

Duke University TIP Summer Studies Program 2015

**THUMBS UP/THUMBS DOWN: THE RHETORIC OF CRITIQUE
WAKE FOREST CAMPUS, TERM 2**

INSTRUCTOR: Abby Seeskin

TA: Samantha Seto

COURSE DESCRIPTION

“Like, Comment, Share.” These verbs you see every day are at the heart of critique, but is the best way to express your approval just a thumbs up? If you do not “like” what is being presented, how do you express your dislike diplomatically and logically? Explore the classic rhetorical strategies that form the basis of criticism, and become more adept at reading, analyzing, and evaluating ancient, classic, and contemporary critical writings. Then join your peers in writing your own critiques of music, art, film, food, and more.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Acquire an understanding of the history of critique from ancient times to contemporary times
- Evaluate various art forms (books, music, film, fine art) critically
- Distinguish between criticism and critique
- Produce different forms of critique (podcast, blog, magazine, journalism)
- Develop confidence in their own voice
- Review their peers’ work
- Workshop their own work
- Publish their work on the internet

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

In this course, students will write and edit their criticism on a near-daily basis. In the first week, students will participate in broad social criticism. In the second and the third weeks, students will write blog posts, produce a podcast, and write short journal entries in which they sound off and evaluate cultural objects in including books, film, music, art, and food.

No official grade will be given at the end of the course, but the instructor and teaching assistant will work together to write a detailed written evaluation of each student. Students will be primarily evaluated on their growth over the course of the three weeks, as well as their performance.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1	July 6-11: Introduction and Social Critique
Monday, July 6	Morning: Welcome and Ice Breakers

		<p>Class Overview/Making Class Rules Discuss: What do you think criticism is? Review: "Manhattan," O'Keeffe Afternoon: Watch: Gilmore Girls Episode 4.8 "Die Jerk" Debate: Ethics of the "Mean Review" Read and discuss Pete Wells: "As not Seen on TV" Evening: Set up course blog</p>
Tuesday, July 7	<p>Morning: Lecture: Aristotle and Rhetoric Activity: Logos, Ethos, Pathos commercials Read: "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," King Afternoon: Activity: Topics of Invention Write: Persuasive Speeches Evening: Continue Writing</p>	
Wednesday, July 8	<p>Morning: Workshop: Speeches Deliver Speeches Afternoon: Lecture: Dystopia as a form of social critique Discuss: <i>Hunger Games</i> as social critique Read: "Harrison Bergeron," Vonnegut Activity: Post-it map of social criticisms Evening: Brainstorm dystopian project</p>	
Thursday, July 9	<p>Morning: Lecture: creating a dystopian setting Begin writing dystopian story as social critique Afternoon: Continue writing Evening: Read: "The Veldt," Bradbury</p>	
Friday, July 10	<p>Morning: Discuss: Identity and standpoint Mapping our identity Discuss: Ethics of the "Mean Review" Afternoon: Continue writing: dystopias</p>	
Saturday, July 11	<p>Morning: Lecture: Logical fallacies Activity: Write skits illustrating logical fallacies</p>	
Week 2	July 13-18	Book and Art Critique
Monday, July 13	<p>Morning: Discuss: The Book Review Read: "'The Fault in Our Stars': Love in a Time of Cancer," Smye Read: "Digging for Gold in Stilettos and Silk," Kakutani Afternoon: Library Fieldtrip: Choose a book to review Begin reading Evening: Plan T-shirt</p>	
Tuesday, July 14	<p>Morning: Continue reading Afternoon: Continue reading and Write preliminary review Evening: Research your book and its author</p>	
Wednesday, July 15	<p>Morning: Keep Reading or Discuss: "Two Against the World," Green</p>	

	<p>Afternoon: Continue working on review</p> <p>Evening: Read: "The Lottery," Jackson</p>
Thursday, July 16	<p>Morning: Workshop: Book Reviews Edit: book reviews</p> <p>Afternoon: Poetry: as art form, as form of social critique Read: "Still I Rise," Angelou Watch: Slam Poetry</p> <p>Evening: Make term book page</p>
Friday, July 17	<p>Morning Write: Spoken Word Poetry Perform: poetry slam</p> <p>Afternoon: Discussion: Art Criticism Review: "Chicago Taking a Beating," Brown Activity: Word/Picture telephone game</p>
Saturday, July 18	<p>Morning: Lecture: social media and media democracy Activity: An in-class trip to the Smithsonian, as twitter reviewers</p>
Week 3	July 20-24 Film, Music, and Food Critique
Monday, July 20	<p>Morning: Lecture and Discuss: History of Film Activity: Present reviews from "Rotten Tomatoes"</p> <p>Afternoon: Listen and Discuss: Pop Culture Happy Hour's segments on <i>Jurassic World</i>, <i>Big Hero 6</i> Review "Fetch"</p> <p>Evening: Review Stones and Bones's gallery opening</p>
Tuesday, July 21	<p>Morning: In groups of four, watch one of four movies: <i>Bend it Like Beckham</i>, <i>Into the Woods</i>, <i>School of Rock</i>, <i>Back to the Future II</i></p> <p>Afternoon: Work on roundtable discussion</p> <p>Evening: Tip Talk Live! (Roundtable discussion of films)</p>
Wednesday, July 22	<p>Morning: Lecture: Elements of a music review Read: "Florence + The Machine's Expansive Music," Berkowitz</p> <p>Afternoon Analyze Music Videos, "Elastic Heart," Sia Read "Susan Sontag on How the False Divide Between Pop Culture and 'High' Culture Limits Us; Popova</p> <p>Evening: Write music reviews in small groups</p>
Thursday, July 23	<p>Morning: Food Criticism</p> <p>Afternoon: Conduct Food Reviews</p> <p>Evening: Map food criticism of Food Network</p>
Friday, July 24	<p>Morning: Discuss: What is a review? What did we learn this summer? Watch: <i>Cbef</i></p> <p>Afternoon: Class activity: A letter to Facebook on how to better their "like" feature</p>

