln	02-22	The American Civil War	Editorial in the Liberator, Gettysburg Address, and Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address in *Cornerstone Readings*, pp. 31-36
Elizabeth Cady Stanton ***Sojourner Truth*** ***Charlotte Perkins Gilman***	02-25	Women's Rights Movement	Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments and "Ain't I A Woman" in *Cornerstone Readings*, pp. 37-43
	02-27	Patriarchy and Paternalism	The Yellow Wallpaper in *Cornerstone Readings*, pp. 44-56
	03-01	**Test #2**	No Reading

III. Persuasion and Transformations of the Future

	03-04	Creating Cogent Arguments	"Presenting Persuasive Messages" in Cornerstone Readings, pp. 70-80
	03-06	Avoiding Fallacies	"Presenting Persuasive Messages" in Cornerstone Readings, pp. 80-90
Kurt Vonnegut	03-08	The Elements of Effective Speech	*Slaughterhouse-Five,* Ch. 1-2
	03-18	*Jus in Bello*	*Slaughterhouse-Five,* Ch. 3-6
	03-20	The Nature of Time	*Slaughterhouse-Five,* Ch. 7-8
	03-22	Free Will and Fatalism	*Slaughterhouse-Five*, Ch. 9-10

Reading Schedule

Aldous Huxley	03-25	Soma and Society	*Brave New World*, Ch. 1-4
	03-27	Consumerism	*Brave New World*, Ch. 5-7
	03-29	Genetic Engineering	*Brave New World*, Ch. 8-12
	04-01	The Purpose of Life?	*Brave New World*, Ch. 13-18
	04-03	**Test #3**	No Reading
	04-05	Class Competition	No Reading

IV. Final Presentations Schedule

Date	**Presentations**	**Assignment**
04-08	Presentations 1-3	Complete Peer Feedback Form
04-10	Presentations 4-6	Complete Peer Feedback Form
04-12	Presentations 7-10	Complete Peer Feedback Form
04-15	Presentations 11-13	Complete Peer Feedback Form
04-17	Presentations 14-16	Complete Peer Feedback Form
04-19	Presentations 17--20	Complete Peer Feedback Form

Reading Schedule

04-22	Presentations 21-23	Compete Peer Feedback Form
04-24	Presentations 24-27	Complete Peer Feedback Form
04-26	Presentations 28-30	**Paper Due**