IDEAL PROGRAM
PRST 224 Critical Thinking & Writing
SYLLABUS
ONLINE

Dear Student,

Please read the following course syllabus carefully, especially the course dates, times and location. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to communicate with the IDEAL Program office, your academic advisor, or the instructor.

The IDEAL degree-completion program is designed with the adult learner in mind. Adult learners approach learning with specific goals, want to be able to directly apply new learning to their work and personal lives, and tend to learn best when the coursework is problem-centered so that they are actively engaged in the learning process. In addition, adults bring rich and varied experience to the classroom, which becomes a valuable learning resource for other students.

The IDEAL Program assumes joint responsibility in the learning process. The activities and assignments in the courses build on the shared experience of all learners in each class. This is why each student’s preparation, participation and interaction in class activities and discussions are critical to the success of each course. The accelerated format of each course requires a significant amount your time outside the course to prepare for and complete the course assignments. This varies between students and courses; however, students typically spend nine-twelve hours per week on course material.

To participate in the IDEAL Program, it is expected that you will do the following:

1. Participate in and complete the online orientation prior to your first online course.
2. Obtain the required course materials prior to the course start date.
3. Login and participate in your course a minimum of three times per week.
4. Complete all assignments to the best of your ability.
5. Participate in the class discussions and demonstrate respect and consideration to the instructor and other students when they express themselves in discussion.
6. If you have any technical difficulties, you must contact the Office of Distance Education immediately at ubonline@bridgeport.edu.
Course No. & Title: PRST 224 Critical Thinking & Writing
Semester and Term: Session
Time: Online
Campus Location: Distant Learning

Course Description:

Develops the ability to analyze, criticize and advocate ideas. Examines relationship of language to logic, induction and deduction, facts, inferences, judgments, formal and informal fallacies of language and thought. Instructs in writing about issues of critical thinking to develop both thinking and writing skills.

Prerequisite: ENGL 101

Prerequisite Course: ENGL 101

Instructor Name: Kathryn Zurlo

Instructor Contact Information: kzurlo@bridgeport.edu

Required Materials:


Course Objective:

The primary objectives of this course are to impart a functional ability to reason well, and to improve your analytical skills and instincts. In addition to familiarizing you with elementary methods of argument composition and analysis, the course is further designed to aid you in understanding the essential principles involved in the theory and practice of reasoned decision making. The writing skills you develop in this class will serve you across all academic disciplines and in the workplace.

Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate skills in elementary inductive and deductive reasoning.
- Identify and understand basic formal and informal fallacies of language and thought.
- Identify assumptions upon which conclusions depend.
- To comprehend and evaluate others' arguments by becoming a more critical reader
- To identify the basic elements of argument: claims, types of support, and warrants
- To become more adept and intentional in using inductive and deductive reasoning
- To learn to evaluate evidence for its quality, and sources for their legitimacy
- Write a scholarly college level argumentative essay.
Assignments and Grading Criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion boards and responses</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflections</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Assignments</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essays</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Argumentative Essay</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Letter Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of Points Earned</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>% of Points Earned</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100-94</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>76-74</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93-90</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>73-70</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89-87</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>69-67</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86-84</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>66-64</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-80</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>63-60</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79-77</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>Below 60</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module One: Critical Thinking and Uses of Argument</th>
<th>Discussion 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reflection 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Two: Close Analysis</td>
<td>Discussion 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Short Assignment 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Essay 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Choose Final Argumentative Essay Topic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Short Assignments

Short assignments will be assigned throughout the course to review concepts related to the topic being discussed.

Essays

All essays will follow APA format. Including an APA title page. At the end of the document, beginning on its own page, put your references, the word References is at the very top of the page, with references listed alphabetically by author, with a hanging indent of .5 inches. APA format also means using 12 point font, times new roman type, and the double spacing the entire paper. Each essay, will be two to three pages of text. This does not include your title or reference page. Avoid using “I” to remain objective. You will use at least two credible sources to support your topic.

Reflections

Each reflection should be two paragraphs of 7-10 sentences. APA is not required for the reflections, so you can use “I.”

Draft and Final Argumentative Essay

This is your term project.
For the Argumentative Essay - argue one side of the topic, but also include the counterargument to remain unbiased in your writing. Remember to review the fallacies to avoid these in your argument. The essay will be objective, so do not use “I.”

In Module 2, you will choose your topic for the Final Argumentative Essay and post to the discussion board. Then the instructor will review your topic, and will offer alternatives or approve your topic.

In Module 6, you will hand in a Draft of the Argumentative Essay. This essay will include: Title Page, Outline, Thesis, Intro, Conclusion, and References Page. The Draft Argumentative Essay is four to five pages of text. This does not include your title or reference page.

In Module 8 you will hand in the Final Argumentative Essay. This essay will include: Title Page, Outline, Thesis, Intro, Content, Conclusion, and References Page. The Final Argumentative Essay is five to six pages of text. This does not include your title or reference page. This Final Argumentative Essay will include at least four academic, scholarly sources to support your claim. Scholarly resources are found using the Wahlstrom Library online database. Be sure to search for journal articles that have been peer-reviewed and have been published in the past five years. Links to websites are not considered scholarly. Though website information may be used in your paper if properly cited and in addition to the four scholarly resources.

APA Format for the Draft and Final Argumentative Essay. Include an APA title page. At the end of the document, beginning on its own page, type the word References and center it at the very top of the page. Under References, list the references alphabetically by author, with a hanging indent of .5 inches. APA format also means using 12 point font, times new roman type, and the double spacing the entire paper.

Discussion Board Participation

Important: Confidentiality on the Discussion Board. Take care to be respectful in all communications. The Professor reserves the right to delete/remove any and all posting. Do not use the real names of your places of work or people involved in the situations you talk about to maintain the highest level of confidentiality so we can discuss some the most controversial issues impacting the workplace today.

To receive the best score possible:

- APA: Cite the source of information following the APA Guidelines provided for you in the content section and/or course information section.

- Initial Post: Share clear and relevant examples, in support of your statements, chosen articles and/or opinions. Also be sure to ask a critical thinking question in your post to help drive the
conversation further. Post your initial response by Wednesday at midnight EST. Include at least 7-10 sentences in each post.

- Replies: Again, share clear and relevant examples, in support of your statements, chosen articles and/or opinions. Be sure to respond to the critical thinking question in your classmates post and to ask one of your own in the reply. Saying I agree isn’t a strong enough response without an explanation as to why you agree or disagree with classmates posting. The posting should be a substantial paragraph unless the discussion calls for a shorter answer. Respond to two of your classmates by Sunday at midnight EST.

- Participation Frequency: Participate early in the week. Participate “often” during the week ensuring that you answer any questions from a fellow classmate. Post your two responses on two separate days of the week to keep up with the discussion.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Attendance Policy

Course attendance via online participation is an integral part of the online academic experience; therefore, students are expected to be participative in all course activities and discussions. If an absence is unavoidable, the student should communicate with the instructor. Arrangements should be made at that time for submission of any missed assignments.

IMPORTANT:

- An absence (lack of participation) in any week of the course, will drop the final grade by one letter grade (for example if a student earns a grade of “B” in the course, the final grade would be a “C”).

- An absence of two or more weeks will be cause for a failing grade.

Drop Procedures

To drop a course, you must complete and submit a Schedule Change Request Form. The form can be accessed at the IDEAL Course Schedule webpage: http://www.bridgeport.edu/academics/continuinged/ideal-academic-degree-programs-and-certificates/ideal-course-schedule/.

Please print and complete the form and fax the form to the IDEAL Office: 203-576-4537. Prior to dropping a course, the student should contact their IDEAL Academic Advisor to understand the implications to financial aid and/or degree plan progress.

Please review the drop fees and tuition refunds at the Academic Calendar; accessed at the IDEAL Course Schedule webpage (same link above).

Academic Dishonesty
The IDEAL program prohibits all forms of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is normally defined as, but not limited to, the following two categories:

Cheating – Using inappropriate sources of information in an assignment or on a test. The following are examples of cheating taken from real student experiences:

Case #1: A student is enrolled in an introductory psychology course. He has co-workers who have taken the same course. As the end of the course approaches, he wonders how he will find the time to get the research paper finished, and asks one of his co-workers for help. His co-worker hands him a research paper that he submitted in a similar course. The student makes minor modifications to the paper, and submits it under his own name.

Case #2: A student enrolled in a humanities course is unsure about how to structure an essay. She is doing research on the World Wide Web, and comes across an essay written by a student from another university. Using her computer mouse, she copies and pastes the essay into her word processor. She goes to great lengths to re-word the paper in her own style, but essentially leaves the content and organization the same.

Plagiarism – Intentional as well as unintentional failure to acknowledge sources as well as the use of commercially available so-called “research papers” without full recognition of the source. Presenting as one’s own, the ideas, words, or products of another. The following are examples of plagiarism taken from real student experiences:

Case #3: A student is conducting research for a Civil War research paper. He has reviewed work on the Internet. Finding helpful information, he has summarized his findings without citing his sources. He believes that minor paraphrasing is all that is necessary.

Case #4: A student is writing a paper that requires her to address specific topics and problems in the assigned course textbook. She takes the information directly from the textbook with slight modification, without giving any citation. She thinks that since it is the course textbook, she doesn’t have to use quotations or citations.

Academic dishonesty applies to all courses, assignments or exams completed by students and submitted as their own original work, whether in person or by electronic means. The University does not tolerate cheating in any form. It is a serious breach of conduct with serious consequences. Instructors have the right to determine the appropriate penalty for academic dishonesty in their own courses; generally, however, such acts will result in a failing grade for the assignment and/or the course. The penalty for subsequent acts of academic dishonesty may include expulsion.

More information on how to recognize plagiarism can be found at this site: http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/plagiarism_test.html

Ethics Statement of Confidentiality

An integral component of an IDEAL course is student and faculty expression of personal experiences for the purpose of facilitating coursework. Students enrolled in the program are expected to honor confidentiality as it pertains to student disclosure. Shared information, comments, or opinions expressed by another student or the faculty member during the course of classroom discussion should never be used in a manner which is intended to humiliate, embarrass, harass, damage, or otherwise
injure other students in their personal, public, or business lives. In addition, confidentiality must be upheld by not disclosing any information that would identify any particular individual.

ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER

The Academic Resource Center is available for IDEAL students seeking help in their studies. The Center is staffed by writing professionals and peer tutors. More information can be found at: http://www.bridgeport.edu/pages/2209.asp The Center is located on the 5th Floor of the Wahlstrom Library. Make an appointment or walk-in: Telephone: 203-576-4290. Online Tutoring is available at: www.etutoring.org. To use this free service you must have a UBNet account.

Obtaining a UBNet Account

Every registered student should obtain a UBNet Account. The account allows you to access MyUB; the portal for grades, library services, Canvas online learning system. Also, the account allows you access to computers in the Library and computer labs, and provides an email account in which the University sends out information. Go to: http://www.bridgeport.edu/ubnet - Click on “New UBNet Account” and follow the instructions.

The @bridgeport.edu email address is the official email the University uses to send information to you. You can have your bridgeport.edu email forwarded to any other private email account you use. Following the activation of your UBNet account (takes 24 hours), login at: http://www.bridgeport.edu/email and click on “forwards” at the top of the page. Follow the directions to forward email messages to your other account.

Learning Management System (LMS) - Canvas

For all courses that use Canvas, you can access Canvas through the portal by using the myUB link. Faculty post class documents on Canvas e.g. syllabus, power points, discussion questions, case studies, current event articles, papers, reports etc. (save some trees). All students have access, and can download and copy the documents.

Canvas Tutorial For Students: https://bridgeport.instructure.com/courses/985903

For assistance contact the UB Help Desk at 203-576-4606 or email helpdesk@bridgeport.edu https://bridgeport.instructure.com/courses/829447/

Accessing Your Grades & Schedule Online

The WebAdvisor online information system allows students to search for available classes, check grades, view semester class schedule and verify your personal profile. Grades are generally posted 2-3 weeks following the end of a course. To access WebAdvisor, login in to MyUB and follow the WebAdvisor menu on the right. If you are carrying a financial balance, access to WebAdvisor will be restricted.

Using the Library

Access to the Digital Library is through MyUB. On the MyUB home, in the central column, click on “myEureka Digital Library.” Research tools available:

- Search for books held at the library.
• Search the online databases for your academic field; business, counseling, human services, psychology, etc.
• Send questions to the Reference Librarian for assistance in research topics and searching strategy.

Using Computers

Open access computer labs are available at three locations:

• Bridgeport – 1st floor of the Wahlstrom library. Check library hours of operation at: [http://www.bridgeport.edu/library](http://www.bridgeport.edu/library).
• Stamford – Room D; Check open hours at: [http://www.bridgeport.edu/stamford](http://www.bridgeport.edu/stamford)
• Waterbury – Computer Lab; Check open hours at: [http://www.bridgeport.edu/waterbury](http://www.bridgeport.edu/waterbury)

Course Cancellations

Any emergency necessitating the canceling of courses will be announced by the University through the Emergency Notification Telephone Line, (203) 576-4159. Please call this number for information on course cancellations. Also, information will be posted under “Latest News” on the UB home page, [www.bridgeport.edu](http://www.bridgeport.edu). Canceled classes will be made up either the week following the end of the course or in consultation between the instructor and the students as to day and time availability. Course cancellations are also announced on television and radio stations.

**IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bridgeport Campus Security</td>
<td>(203) 576-4911</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ubsecurity@bridgeport.edu">ubsecurity@bridgeport.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bursar</td>
<td>(203) 576-4692</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bursar@bridgeport.edu">bursar@bridgeport.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cashier</td>
<td>(203) 576-4682</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cashier@bridgeport.edu">cashier@bridgeport.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Aid</td>
<td>(203) 576-4568</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sfs@bridgeport.edu">sfs@bridgeport.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registrar</td>
<td>(203) 576-4635</td>
<td><a href="mailto:registrar@bridgeport.edu">registrar@bridgeport.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Notification Phone</td>
<td>(203) 576-4159</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDEAL Office</td>
<td>(203) 576-4800</td>
<td><a href="mailto:idealinfo@bridgeport.edu">idealinfo@bridgeport.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CAMPUS CONTACT INFORMATION**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bridgeport</td>
<td>126 Park Avenue</td>
<td>(203) 576-4800</td>
<td><a href="mailto:idealinfo@bridgeport.edu">idealinfo@bridgeport.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bridgeport, CT 06604</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stamford</td>
<td>5 Riverbend Drive</td>
<td>(203) 358-0700</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ubstamford@bridgeport.edu">ubstamford@bridgeport.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stamford, CT 06750</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterbury</td>
<td>84 Progress Lane</td>
<td>(203) 573-8501</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ubwaterbury@bridgeport.edu">ubwaterbury@bridgeport.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Waterbury, CT 06705</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Directions to IDEAL Campus locations

http://www.bridgeport.edu/pages/2260.asp

To fill out your financial aid report to the Federal Government, please go online to www.fafsa.ed.gov. The school code for the University of Bridgeport is 001416.

Federal Student Aid Information: 1-800-433-3243.