
LTCY 199-001: Reading: Evidence and Argument
TR 9:35 – 10:55
GRH 3076
August 18 to December 11, 2025

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Communicating with me

Please feel free to call my office, send an email, or drop by during office hours. I *want* to talk to you. Please don't hesitate to reach out for any reason. I will do my best to respond to missed phone calls and/or emails within 24 business hours.

Office Hours

M 11-2
T 11-2
W 11-2
R 11-2
F By Appt

Course Adjustments

The instructor reserves the right to modify the course requirements, schedule, and syllabus. The syllabus and schedule for this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances. No change will occur, however, *unless* proper and prior notice is given to students.

Point Scale

900-1000	A
800-899	B
700-799	C
600-699	D
Below 600	F

Course Overview

Literacy is not just reading – it is much more. For students to successfully navigate the rigors of college-level work, they must be proficient in their ability to read, write, listen and speak. This class provides students with the knowledge and skillsets necessary to handle the workload they will be given at WKU. Establishing new and positive academic and behavioral habits, as well as rectifying the ineffective and inefficient practices often espoused by students new to the college landscape is the primary focus of the course, with particular emphasis on these changes as they relate to reading.

Course Description

Prepares students to successfully meet the rigorous reading and other literacy requirements of college. Emphasis on refining skills necessary to extract factual evidence from text and make sound arguments through various modes of literacy.

Academic Objectives

1. Read college-level print for sense and meaning.
2. Gather sound and relevant evidence to analyze an issue.
3. Analyze/synthesize evidence to articulate an argument.
4. Develop/refine speaking proficiency in college classrooms.
5. Learn to learn.

Affective Objectives

6. Develop/refine personal responsibility.
7. Develop/refine productive work ethic.
8. Recognize and adjust habits.

Texts:

Multiple texts will be utilized in this course, but your instructor will provide them for you. No texts need to be purchased.

SUMMARY OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

Core Academic Skills and In-Class Experiences – 750 points (75% of final grade)

Daily attendance and participation is expected. Most classes will include in-class activities or assignments where your participation and task accomplishment will earn points. These are interactive, in-class experiences and cannot be made up. The message is simple: miss class, miss your opportunity to earn the points. Some points will come from out-of-class assignments that are used within the next class meeting, some will come from notes and reading assignments, and some will come from applying reading/learning strategies from in-class reading/experiences. Daily quizzes will also be incorporated in this class. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Midterm and Final Exam – 100 points (10% of final grade)

The mid-term and final exam will each be worth 50 points. The tests will be based upon readings and in-class work.

Argument Paper – 100 points (10% of final grade)

You will be responsible for extracting evidence, analyzing information, and producing college-level argument writing. Additional information will be provided in Blackboard and in class.

Student Policies

The following three sections are taken from the WKU Student Handbook available here:

https://www.wku.edu/handbook/documents/student_handbook_revision.docx

Cheating

No student shall receive or give assistance not authorized by the instructor in taking an examination or in the preparation of an essay, laboratory report, problem assignment, or other project that is submitted for purposes of grade determination.

Disposition of Offenses

Class Attendance and Late Work

Each student is expected to be present, prepared, participatory, and polite. Assignments completed outside of class are due by midnight on the due date. It is expected that ALL assignments will be submitted on their due dates. Late assignments will be accepted for up to one week (7 consecutive days) after the original due date to receive any credit. Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 10% the first day and then 15% per day (up to 6 additional days) after that. After one week, no credit will be awarded. Some assignments will NOT be accepted late for any credit. In addition, extra credit will not be given if students fail to complete the major assignments (tests, papers, and presentations).

Written Assignments

All written assignment submissions should be typed and follow APA 7th edition formatting style.

Plagiarism (Important)

To represent ideas or interpretations taken from another source as one's own is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense. The academic work of students must be their own. Students must give the author(s) credit for any source material used. To lift content directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage after having changed a few words, even if the source is cited, is also plagiarism.

Additional Services

The WKU Center for Literacy is located in Gary A. Ransdell Hall 1037. At the Center for Literacy, students can receive assistance in developing strategies to help reading/studying to learn and writing for evidence and argument. More information about the WKU Center for Literacy can be found on the website:
<http://www.wku.edu/literacycenter/>

Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the course work in which the act is detected or a failing grade in the course without possibility of withdrawal. The faculty member may also present the case to the University Disciplinary Committee through the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs for disciplinary sanctions.

Other Types of Academic Dishonesty

Other types of academic offenses, such as the theft or sale of tests, should be reported to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs for disciplinary action.

ADA Accommodation Statement

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center (SARC), located in Downing Student Union, Room 1074. SARC can be reached at 270-745-5004 [TTY: 270-745-3030] or by email at sarc.connect@wku.edu.

The Faculty Notification Letter (FNL) is the official documentation from SARC confirming a student's registration with our office and outlining their approved accommodations and is meant to be a *communication tool* between the student and faculty member. Students should provide their FNL to instructors as early as possible and discuss the listed accommodations or services with them, as needed, to ensure understanding and timely implementation. Please do not request accommodations directly from the instructor without first registering with SARC and obtaining your FNL. A complete and signed copy of this FNL must be on file at the SARC. In lieu of a printed copy, the SARC office will also accept (and encourages) correspondence from a faculty members WKU email. Simply add sarc.connect@wku.edu in email correspondence. If an accommodation is deemed not applicable, or is otherwise not provided to the student, the SARC should be notified in writing (sarc.connect@wku.edu). **Reminder:** *Accommodations are not retroactive.* Accommodations listed the FNL become effective the date the student presents the FNL to the faculty member.

Pregnant and Parenting Students

Western Kentucky University does not discriminate against any student or exclude any student from its educational programs or activities, including classes or extracurricular activities, on the basis of pregnancy and/or pregnancy-related conditions such as, but not limited to, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom. Students who seek pregnancy or pregnancy-related accommodations should make their requests as soon as possible via WKU's Title IX Website at www.wku.edu/titleix/ under the heading, "Pregnancy or Pregnancy-Related Conditions." Students can also contact the Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir, via email at ena.demir@wku.edu or by phone at (270) 745-6867 to request accommodations or seek assistance. We encourage students and faculty to work together to establish a plan that allows the student to complete the class and coursework without jeopardizing academic integrity and course standards. The Title IX Coordinator can help facilitate conversations between students and faculty regarding appropriate and reasonable accommodations.

If you are a WKU student and believe that you have experienced an incident(s) of discrimination or harassment based on pregnancy (or pregnancy related conditions or issues), please report it to the Title IX Coordinator via email at ena.demir@wku.edu or by phone at (270) 745-6867. Additional resources for pregnant and parenting students can be found on WKU's Title IX Website at www.wku.edu/titleix/.

Title IX Misconduct/Assault Statement

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's [Sex and Gender-Based Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation](#) (#0.070) and [Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#) (#0.2040). Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Executive Director, Office of Institutional Equity/Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir, 270-745-6867 or Title IX Investigators or Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429. Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's [Counseling and Testing Center](#) at 270-745-3159.

Sexual Assault Resources

Week # & Date	Topic and Assignments for the Week	
	Key Highlighted Yellow = Homework Due in Class Highlighted Blue = Reading needs to be read before class	
	Tuesday	Thursday
Week #1 8.18 – 8.24	- Course Intro - Cell Phone Reading (in class) and policy - In-class reading (Urban Legends) with Key Point Extraction on Board “Tik Tok” Student Film and Discussion	- Intro to Cornell Notes - In Class – How Evil Are You? Video - Syllabus Scavenger Hunt Due - In-class reading (Urban Legends) with Key Point Extraction on Board
Week #2 8.25 – 8.31	- Evidence Guide #1 Due (SLC, Chapter 1) - Quiz #1 - SLC Chapter 1 - Intro to Mind Map - Mind Map Ted Talk - In Class – How Evil Are You? Video	- Quiz #2 - You Are Not So Smart, Chapters 1 & 3 “The Lottery” (tradition and blind conformity) - Discussion & Board Work
Week #3 9.1 – 9.7	- Evidence Guide #2 Due (SLC, Chapter 2) - Quiz #3 - SLC Chapter 2 - Discussion & Board Work - Intro to Annotating - In Class – How Evil Are You? Video Finish	Library Visit #1 (Commons, Room 3002)
Week #4 9.8 – 9.14	- Evidence Guide #3 Due (Memory & Grit articles) - Quiz #4 - Memory & Grit Articles - Discussion & Board Work	- Quiz #5 - You Are Not So Smart, Chapters 5 & 6 “The Necklace” (poor decisions, misjudged priorities, and hindsight) - Discussion & Board Work
Week #5 9.15 – 9.21	- Evidence Guide #4 Due (SLC, Chapter 3) - Quiz #6 - SLC Chapter 3 - Discussion & Board Work	Tentative Visit to the Kentucky Museum
Week #6 9.22 – 9.28	Library Visit #2 (Commons, Room 3001)	- Quiz #7 - You Are Not So Smart, Chapters 9 & 10 “Harrison Bergeron” (conformity, social pressure) - Discussion & Board Work
Week #7 9.29 – 10.5	- Astronomy article - Quiz #8 - Astronomy article - Discussion & Board Work - Mid-Term Review	Mid-term
Week #8 10.6 – 10.12	No Class – Fall Break!	Planetarium Visit (tentative)

Week #9 10.13 – 10.19	- Evidence Guide #5 Due (SLC, Chapter 4) - Quiz #9 - SLC Chapter 4 - Discussion & Board Work	- Quiz #10 <i>You Are Not So Smart, Chapters 20</i> “The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas” (ethical dilemmas, fairness, moral trade-offs) - Discussion & Board Work
Week #10 10.20 – 10.26	- Evidence Guide #6 Due (SLC, Chapter 5) - Quiz #11 - SLC Chapter 5 - Discussion & Board Work	- Quiz #12 <i>You Are Not So Smart, Chapters 23 & 28</i> “The Veldt” (group dynamics) - Discussion & Board Work
Week #11 10.27 – 11.2	Annotated Bib and Writing Workshop #1	- Quiz #13 <i>You Are Not So Smart, Chapters 30</i> “Lamb to the Slaughter” (misdirection, hidden motives, perception and belief) - Discussion & Board Work
Week #12 11.3 – 11.9	- Evidence Guide #7 Due (SLC, Chapter 6) - Quiz #14 - SLC Chapter 6 - Discussion & Board Work	- Quiz #15 <i>You Are Not So Smart, Chapters 16 & 17</i> “The Last Question” (big ideas, assumed meaning) - Discussion & Board Work
Week #13 11.10 – 11.16	- Evidence Guide #8 Due (SLC, Chapter 7) - Quiz #16 - SLC Chapter 7 - Discussion & Board Work	- Quiz #17 <i>You Are Not So Smart, Chapters 29</i> “The Monkey’s Paw” (probability and randomness, unintended consequences) - Discussion & Board Work
Week #14 11.17 – 11.23	- Evidence Guide #9 Due (SLC, Chapter 8) - Quiz #18 - SLC Chapter 8 - Discussion & Board Work	- Quiz #19 <i>You Are Not So Smart, Chapters 4</i> “An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge” (reinterpretation of events) - Discussion & Board Work
Week #15 11.24 – 11.30	- Evidence Guide #10 Due (SLC, Chapter 9) - Quiz #20 - SLC Chapter 9 - Discussion & Board Work	No Class – Thanksgiving Break!
Week #16 12.1 – 12.3	- Quiz #21 <i>You Are Not So Smart, Chapters 40, 42, and 43</i> - Discussion & Board Work - Final Draft of E&A Writing Due	No Class – Finals prep for entire campus
Finals Week 12.5 – 12.11	- Final Exam - December 10th, 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.	