

HONORS 101A
Freshman Honors Seminar
Fall 2004: Critical Consumption

MW 4:00-5:15 PM
UH-245

Instructor: Alexandra Flecky (Alex)
Office: CP 650-1
Office Hours: Mon. 3:00-4:00 PM
Wed. 8:00-9:00 AM
Wed. 10:00-11:00 AM
(and by appointment)

Honors Dept. Phone: (714) 278-7443
Messages (714) 278-4505 Mailbox 11#
E-mail: aflecky@fullerton.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

Did you “have it your way” lately? And were you “lovin’ it” when you did? Did you have trouble pronouncing “chipotle,” but ordered it anyway because “some guys don’t want the same thing day after day”? This semester’s theme, “Critical Consumption,” will cause us to do some “thinking outside the bun” and examine our relationship with one aspect of our consumer culture: fast food. We may stray into areas that will surprise you as we evaluate the influence of the notion of “fast, cheap, and readily available” on us as individuals, on our society, and even across the globe. Who knows - by the end of the semester, you might just decide that a double-double is NOT “what a hamburger’s all about”!

Since this course fulfills general education requirements in critical thinking, you will be interacting with material intended to develop your critical reasoning skills. These skills should enable you to assess the arguments of others and to construct good arguments of your own. More specifically, this course should enable you to:

- 1) Understand the logical structure of language and correct reasoning.
- 2) Recognize and evaluate arguments offered by advocates.
- 3) Construct arguments sufficient to support your ideas and to persuade others.
- 4) Engage in an introductory experience presenting oral arguments.

CSUF Honors courses, however, are intended to provide you with enrichment beyond basic course requirements and objectives. Thus, this will not be just an “advanced critical thinking” class. Instead, this course provides you with a small interactive learning environment in which you will be investigating, reflecting on, and discussing our common course theme, “Critical Consumption.” This theme will focus on arguments contained in one of our texts, Fast Food Nation. Oral and written assignments will derive from both texts and other sources, and are intended to develop and apply what you are learning.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- *Parker, R. P., & Moore, B. N. (2004). Critical Thinking (7th edition). San Francisco: McGraw Hill. Available at Titan Shops. Designated “CT” in the course schedule.
- *Schlosser, E. (2002). Fast Food Nation. New York: Perennial. Available at Titan Shops or online. Designated “FFN” in the course schedule.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. **EXAMS:**

Two exams will be taken when scheduled. These will likely be comprised of short-answer and essay questions.

2. **WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:**

The following written assignments are required:

a. **Short Papers:** Two short papers (2-3 pages each) will be assigned. The first paper will ask you to apply information from Critical Thinking to our “critical consumption” theme. The second paper will derive from arguments contained in either Plenary Session 2 or 3. Detailed instructions will be distributed in class.

*Unless otherwise indicated, all papers must be typed (double-spaced) on 8 ½ x 11 inch paper. Papers are expected to follow spelling, grammar and style conventions. This means that you should proofread your work!

b. **Short Assignments:** Short at-home assignments will be assigned. Many of these will derive from Critical Thinking; others will be handouts provided in class. Credit for these short assignments will be grouped into one grade worth 10% of the total grade for the course.

3. **ORAL PRESENTATIONS:**

These oral presentations are intended to give you an introductory experience at presenting a cogent argument in oral form. A significant portion of your grade will derive from the written requirement, however, and a polished delivery is not emphasized or expected during this semester.

a. **Introductory Presentation:** The introductory presentation will consist of 1) an outline of your argument and 2) an oral presentation. This presentation will be short, approximately 3 minutes, and oral delivery skills will not be factored into your grade.

b. **Final Project:** The final project includes 1) a written paper, 2) an outline of your presentation, and 3) an oral presentation, approximately 6-8 minutes in length. The paper and presentation will consist of a persuasive argument on the topic you have selected. These presentations will be given during the final two weeks of the semester, including the final exam session.

4. **ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:** Attendance and meaningful participation are required in order to pass this class. This means that you will demonstrate your understanding of course materials through written and oral assignments and in class discussions. Furthermore, attendance at the following three plenary sessions is mandatory:

1. **Sept. 1: Plenary 1: Study Abroad and Plagiarism.** This presentation will cover important information regarding study abroad opportunities and also plagiarism that will be useful to you in your college years. Meet in H-123.
2. **Oct. 25: Plenary 2** It is likely that a film will be shown in its entirety; try to schedule your time so that you can stay beyond 5:15 on this date. Meet in H-123.
3. **Nov. 3 or 8: Plenary 3.** Guest speaker, to be determined. Meet in H-123.

GRADING:

1.	EXAMS	
	a. Exam 1	20%
	b. Exam 2	15%
3.	WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS	
	a. Paper 1	10%
	b. Paper 2	10%
	c. Short Assignments	10%
2.	ORAL PRESENTATIONS	
	a. Introductory Presentation	10%
	b. Final Project	20%
4.	ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION	5%

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

1. Office hours: Please take advantage of my availability! Although I have relatively few scheduled office hours, I am happy to schedule an appointment with you that fits your schedule. See me during class or email me to make an appointment. My office is located on the 6th floor of the College Park building (SE corner of Nutwood and Commonwealth).

2. Late and make-up assignments:

* Late written assignments: Late papers will be penalized one full grade for each day late. Late short assignments will not be accepted.

* Make-up exams: If a student misses an exam with a legitimate excuse (e.g., a note from a physician indicating student could not take exam because of illness), a make-up exam will be given. If the student does not have a verifiable and legitimate excuse, a zero will be assigned for the exam.

3. Cheating/Plagiarism will not be tolerated. You are expected to do your own work. This means that you will not copy from another person's exam or papers, or allow another person to copy yours. Instructor penalties for dishonest scholarship range from a failing grade on a particular assignment to failure of the course. Further information will be given during the plagiarism plenary and can also be found in the University Catalog.

4. Noise making devices such as cellular phones, pagers, and watches should always be set on a silent mode.

5. Remember that seminar classes emphasize student contributions to the discussion. Therefore, I expect your contributions to reflect your critical thinking skills and your respect for one another. We can "respectfully disagree." After all, "...dialogue is the opportunity available to me to open up to the thinking of others, and thereby not wither away in isolation" (Paulo Friere). We are in this class together; help us enjoy learning from you this semester!

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

(LOCATION: UH 245 unless otherwise noted)

Date	Topic/Activity	Be prepared to discuss:	Due:
WEEK 1: INTRODUCTIONS			
8/23	Intro to course		
8/25	Intro to critical thinking, theme	“Hamburger” handout	<u>3x5 cards</u>
WEEK 2: “ARGUMENT” & “CRITICAL CONSUMPTION”			
8/30	What is an argument? Guest speaker	CT Ch 1: FFN: Introduction	_____
9/1	Plenary 1. Meet in Humanities 123		_____
WEEK 3: CRITICAL THINKING & CLEAR WRITING			
9/6	LABOR DAY- no class		
9/8	Clear writing	CT Ch 2: FFN: Chs 1, 2	_____
WEEK 4: CREDIBILITY			
9/13	Credibility of content of a claim	CT Ch 3:	_____
9/15	Credibility of source of a claim	CT Ch 3:	_____
WEEK 5: ARGUMENT STRUCTURE & VARIETY			
9/20	Argument structure	CT Ch 7:	_____
9/22	Evaluating arguments	CT Ch 7:	_____
WEEK 6: DEDUCTIVE ARGUMENTS			
9/27	Truth-functional logic	CT Ch 9:	<u>Paper 1</u>
9/29	Truth-functional logic	CT Ch 9:	_____
WEEK 7: DEDUCTIVE ARGUMENTS (continued)			
10/4	Truth-functional logic	CT Ch 9:	_____
10/6	Exam review		_____
WEEK 8: EXAM & INDUCTIVE ARGUMENTS			
10/11	FIRST EXAM (CT: 1-3, 7, 9)		<u>EXAM 1</u>
10/13	Inductive argument	CT Ch 10:	_____
WEEK 9: INDUCTIVE & CAUSAL ARGUMENTS			
10/18	Inductive arguments	CT Ch 10:	_____
10/20	Causal arguments	CT Ch 11:	_____

Date	Topic/Activity	Be prepared to discuss:	Due:
WEEK 10: PLENARY & CAUSAL ARGUMENTS			
10/25	Plenary 2. Meet in Humanities 123		_____
10/27	Causal arguments	CT Ch 11:	_____
WEEK 11: INTRODUCTORY ORAL PRESENTATIONS			
11/1	Introductory Oral Presentations		_____
11/3	Introductory Oral Presentations (or Plenary 3)		<u>Paper 2a</u>
WEEK 12: PLENARY & FALLACIES			
11/8	Plenary 3 (or Introductory Oral Presentations)		_____
11/10	Fallacies	CT Ch 6:	_____
WEEK 13: FALLACIES (continued)			
11/15	Fallacies	CT Ch 6:	_____
11/17	Fallacies, Review for exam	CT:	<u>Paper 2b</u>
THANKSGIVING BREAK (No Class 11/22 & 11/24)			
WEEK 14: EXAM & FINAL PROJECT PREPARATION			
11/29	SECOND EXAM (CT: 10, 11, 6, additional assigned pages)		<u>EXAM 2</u>
12/1	In-class workday for Final Projects		_____
WEEK 15: FINAL PROJECTS			
12/6	Final Project Presentations		
12/8	Final Project Presentations		
FINALS WEEK: FINAL PROJECTS (continued)			
12/15	5:00-6:50 Final Project Presentations		
(Wed)			