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**Mastering the Liberal Arts II**  
(50 606 302 L1/R1)

**Meeting Places and Times:**

Lincroft—Monday 6-8:40 pm (Larrison Hall Room 303)  
RVCC—Thursday 6-8:40 pm (Somerset Hall Room 120)

**Office Hours:**

Lincroft—RU Office Larrison Hall Room 206  
Monday 4:30-6 pm; Tuesday 4:30-6 pm and by appointment  
RVCC—University Center in Somerset Hall  
Wednesday 1:30-3 pm; after class, and by appointment

**Please stop by!** I am happy to chat with you about the course. If it is urgent, you may wish to give me a call or email me to double check that I will be there (in case I have an emergency, etc.). You may also email or phone with questions or comments.

**Required Texts:**

*Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America* by Barbara Ehrenreich  
Articles on Canvas

**Goals:** To strengthen critical reading and writing skills in a variety of academic disciplines; to construct clear, logical arguments, supported with properly cited textual evidence; to participate in topical discussions (both in class and within smaller groups) that will facilitate written work; to strengthen the ability to provide constructive feedback to classmates in drafting sessions.

**Liberal Studies Departmental Course Goals:**

- To grasp the concept of writing as a process with various steps: finding and narrowing an appropriate topic, arriving at a thesis, outlining, drafting, revising, and editing
- To develop critical research skills essential for success in senior level courses
- To realize the importance of accurate citation of sources and academic integrity
- To extend the skills of critical analysis and expository writing
- To understand the difference between a topic and a thesis, between summary and analysis; and to advance an argument supported by textual evidence
- To understand how to integrate both direct quotations and paraphrasing into a critical paper

- To understand the importance of classroom participation: speaking as well as listening carefully and responding to others' ideas

## Requirements:

### \*Graded Work:

Essay I 15%

Essay II 20%

Journals/In-Class Assignments 15%

Annotated Works Cited/Outline/Oral Report Essay III 15%

Final Draft Essay III (6-7 pages excluding Works Cited) 20%

Class Participation/Attendance 15%

**\*Mandatory Class Participation/Attendance:** This is a course designed to help you think and write critically so it is vital that you ask questions and participate in class discussion each week. This is a discussion-based course and relies on everyone's participation. We will discuss the assigned readings each class and examine some of the important issues they spark. Please, bring the readings to each class. We will be referring closely to the text. Note: **After 2 absences, you are in danger of failing the course unless you can produce an excuse from your dean. Each incident of being 20 minutes late or more will be the equivalent of ½ an absence. Each absence after 2 will result in a 10-point deduction from your class participation grade. More than 3 absences will result in automatic failure, regardless of the reason.**

**\*Reading:** Carefully read each assigned reading before coming to class. Be sure to take notes on what you read. (There will be quizzes and in-class assignments based on the readings. I may also ask you to produce the notes on your reading as part of a quiz grade so come prepared). **Bring assigned reading texts (text books, photo copies, e-copies, etc.) with you to class.** You will want to follow along as we discuss specific examples from the texts and you will also need the text to work in groups. Please do not use your phone to access reading material during class.

**\*Oral Reports/Quizzes:** You will be asked to do oral reports and in-class assignments, individually (but more often) in groups. These may be assigned ahead of time, or spontaneously. Thus, it is very important to come to class prepared. There will be in-class assignments each time you read a new text for class and you are expected to participate in class discussion.

**\*\*\*In addition to informal oral reports, you will do an oral report on the topic of Essay 3, your final research paper. You will discuss your topic, the sources you have found and how you will use them. You will also explain how you came to formulate a specific thesis.**

**\*Journals/Chats:** Journal assignments will be assigned when there are new readings. **In order to receive full credit, journals must be handed in in person on the day they are due.** They are meant to assist you in class participation. In place of or in addition to a journal, I may ask you to do short posts on Canvas. **Posts are to be posted by 9 pm the evening before the class meets. If the Rutgers system is down, print out the post and bring it to class. A missed post will deduct 10 points from the chat's grade. You will only be excused from the post if Rutgers OIRT has alerted me that the system is down.** Posts and journals are important because some of the ideas written in these assignments will form the basis of our class discussion and your formal essays.

**\*Revision Groups/Rough Drafts:** The class after you have received an essay assignment, you will be asked to meet in groups of three to discuss your first drafts. Come prepared with your original typed draft and two copies of it. **Failure to come prepared for revision group (without draft and/ or copies) will automatically lower the grade of your final draft by 1 letter grade (10 points). You must produce a medical excuse in order for me to waive this penalty and you will have to do an alternative comparable assignment.**

**\*Written Work:** In addition to assigned journals and posts, you will be required to complete 3 essays between 5 and 7 pages in length (a total of at least 20 pages by the end of the semester). These essays are to be completed at home; they must be typed and proofread carefully. Late final papers will lose 1 letter grade (10 points). Papers that fail to meet the length requirement stated on the assignment will lose a full letter grade. **I will not grade a paper shorter than 4 full pages.** It will be returned to you and marked late upon receiving the revision. In order to receive credit for the paper (and you must receive credit for all papers and journals to pass the course), you must bring the paper to the proper assigned length. This will result in a lateness penalty of 1 full letter grade. All papers must be written in MLA format, properly cited. All research must be properly documented and come from academic peer-reviewed sources such as those you will find in college databases such as MLA or JSTOR.

**All journals, final papers and graded revisions must be kept in a folder for review at the end of the course.**

**\*You must complete all written work, according to the assignment directions, in order to pass the class. All final essays must be turned in in HARD COPY form. If taking a sanctioned extension, you must upload your essay on the Canvas website by the due date or you will lose a letter grade for lateness. You must then bring a hard copy of the essay**

**to the following class. You will not receive a grade unless you turn in a hard copy of the essay.**

### **Snow/Cyber Attack/Deregistration**

**Snow**--For information regarding class schedule changes due to inclement weather, sign up for RAVE alerts for your course location. You may also monitor the Brookdale or RVCC websites for closings. If Brookdale or RVCC campuses close, class is canceled. Also, monitor emails for notifications from Rutgers, Lincroft and Rutgers, RVCC staff for local cancellations. Just because class is canceled on another Rutgers campus, does not mean that your Rutgers classes at Brookdale or RVCC are canceled.

**Cyber Attack**—From time to time, Rutgers experiences problems with its online services. Should this occur, you will not be able to turn work in on Canvas or get any resources or readings from Canvas. If the outage lasts, print out any work slated to be turned in online and bring it to class. **I strongly recommended that you download all of the resources onto a computer or thumb drive, or print them out well in advance of the class.** You will be responsible for the readings even if Canvas is down.

**Deregistration**—Should you become registered from Rutgers, you will disappear from the class roster on Canvas and you will not be able to access chats and readings. If this occurs, contact me and I can temporarily reinstate you to the class. **Do not stop attending class or turning in work!!!**

**Academic Integrity:** The following statement comes directly from the Rutgers, Office of Academic Affairs:

By enrolling in this course, each student assumes the accountability and the responsibility to be an active participant in Rutgers Camden's community of scholars in which everyone's academic work and behavior are held to the highest academic integrity standards. Academic misconduct compromises the integrity of the university. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, and helping or allowing others commit these acts are examples of academic misconduct, which can result in disciplinary action. This includes but is not limited to failure on the assignment/course, disciplinary probation, or suspension. All cases of academic misconduct will be forwarded to the Office of Community Standards for additional review. For more information, refer <https://deanofstudents.camden.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity>

### **Code of Conduct**

Rutgers University-Camden, seeks a community that is free from violence, threats, and intimidation; that is respectful of the rights, opportunities, and welfare of students, faculty, staff, and guests of the University; and that does not threaten the

physical or mental health or safety of members of the University community and includes classroom space.

As a student at the University you are expected adhere to Student Code of Conduct. To review the <https://deanofstudents.camden.rutgers.edu/student-conduct>

Note that the conduct code specifically addresses disruptive classroom conduct, which means "engaging in behavior that substantially or repeatedly interrupts either the instructor's ability to teach or student learning. The classroom extends to any setting where a student is engaged in work toward academic credit or satisfaction of program-based requirements or related activities."

**Students with Disabilities:** Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation:

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

**Counseling Services: (Following text from Rutgers)**

We understand that taking on further study can be a time of change, adjustment, and stress - and we are here to offer help! Rutgers University, Statewide (Off-campus) has partnered with Morneau Shepell to bring you the new Student Support Program (My SSP)! This exciting new program will serve to support you while you juggle your studies and personal life.

My SSP is free to use and your information is kept private. You have unlimited access to articles, tools, resources, and dedicated My SSP Advisors/Counselors that can help you succeed during your studies at Rutgers.

**My SSP Advisors/Counselors can help with:**

- Adapting to university life
- Maintaining balance between home, work, and school
- Dealing with stress, frustration, and uncertainty
- Relationships with family, friends and peers
- Worries about upcoming exams or big assignments
- Concerns about post-graduation plans
- And lots more!

**You may call or chat with My SSP Advisor/Counselor at any time (24/7) to receive immediate support or schedule an appointment.** This program is

confidential within the limits of the law. No one will know you reached out unless you choose to tell them.

There are many ways to access 24/7 support:

**Download the free 'My SSP' app from your device's app store** (available on Apple and Android devices) to call or chat with a My SSP Advisor/Counselor  
Note: when entering your personal information under "Please let us know what school you're at," a few options come up for Rutgers University. Make sure you select "Rutgers University, Statewide (Off-campus)."

The following video shows the MySSP app demo:

**Visit the website <http://us.myissp.com> (Links to an external site.) to access articles, tools, and resources to help you succeed**

Dial 866.743.7732 to speak to a My SSP Advisor/Counselor over the phone, 24/7!  
You can also download or view the presentation below for important information on MySSP:

Morneau\_Shepell\_Presentation.pptx

### **Class Schedule:**

Th 1/23; M 1/27 Introduction. Discuss syllabus, class structure, expectations, and goals.

Th 1/30; M 2/3 **Society Reflected in Advertising**

"Advertising's Fifteen Basic Appeals" by Jib Fowles (C); "Never Just Pictures" by Susan Bordo; *Killing Us Softly 4* by Jean Kilbourne (documentary, viewed in class)  
Journal #1

Th 2/6; M 2/10 "Beauty (Re)discovers the Male Body" by Susan Bordo  
Journal #2

Th 2/13; M 2/17 **Rough Draft Essay #1 due**

Th 2/20; M 2/24 **Society Reflected in Art and Literature**

**Final Draft of Essay #1 due**

**Re-Vision**—(Examining an old "text" from "a new critical direction"); "When We Dead Awaken" by Adrienne Rich (C) (p 18-25); *Feminist Frequency* Episode 1 by Anita Sarkeesian (video, viewed in class); "Comic Book Masculinity and the New Black Superhero" by Jeffrey Brown (C); "The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson (C)  
Journal #3

Th 2/27; M 3/2

**Mystification**—"The process of explaining away what might otherwise be evident") "Ways of Seeing" by John Berger (C); *Who the F\*%# is Jackson Pollock?* Directed by Henry Moses (viewed in class)

Journal #4

Th 3/5; M 3/9 "Ways of Seeing" continued

**Rough Draft Essay #2**

Th 3/12 M 3/23 (Monday after break) **Society Reflected in the American Dream  
Final Draft Essay #2 due**

**Conspicuous Consumption**—(How members of society display social standing and power).

"A History of Conspicuous Consumption" by Christine Page; "Seen Through Rose Tinted Glasses: The Barbie in American Society" by Marilyn Motz (C)

Journal #5

**Spring Break March 14-22 (No Class M 3/16 or Th 3/19)**

Th 3/26; M /30 "Futile Pursuit of Happiness" by John Gertner ; "What's Great About this Country" by Andy Warhol; "10 Minute Mansion" by Augusten Burroughs; "Key Worst" by Augusten Burroughs (C)

Journal #6

Th 4/2; M 4/6 **Society Reflected in Work**

*Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America* by Barbara Ehrenreich p 1-79

Journal #7

Th 4/9; M 4/13 *Nickel and Dimed* p 80-175

Th 4/16; M 4/20 *Nickel and Dimed* p 176-238

In-class research with research guide

Th 4/23; M 4/27

**\*Annotated Works Cited due**

**\*Oral reports on research topics and sources.**

**\*Outline/notes on Essay 3 due**

Th 4/30; M 5/4 **Rough Draft #3**

Th 5/7; M 5/11 **Final Draft Essay #3 due (No class)**

Please note: This is a rough guide and subject to change. You are responsible for knowing about these changes, even if you were not in class when I announced them. It is vital that you get the name and contact information of someone in class so that you can get notes and changes in scheduling etc. You may also look on Canvas and your Rutgers emails for announcements of changes. You should check your Rutgers email and Canvas regularly.

**Sanctioned Extensions**—In order to facilitate your reading and participation, I will often make the Final Drafts of an essay due on Friday (for Monday classes) or on Monday (for Thursday classes). I will announce these extensions in class and have you turn in your Final Draft on Canvas and bring a hard copy to class. I will announce all Final Draft due dates in class and on the Canvas assignments page.