

Rhetoric for Muggles

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 Office Hours: MW 10-11 am, TTh 9-11 am, M 1-3 pm, or by appointment

Required Texts *The Bedford Handbook* by Hacker
 collegiate dictionary
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone by J.K. Rowling
Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets by J.K. Rowling
Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix by J.K. Rowling
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows by J.K. Rowling

Course Description The main purpose of this course is to develop your skills as a writer, doing so while focusing on a specific subject. In this First Year Seminar, you will read, discuss, and write about various topics related to the world of Harry Potter. During the semester, you will learn the basics of grammar and rhetoric, as well as how to develop ideas and assemble them together to formulate an essay that is clear, logical, and persuasive.

Attendance Regular attendance for class is expected. To be counted as present, you must be seated and ready when lecture begins. If you miss a class, please send me note as to why you were absent. You will be allowed only two absences, with excessive absences leading to notification of the Dean of Students.

Evaluation	Essays	4 × 100	= 400
	Final Exam	1 × 200	= 200
	Grammar Quizzes	5 × 20	= 100
	Class Participation	1 × 50	= 50

	Total		750

Essays Four formal written essays, each of which will be 1250 words in length, will be required over the course of the semester. These essays must adhere to the format guidelines given in this syllabus. Before each essay is due, you will submit to me a tentative thesis, and one week later you will meet with me for an individual conference to discuss a rough draft of your essay. You should bring this draft of your essay along with you to the conference, which will last around 15 minutes. Each essay will be graded out of 100 points and there will be no rewrites or revisions allowed. Grading emphasis on grammar and rhetoric will increase over the course of the semester. As we cover more topics, my expectations of your writing abilities will grow. Each essay will be

due on the date indicated in this syllabus, or you will be penalized 3 points for each day it is late. With each essay you will also hand in your prewriting and any rough drafts you have composed. Graded essays will be returned no later than two weeks after they are handed in to me. The final exam will be an essay that you prepare based on the final text we discuss in class. Essentially, you will write an essay without any supervision of the steps taking place before a final draft is submitted.

**Essay
Guidelines**

1. Essays must be written on a word-processing program such as Microsoft Word. Always keep backup copies of your essays.
2. The length of each essay must be at least 1250 words and contain a minimum of four paragraphs.
3. Essays must be double-spaced, written in a font no less than 12 point, with one inch margins on all sides and the right justification off.
4. Each essay must have a title, which should be centered at the top of the first page. Follow MLA formatting for numbering your pages and including your name on the paper.
5. With each essay you should demonstrate that:
 - a. you are able to follow the conventions of standard written English, as outlined in *The Bedford Handbook*;
 - b. you are capable of understanding and thinking critically about what you have read;
 - c. you can formulate a thesis statement and develop it fully and sufficiently through support from text and from reasoning;
 - d. you can plainly express your own opinions and that you are aware of which opinions are yours and of those which belong to others;
 - e. you can communicate clearly and effectively through a coherent argument laid out effectively in well-structured paragraphs with sound transitions between them;
 - f. you are able to reflect on what you have read with considerable thought and depth.

**Writing
Center**

The LVC Writing Center, located in the basement of the Bishop Library, provides individual peer tutors who are students that have been recommended by the LVC faculty. They assist students with all aspects of writing, ranging from developing a thesis to helping you learn to identify and correct grammatical errors. This semester the hours of operation are Monday and Wednesday 11 am to 12 pm, Tuesday and Thursday 12 pm to 1 pm, and Sundays through Thursdays 6 to 9 pm. You may e-mail wcenter@lvc.edu at any time for an appointment. Tutors are also available on a drop-in basis.

Grammar Quizzes Quizzes based on the assigned grammar topics will be posted online in Blackboard throughout the semester. Each quiz will consist of 10 questions worth 2 points apiece, and there will be 5 quizzes total that are posted semester. Each quiz will be opened on Thurs. after class and must be completed by class on the following Tues.

Class Participation In addition to attending class regularly, you will be expected to contribute to the class discussion. More specifically, you will be responsible for leading one of the class discussions at some point this semester. For this assignment, you will prepare a list of questions ahead of time to submit to me for approval. These questions will be a starting point for uncovering and understanding the themes that we will examine from the texts. At the end of the semester I will award a score out of 50 points based on your participation during discussions.

Grades Semester grades will be assigned using the following cutoff percentages:

Grade	Cutoff Percentage
A	93
A-	90
B+	87
B	83
B-	80
C+	77
C	73
C-	70
D+	67
D	63
D-	60

Academic Dishonesty Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any student who submits work that has been completed using any unauthorized aid or work that has been plagiarized will be subject to the penalties outlined in LVC's Academic Honesty Policy found in the Student Handbook.

Course Evaluation During one of the last several weeks of the course, you will have an opportunity to evaluate different aspects of this course. The College has initiated the use of a standardized course evaluation instrument called IDEA. The IDEA evaluation will be administered through an on-line form that will be asked to complete in a timely manner outside of class. I have chosen the following objectives for evaluation using IDEA:

1. Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)
2. Developing skill in expressing oneself orally or in writing
3. Learning to *analyze and critically evaluate* ideas, arguments, and points of view

Disability Statement

If you have a physical, medical, psychological, or learning disability that is going to impact your attendance or require accommodation, please let me know. In order to ensure that your learning needs are appropriately met, you will need to provide documentation of your disability or medical condition to the Coordinator of Disability Services in Humanities 206-D, 867-6071. The Office of Disability Services will then provide a verification letter that describes the accommodations needed for this class.

Course Schedule

Date	Grammar Topic	Discussion Topic	Due
Tu 8/25	course introduction		
Th 8/27	Bedford Ch. 46	<i>Sorcerer's Stone</i> Ch. 1-5	
Tu 9/1	Bedford Ch. 47	<i>Sorcerer's Stone</i> Ch. 6-9	
Th 9/3	Bedford Ch. 1	<i>Sorcerer's Stone</i> Ch. 10-14	Essay 1 thesis
Tu 9/8	Bedford Ch. 2	<i>Sorcerer's Stone</i> Ch. 15-17	Quiz 1
Th 9/10	conferences		
Tu 9/15	Bedford Ch. 3	<i>Chamber of Secrets</i> Ch. 1-5	
Th 9/17	Bedford Ch. 4	<i>Chamber of Secrets</i> Ch. 6-9	Essay 1
Tu 9/22	Bedford Ch. 11	<i>Chamber of Secrets</i> Ch. 10-13	Essay 2 thesis
Th 9/24	Bedford Ch. 12	<i>Chamber of Secrets</i> Ch. 14-18	
Tu 9/29	conferences		Quiz 2
Th 10/1	Bedford Ch. 13	<i>Order of the Phoenix</i> Ch. 1-5	
Tu 10/6	Bedford Ch. 14	<i>Order of the Phoenix</i> Ch. 6-10	Essay 2
Th 10/8	Bedford Ch. 19	<i>Order of the Phoenix</i> Ch. 11-15	Essay 3 thesis
Tu 10/13	NO CLASS – FALL BREAK		
Th 10/15	Bedford Ch. 20	<i>Order of the Phoenix</i> Ch. 16-20	
Tu 10/20	conferences		Quiz 3
Th 10/22	Bedford Ch. 21	<i>Order of the Phoenix</i> Ch. 21-25	
Tu 10/27	Bedford Ch. 22	<i>Order of the Phoenix</i> Ch. 26-29	Essay 3
Th 10/29	Bedford Ch. 23	<i>Order of the Phoenix</i> Ch. 30-33	Essay 4 thesis
Tu 11/3	Bedford Ch. 24	<i>Order of the Phoenix</i> Ch. 34-38	
Th 11/5	conferences		
Tu 11/10	Bedford Ch. 27-28	<i>Deathly Hallows</i> Ch. 1-6	Quiz 4
Th 11/12	Bedford Ch. 32-33	<i>Deathly Hallows</i> Ch. 7-12	Essay 4
Tu 11/17	Bedford Ch. 34-35	<i>Deathly Hallows</i> Ch. 13-18	
Th 11/19	Bedford Ch. 36-37	<i>Deathly Hallows</i> Ch. 19-23	
Tu 11/24	Bedford Ch. 38-39	<i>Deathly Hallows</i> Ch. 24-31	Quiz 5
Th 11/26	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK		
Tu 12/1	Bedford Ch. 44	<i>Deathly Hallows</i> Ch. 32-36	
Th 12/3	review		
M 12/7	FINAL ESSAY EXAM		