

**Persuasive Writing**  
English 3604-004  
T-Th 11:20-12:45  
Dr. Brad McAdon  
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This course is designed to strengthen students' abilities to understand, recognize, analyze, write, and respond to arguments and persuasively written texts. In addition to building upon writing skills that you have (hopefully) developed in other writing courses, you will become familiar with the skills and dispositions of critical thinking--skills that are essential to becoming a careful thinker and effective communicator. Conducting research and incorporating that research into your writing are also important components of this course.

After initial discussions that contribute to carefully analyzing persuasive texts, students will then concentrate the rest of the semester on constructing an argumentative researched essay on a controversial issue that is of their choice and meaningful to them. In the past, students have used this research and writing opportunity to craft research essays that they then used as 1) samples of their research and writing skills as submissions for graduate programs (including law school, 2) first drafts of their Honors thesis, 3), as submissions to the University's undergraduate research journal, *Quaesitum*, and 4) as a writing sample for potential employment (as more and more employers are now requiring such).

Writing assignments include the compilation of an annotated bibliography about your chosen topic, one in-class essay, and three shorter essays about your chosen topic that will then culminate in the semester-long research essay. While there will be a few quizzes early on in the semester, there are no exams.

If you have any questions about the course, please send them my way.