Course Title: Critical Reading, Writing, and Thinking
Course Code: English 103
Professor: Ruth Rassool MA
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Format: Online
Course Length: 8/21/17-12/09/17, 16 weeks
Introduction

First, I would like to talk about the technical aspect of the course. To be successful, you need to have access to a reliable computer and be reasonably proficient in navigating through Canvas. Personal experience has taught me that Canvas is not Explorer-friendly, nor is it particularly iPad friendly. The Canvas page will be accessible on the first day of the semester, Monday, 8/21. Think of it as arriving at the classroom and finding the door unlocked. You will have to “attend” class on the first day in order to not be dropped from the roster. One of the most challenging aspects of an online class is the need to self-motivate. As a student, you have to manage your time well and be willing and able to keep up with the assignments in writing and reading. To help you with that initiative, I will not make the entire course available at the beginning. You will have a syllabus and schedule, but you will not be able to rush ahead alone – that’s a sure way to be lost in the material. The better approach is for the class to stay together and for individuals to find their own pace within the weekly assignments.

Course Description

Examines the principles of critical thinking as applied to writing and reading arguments on complex issues. Focuses on close textual analysis, argumentative writing, and logical reasoning.

Course Information

If you are still excited about the course, I’d like to tell you about my teaching philosophy as it relates to online education. In a physical space, we can gather and use a Socratic approach to the material: students discuss and I question to help you arrive at your own
understanding. That pedagogy is possible in an online format, through discussion boards and through more private assignments. The discussion boards are to be used for the same type of dialogue for which you would normally raise your hand in a classroom. These discussions will lead to assignments that will be submitted for a grade, in the same way as you might submit a written assignment on paper.

**Textbook information**

This text, *Beyond Feelings*, is available at the College of the Canyons Bookstore and also in electronic form.

Selected readings from *Mercury Reader*, plus additional readings, will be available in electronic form on Canvas.
BEYOND FEELINGS: GUIDE TO CRITICAL THINKING

By RUGGIERO

- EDITION: 9TH
- PUBLISHER: MCG
- ISBN: 9780078038181
Additional Resources

owl.english.purdue.edu

The Online Writing Lab at Purdue University provides valuable resources for MLA format and the essay writing process.

Canvas

The course can be accessed via Canvas at cv.canyons.edu on the first day of the course. Follow the login instructions at the bottom of the screen to log in. Here, you can also access Canvas user guides with helpful tips for navigating and using Canvas. For any Canvas related issues please call the Canvas Student Support line at (661)362-3344 during college business hours, or (877)889-9052 for 24/7 support.

Distance Learning

Check out the Distance Learning website for more information on a variety of topics that can help you be a successful online student such as: exam proctoring, learning styles, computer skills, and tips for student success. If this is your first online course, feel free to take our online learning readiness assessment to assess your skills.

The Learning Center (TLC)

The TLC provides FREE tutoring resource to COC students including:

- Face-to-face & ONLINE tutoring
- Testing Center: offers test proctoring services for courses that have required proctored exams
- Study Jam Review Sessions
- Computers with over 300 software programs

For more information visit the TLC Website.

**Disabled Students Program & Services (DSPS)**

College of the Canyons DSPS provides educational services and access for eligible students with documented disabilities who intend to pursue coursework at COC. A variety of programs and services are available which afford eligible students with disabilities the opportunity to participate fully in all aspects of the college programs and activities through appropriate and reasonable accommodations. For more information on their services visit the Disabled Students Program & Services website.

**Online Counseling**

The Counseling Department offers appointments online. You can schedule an appointment by visiting the Online Counseling website. Counselors can help you map out a plan to reach your educational goals as well as advise you on course selection and registration.