

SCLA 102 Transformative Texts

Critical Thinking & Communication II: Modern World

“Great Power and Its Responsibilities”

Spring 2019, Tuesday and Thursdays: 3pm – 4:20pm, Beering Hall 1254

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

SCLA 102 is based on the fundamental premise that great texts – whether famous speeches, essays, or poetry as well as film and digital media – inform and inspire students, encouraging their creative and imaginative capacities, helping students see the world from different perspectives and broadening their worldview. In this class, we will examine a series of texts (including digital media) seeking to understand the contexts in which these texts were produced as well as what these texts mean to us today.

SCLA 102 is part of Level I of the Cornerstone certificate program. It fulfills the Oral Communication requirement in the University Core Curriculum. It is dedicated to developing and enhancing the ability of students to convey information through oral presentations, advancing their understanding of the importance of rhetorical situations and choices, analyzing and constructing presentations for different audiences, gathering and evaluating sources for presentations and using visual aids effectively.

This particular course will consider the theme of “Great Power and Its Responsibilities.” We will read classic literature of the use and abuse of great power (George Orwell and Margaret Atwood) along with political and social theory that places these works in context (Hannah Arendt and Michel Foucault). Through these transformative modern texts, you will ask: What makes for great power? How is great power expressed and maintained in society? How can people resist great power? What are the responsibilities of great power? How do people hold great power responsible?

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Oral Communication

By the end of the semester, students will:

1. Demonstrate effective, professional delivery, designing and adapting appropriate verbal appeals through vocal intonation and non-verbal cues.
2. Distinguish and apply appropriate informative, persuasive, explanatory, interrogatory and argumentative strategies and techniques in the discussions and in formal presentations.
3. Organize presentations with effective supporting materials.
4. Locate and evaluate effective sources of information.
5. Engage critically with transformative texts, drawing on multiple perspectives, including the individual, the historical, and the contemporary.

REQUIRED BOOKS

There are four required books. You must purchase (not rent) the exact edition listed here.

1. *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, George Orwell (Penguin Random House 2003, 4th edition with foreword by Thomas Pynchon) ISBN Number: 978-0452284234
2. *The Handmaid's Tale*, Margaret Atwood (Anchor 2017, Media Tie-in edition with new introduction by the author) ISBN Number: 978-0525435006
3. *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil*, Hannah Arendt (Penguin Classics 2006, 1st edition with Introduction by Amos Elon) ISBN Number: 978-0143039884
4. *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings 1972 - 1977*, Michel Foucault (Vintage 1980, 1st American edition) ISBN Number: 978-0394739540

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation:	40%
<i>Attendance:</i>	10% (every class)
<i>Discussion:</i>	15% (every class)
10 <i>Weekly Posts:</i>	15% (every week)
Oral Presentations:	60%
<i>Product Pitch:</i>	15% (due week 4)
<i>Propaganda:</i>	20% (due week 8)
<i>Political Campaign:</i>	25% (due weeks 15-16)

ASSIGNMENTS

Attendance and Discussion:

I expect you to attend all classes and participate thoughtfully and consistently. You are allowed to miss two classes without penalty (excludes classes when your oral assignments are due). There will be no make-up assignments for missed attendance. Moreover, the course will be driven by discussions rather than lectures. Come well-prepared: keep up with the readings, bring a hard copy of the books to class, and contribute to the conversation.

Weekly posts:

During the weeks we have reading assigned, you will post reading responses on Blackboard by 11am the morning before one class every week (you select whether it is for Tuesday or Thursday). The post must be 200 words and respond to the question for that class (posted on Blackboard). I will use these posts to guide discussion, so be ready to elaborate.

Oral Presentations:

You will deliver three oral presentations. The first will be a 3-minute impromptu presentation pitching a new product seeking investment. The second will be a 5-minute scripted presentation based on propaganda speeches. The third will be a 10-minute impromptu and scripted mixed speech to announce a new political campaign. More information on each speech will be made available closer to the assignment date.

GRADING

Guidelines for grading correspond to student performance where,

- A — Outstanding achievement
- B — Very good, commendable achievement
- C — Satisfactory achievement
- D — Minimum performance
- F — Failure without credit

Letter grades will be determined as follows:

A = 100 - 93%	B+ = 89.5 - 87.5%	C+ = 79.5 - 77.5%	D+ = 69.5 - 67.5%
A - = 92.5 - 90%	B = 87 - 83%	C = 77 - 73%	D = 67 - 60%
	B- = 82.5 - 80%	C- = 72.5 - 70%	F = 59.5% and below

POLICIES

1. No use of cellphones, laptops, tablets, or other electronics in class.
2. Class communication will be through your Purdue email, which I expect you will check at least once a day.

3. I will do my best to respond within 24 hours to your emails, except after 6 pm and on weekends. If you do not hear from me, feel free to check in.
4. Deadlines are final and late assignments will not be accepted as we have limited class time for presentations.
5. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, you are welcome to let me know so that we can discuss options. You are also encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center at drc@purdue.edu or 765-494-1247.
6. Thoroughly cite all paraphrased and quoted material in your weekly posts and written speeches. You are responsible for knowing Purdue's policy regarding [academic integrity](#).
7. Be mindful of Purdue's [honor pledge](#) and give others the same respect you would like to receive in our classroom.
8. The syllabus is subject to change with fair notice.

COURSE SCHEDULE

❖ Indicates required reading *for* that class

WEEK ONE	
1/8	❖ This syllabus
1/10	❖ 1984, Pages 1-71
WEEK TWO	
1/15	❖ 1984, Pages 71-139
1/17	❖ 1984, Pages 139-204
WEEK THREE	
1/22	❖ 1984, Pages 205-269
1/24	❖ 1984, Pages 269-323

WEEK FOUR	
1/29	In-class oral presentation: Product Pitch
1/31	In-class oral presentation: Product Pitch
WEEK FIVE	
2/5	❖ Handmaid's Tale, Pages 3-66
2/7	❖ Handmaid's Tale, Pages 69-140
WEEK SIX	
2/12	❖ Handmaid's Tale, Pages 143-195
2/14	❖ Handmaid's Tale, Pages 199-255
WEEK SEVEN	
2/19	❖ Handmaid's Tale, Pages 259-311
2/21	No reading assigned: Second presentation peer-review
WEEK EIGHT	
2/26	In-class oral presentation: Propaganda Speech
2/28	In-class oral presentation: Propaganda Speech
WEEK NINE	
3/5	❖ Eichmann in Jerusalem, Pages 3-67

3/7	❖ Eichmann in Jerusalem, Pages 68-134
WEEK TEN	
3/12, 3/14	***NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK***
WEEK ELEVEN	
3/19	❖ Eichmann in Jerusalem, Pages 135-219
3/21	❖ Eichmann in Jerusalem, Pages 220-298
WEEK TWELVE	
3/26	No reading assigned: Final presentation peer-review
3/28	No reading assigned: Final presentation peer-review
WEEK THIRTEEN	
4/2	❖ Power/Knowledge, Pages 37-62
4/4	❖ Power/Knowledge, Pages 146-165
WEEK FOURTEEN	
4/9	❖ Power/Knowledge, Pages 109-133
4/11	❖ Power/Knowledge, Pages 134-145
WEEK FIFTEEN	
4/16	In-class oral presentation: Political Campaign

4/18	In-class oral presentation: Political Campaign
WEEK SIXTEEN	
4/23	In-class oral presentation: Political Campaign
4/26	In-class oral presentation: Political Campaign