

Written Assignments

For this course you'll write short weekly responses to the material discussed in class, as well as a critical thinking essay due at the end of the semester.

The weekly responses can be submitted by email; the Critical Thinking Essay must be submitted via BlackBoard. Before submitting, make sure your Critical Thinking Essay meets the Requirements for All Papers.

Submit by

Weekly Responses Assigned Thursdays; due the following Monday

Critical Thinking Essay Monday, December 11

One-Page Responses

Every week there will be a brief one-page response assignment, either in class or take-home, where you'll write a bit about the topics we discussed that week in class.

The specific assignments for each week will be announced in class only on the last class meeting of the week (normally, that's the Thursday). If the one-pager that week is a take-home, it will be due the following Monday.

Here's the schedule of one-page responses (subject to change; any changes will be announced beforehand).

	Assigned in class	Due
Week 1 response	Thursday, Aug 31	Monday, Sep 4
Week 2 response	Thursday, Sep 7	Monday, Sep 11
Week 3 response	Thursday, Sep 14	Monday, Sep 18
Week 4 response	Thursday, Sep 21	Monday, Sep 25
Week 5 response	Thursday, Sep 28	Monday, Oct 2
Week 6 response	Thursday, Oct 5	Monday, Oct 9
Week 7 response	Thursday, Oct 12	Monday, Oct 16
Week 8 response	Thursday, Oct 19	Monday, Oct 23
Week 9 response	Thursday, Oct 26	Monday, Oct 30
Week 10 response (Essay Topic)	Thursday, Nov 2	Monday, Nov 6
Week 11 response	Thursday, Nov 9	Monday, Nov 13
Week 12 response	Thursday, Nov 16	Monday, Nov 20
Week 14 response	Thursday, Nov 30	Monday, Dec 4

Critical Thinking Essay

In the last part of the semester we'll work together on a 3-page critical thinking essay, designed to help prepare you for future course work in other classes.

For this paper, you'll pick a document from history and talk about what you think it really tells us, giving examples of your reasoning from the text you chose and other sources related to that time and place.

We'll go through together in class this step by step, including choosing a subject, understanding and interpreting evidence, types of sources, structuring an argument, and building your essay. In your English composition class you'll also be talking about how you go about constructing an essay, so there will be some overlap and support there as well. I'll also be available to discuss your essay with you individually.

A few weeks before it's due you'll turn in a draft, which I'll respond to individually, and we'll discuss the best ways to improve your paper before the final draft is due at the end of the semester.