ENGLISH 370, SECTION 820
CRITICAL WRITING: Writing Against Conventional Wisdom
3 Credits: Online
Summer 2017 (May 15 - Aug 4)
University of South Dakota

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*Response to emails within 24 hours on weekdays.
*Please use my USD email to contact me -- not D2L’s mail system.

Last day to add/drop with 100% refund: May 22
Last day to withdraw: July 12

Catalog Description
This course, which meets the University’s upper-division critical writing requirement for graduation, is an interdisciplinary writing course on a specific topic or theme. Course content includes readings from across the disciplines and emphasizes advanced research-based critical writing skills.

Course Description
What happens when conventional wisdom is wrong? How can our writing change commonly-held beliefs that don’t hold up to close examination? In this online class, we’ll examine the ideas and writing techniques presented in the book *Freakonomics* by Levitt and Dubner with an eye toward writing (argumentatively) to persuade readers to alter long-held notions that aren’t supported by fact. The course will be conducted through D2L.

Course Prerequisites: Must complete one of the following: ANTH 211, CJUS 202, ENGL 201, ENGL 205, ENGL 283, ENGL 284, POLS 202, SOC 211 or UHON 211. Must have 60 credit hours completed or in progress.

Required Texts
**Technological Requirements and Student Support:**
For information about USD's technical, academic and student support services, as well as how to take advantages of these services, please refer to the CE Online Student Orientation packet. This document also contains important information pertaining to minimum technology requirements, registration information, as well as other university services and policies.

**Attendance/participation policy:**
This is an online class, so we’ll have no face-to-face meeting times. Attendance will be assessed by participation in the class. If you don’t submit 3 consecutive assignments, you may be dropped from the class.

**Late policy:**
Late work may be penalized at the instructor’s discretion. No late work that is submitted more than 2 weeks past the due date will be accepted.

**Grading**
Grades are calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly discussions</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly quizzes/assignments</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annotated bibliographies for essays (2)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outline, intro, and theses for essays (2)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 drafts of essays</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 essays</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Letter grades are assigned on a 10 point scale (90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, etc.)

**Written Assignments**
All written assignments must be typed, double-spaced, formatted according to MLA Style guidelines, and submitted on time to receive full credit. Essays are due by 11:59 PM on the assigned date, and must be submitted online, via D2L, in Microsoft Word or a compatible format. You can expect to receive feedback and a grade on all assignments within a week.

**Academic Integrity**
The College of Arts and Sciences considers plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty inimical to the objectives of higher education. The College supports the imposition of penalties on students who engage in academic dishonesty, as defined in the “Conduct” section of the University of South Dakota Student Handbook.
No credit can be given for a dishonest assignment. A student found to have engaged in any form of academic dishonesty may, at the discretion of the instructor, be:
   a. Given a zero for that assignment.
   b. Allowed to rewrite and resubmit the assignment for credit.
   c. Assigned a reduced grade for the course.
   d. Dropped from the course.
   e. Failed in the course.

**Fair Evaluation**
Each student is entitled to a fair grade in each course in which he or she is enrolled. It is the right and the responsibility of an instructor to establish criteria for evaluation for each course which he or she teaches, and to determine the degree to which an individual student has fulfilled the standards set for the course.

Students should be apprised that extraneous factors, such as eligibility for sorority or fraternity membership, for scholarship or financial aid awards, for athletics, for timely graduation, or for admission to graduate or professional schools, have no bearing on the determination of grades. The quality of the student’s overall performance with respect to standards for evaluation will be the only basis for judgment.

**Resolving Complaints about Grades**
The first step in resolving a complaint about grades is ordinarily for the student to attempt to resolve the problem directly with the course instructor. If that attempt is unsuccessful, the student may bring the matter to the Department Chair, who will assist the instructor and the student in reaching a resolution. Grade appeals not resolved with the assistance of the Department Chair may be directed to the Office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (for undergraduates) or to the Dean of the Graduate School (for graduate students), provided that the grading decision at issue would affect the student’s final course grade. The student initiating the grade appeal should be prepared to show that the grade was decided unfairly. According to South Dakota Board of Regents Policy 2:9, any academic appeal must be initiated within thirty calendar days from the date that the student received notification of the grade, unless the grade is assigned within fifteen calendar days of the end of the term. In that case, any appeal must be initiated within fifteen calendar days after the start of the next term (fall, spring, or summer).

**Statement on Freedom in Learning**
Under Board of Regents and University policy student academic performance may be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards. Students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled. Students who believe that an academic evaluation reflects prejudiced or capricious consideration of student opinions or conduct unrelated to academic standards should contact the dean of the college that offers the class to initiate a review of the evaluation.
**Assessment Disclaimer**
Any written work submitted for this course may be used for purposes of program review and/or faculty development.

**Disabilities**
Any student who feels s/he may need academic accommodations or access accommodations based on the impact of a documented disability should contact and register with Disability Services during the first week of class. Disability Services is the official office to assist students through the process of disability verification and coordination of appropriate and reasonable accommodations. Students currently registered with Disability Services must obtain a new accommodation memo each semester. For information contact:
Ernetta L. Fox, Director
Disability Services
Room 119 Service Center (605) 677-6389 www.usd.edu/ds
dservices@usd.edu

**Student Learning Outcomes:**
This course fulfills the following goals of the University of South Dakota Institutional Graduation Requirements.

**Goal #3: Upper-division Critical Writing: Students will demonstrate advanced research-based critical writing skills.**

**Student Learning Outcomes:** As a result of taking courses meeting this goal, students will:
1. Complete formal writing assignments that entail research drawing from sources that are documented using a recognized style such as APA, Chicago, MLA, a journal-specific style, etc. **Assessment:** essays, annotated bibliographies.
2. Be able to critique the validity and effectiveness of arguments presented by others in the field. **Assessment:** essays, annotated bibliographies, discussions.
3. Use a planning/drafting/revising process that incorporates self-assessment and/or peer review and includes instructor feedback. **Assessment:** essay drafts, peer review.
4. Write using standard American English, including correct punctuation, grammar, and sentence structure. **Assessment:** Essays, annotated bibliographies, outlines, discussions, quizzes.

**Diversity and Inclusive Excellence**
The University of South Dakota strives to foster a globally inclusive learning environment where opportunities are provided for diversity to be recognized and respected.