



COURSE OUTLINE

CRIT 040

Critical Issues

READ, REFLECT, RESPOND

45 HOURS
3 CREDIT COURSE

PREPARED BY: _____ DATE: _____

Gina Alaric, Instructor

APPROVED BY: _____ DATE: _____

Shelagh Rowles, Dean

CRITICAL ISSUES 040

INSTRUCTOR: Gina Alaric

OFFICE HOURS: Monday to Thursday afternoons
By appointment

OFFICE LOCATION: A2313

TELEPHONE/E-MAIL: (867) 668-8743

FAX: (867) 668-8828

COURSE OFFERING Room A2603

DAYS & TIMES: Monday, Wednesday and Friday
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will examine current issues in a variety of disciplines. They will read, respond, and reflect on how these issues impact their lives and future work.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will:

1. Apply specific strategies for more effective reading comprehension and retention of vocabulary.
2. Demonstrate improved vocabulary and reading skills.
3. Recognize the central idea of a reading as well as the reasons, examples, and facts that support that idea.
4. Critically assess the facts supporting a central idea.
5. Use the writing process to compose paragraphs that state a point of view and then provide support for that point of view.
6. Summarize information and share in written and oral formats.

Class Format

Each week, the class will cover one module as per the Topic Outline included. This will require short lectures, class discussions, some group work, and the completion of short assignments. Student participation is essential.

Prerequisites

Acceptance to College Prep.

Students with Disabilities or Chronic Conditions

Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability or chronic condition. It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations. If a student has a disability or chronic condition and may need accommodation to fully participate in this class, he/she should contact the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC) at (867) 668-8785 or lassist@yukoncollege.yk.ca.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/EVALUATION

Attendance and Participation

Students must be in class at scheduled times. It is the student's responsibility to attend all classes. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and to complete assigned work on time. Please partner with someone in the class so you can take notes and collect handouts for each other in case one of you is absent.

The following is an excerpt from the Yukon College Academic Regulations and Procedures (January 2004) manual from section 4.01—Attendance:

“Students in all program areas are expected to attend classes. However, attendance requirements may vary from program to program. Special permission from the Dean or Chair is required if a student is enrolled in another course and the timetables for the two courses overlap. Attendance requirements are noted below.

- Individual instructors shall inform students of the attendance requirements for their course at the beginning of the semester
- Admission to a lecture or laboratory may be refused by the instructor due to lateness or misconduct. Students who do not attend classes or submit assignments as required may be refused admission to further classes
- Attendance at practicum activities and work placement activities (in Co-op programs) is required. Students shall notify the placement agency as well as the instructor whenever practicum/work attendance is not possible
- Attendance for sponsored students will be reported to the sponsoring agency as required

Attendance Policies

Attendance is mandatory. A student may be dismissed from a course or program if more than **ten percent (10%)** of the scheduled contact hours **are missed in any one course. Dismissal** from a course may result in **loss of full-time status and loss of sponsorship funding.”**

Other Policies

Electronic Devices

In order to be successful in classes and minimize distractions for others, cell phones, iPods and other electronic devices must be turned off while students are in class. In an emergency situation, the instructor may give a student permission to use a cell phone or pager.

Appropriate Language

In all areas of the college environment, students are responsible to show respect for others. Swearing, or language that is discriminatory or derogatory in relation to race, sex, ethnic background, religious beliefs, age, and physical condition is not appropriate.

Assignments

Students will be required to complete approximately twelve assignments worth 50% of their final course grade. Assignments are due by 4:30 pm on the due date. There will be one larger group assignment in the semester.

Late Policy

All assignments that are handed in late will have **10%** deducted from the final mark. If an assignment is more than one week late, a mark of zero will be assigned. Students are allowed one “negotiated late” during the semester (does not apply to the Yukon assignment). Such requests must be made in advance of the due date. Assignments are due by 4:30 pm on the due date.

Mid-Term Test

Students will complete one mid-term test. This will consist of reading one article and providing written responses to questions on the article. The mid-term test will be worth 15% of the final course grade.

Final Exam

Students will complete one final exam. The final exam will consist of reading two articles and providing written responses to questions on the articles. The final exam will be worth 25% of the course grade.

Rewrites: A rewrite for a failing grade on an examination (less than 50%) may be permitted at the instructor's discretion. The rewrite mark will be recorded whether it is higher or lower than the original. However, the maximum mark that may be recorded is 65%.

"No Shows": A student who misses an examination will receive a mark of zero for that examination but may be permitted a rewrite. Exceptions may be made if a student receives prior permission from the instructor, or faces an emergency. Some form of documentation of the emergency may be required.

Evaluation

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Attendance/Homework Checks | 5% |
| Assignments | 55% |
| Mid-term Test | 15% |
| <u>Final Exam</u> | <u>25%</u> |
| Total ¹ | 100% |

¹ **Students must obtain a final course mark of B- or greater if this course is being used as a pre-requisite.**

| Letter Grade | Percentage Equivalent | Grade Point Average |
|--------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| A+ | 95–100 | 4.0 |
| A | 86–94 | 4.0 |
| A- | 80–85 | 3.7 |
| B+ | 75–79 | 3.5 |
| B | 70–74 | 3.0 |
| B- | 65–69 | 2.7 |
| C+ | 62–64 | 2.5 |
| C | 58–61 | 2.0 |
| C- | 55–57 | 1.7 |
| D | 50–54 | 1.0 |
| F | Under 50 | 0.0 |

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/MATERIALS

Required Textbooks

- **Voices and Values: A Reader for Writers**; Janet M. Goldstein and Beth Johnson; Townsend Press; ISBN0-944210-09-0.
- **Critical Issues Student Materials Binder**
- **More Reading Comprehension in Varied Subject Matter, Level 1**

Required Materials

Three-ring binder with dividers, writing paper, dictionary, pencils, pens, highlighters.
(*suggested*)

TOPIC OUTLINE

| <u>Week</u> | <u>Module</u> |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| Week 1 | Becoming a Better Reader and Writer |
| Week 2 | Bullying |
| Week 3 | Drug Addiction |
| Week 4 | Gambling |
| Week 5 | Tobacco |
| Week 6 | Racism |
| Week 7 | Immigration |
| Week 8 | Mid-term Test Stereotyping |
| Week 9 | Crime and Punishment |
| Week 10 | Land Claims and Self-Governance |
| Week 11 | Yukon: Past, Present and Future |
| Week 12 | Environment |
| Week 13 | Technology |
| Week 14 | Positive Attitude |
| Week 15 | Review & Final Exam |

**Note: Schedule is subject to change.*