



**Writing 150: Law & Social
Justice
Units: 4
Fall 2023**

64515	T/Th 11:000-12:15	THH 203
64845	T/Th 2:00-3:15	KAP137
64940	T/Th 3:30-4:45	THH 117

Instructor: Prof. L. Carroll-Adler
Office: JEF 255 and Zoom by appointment
Office Hours: Friday 10:30-12:30 (Zoom) and by appointment
Contact Info: Email lauraana@usc.edu
Text (urgent situations only): 818-515-7325

Course Description

Writing 150 is the initial course in the composition sequence, and is intended to provide students with a rich and challenging intellectual experience during their first year at the university. The course develops sound practices of writing and reasoning, encouraging students to apply academic concepts while exploring relevant issues

The Law & Social Justice thematic, like all the 150 courses, promotes the development of the thinking and writing skills necessary for success in general education and major courses while inviting students to join the on-going academic and cultural conversation regarding salient issues. Toward this end, the course fosters the development of active, self-directed learners who comprehend the acquisition of information and ideas not simply as material for examinations but as “equipment for living” in both the academic context and beyond.

Be aware that, as the title of the course indicates, this is a class in writing AND critical reasoning. As part of the practice of critical reasoning, students will be expected to complete all readings and film viewings and be prepared to respond in writing and discuss in class.

Objectives:

Writing 150 can be understood in terms of its five pedagogical and rhetorical principles:

1. Critical reasoning, analysis, and argumentation
2. Invention
3. Arrangement
4. Style
5. Revision



The instructional approach stresses dialogue between and among students and instructor. We use the writing workshop as the principal mode of instruction and include individual writing conference to practice and develop writing and reasoning skills.

Required Texts and Resources:

- ✓ USC Writing Program Course Book—Online—purchase access key/code from bookstore via link (in Blackboard)
- ✓ Topic readings will be posted on Blackboard for each assignment under the tabs for each Writing Project.
- ✓ Visual materials and films may also be linked on Blackboard

Communication:

Feel free to e-mail if you have a question or concern. Be aware that, while sometimes I may be able to respond fairly quickly, I cannot respond instantaneously on a regular basis. Generally, expect between a 12-24 hour turnaround time for responses.

It's a good idea to start a new e-mail with a clear subject line (e.g., "Links for readings aren't working" or "Question about documenting sources") rather than replying to one of my emails—especially a group email.

I don't generally respond to emails about absences or attendance unless a specific question needs addressing.

Assignments

An assignment sheet will be available for each of the 4 Writing Projects. The assignment sheet will explain the background for the topic; list readings, journal entries, and other requirements; provide the topic question to be addressed in the essay; and note the due dates for each component of the assignment. All assignments will be submitted on Blackboard.



I will put together a semester-long schedule and post it on Blackboard under the Syllabus and Reference tab around the end of the 2nd week of class. Review it periodically throughout the semester; it will be updated as necessary.

Accommodations:

Students with disabilities—let me know if you require specific accommodations for this class. Students requiring such accommodations will register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Call (213) 740-0776 for more information.



Grading and Course Requirements:

This course is evaluated on a contract basis.

Semester grades will be determined based on assessment of Writing Project 4 and the Final Portfolio, and the extent to which you've fulfilled the terms of the grading contract.

- If you've **met the terms of the contract**, and you earn a B, B+, A-, or A average on WP4 and the Portfolio/Revision, then **that earned grade** will be your semester grade.
- If you've **met the terms of the contract**, and you earn a B-, you will still get a B as your semester grade.
- If you've **met the terms of the contract**, and you earn a C+ or C, you will get a B- as your semester grade.
- If you've **met the terms of the contract**, and you earn a C-, you will get a C+ as your semester grade
- If you've **met the terms of the contract**, and you earn a C-, D or D+ you will get a C+ as your semester grade.

Requirements:

- ❖ Writing Project 1—4 ½ -5 ½ pages
- ❖ Writing Project 2—5-7 pages
- ❖ Writing Project 3—4 pages; research, annotated bibliography, literature review for WP4
- ❖ Writing Project 4/Essay section of Portfolio—6-8 pages; researched (graded; included in Portfolio)
- ❖ Reflective Section of Portfolio:
 - Revision (Choose from WP 1 or WP 2)
 - 1 page reflective cover letter
- ❖ Online Writing Response, Research, and Reflection Journal

Please note that completing all the contract requirements does not guarantee an "A" in the class. Your grade will reflect the grade on the final portfolio if you have completed the assigned work.

Explanations and Definitions

Assignment Submission:

Drafts: This class requires 2 drafts before final submission: an early draft and a full rough draft. Drafts must be in shareable form for peer review days (emailed Word documents or shared Google docs). For synchronous / in-class peer review, drafts will be submitted in the draft portals on Blackboard at the completion of Peer Review workshop sessions. We will have a few asynchronous draft workshops via Google Folder distribution; your draft will be submitted in that Google folder as part of the exercise for those workshops.

Final Essays: Submit final essays on the appropriate Blackboard portal by the given due date/time

Ancillary Work: Additional submission portals for other work—in-class writing, exercises, group work—will be available in Blackboard under “In-class Work”

Journal: The Online Writing Response, Research, and Reflection Journal will be composed online throughout the semester, with 2 brief prompts for responses given with each Writing Project. Final review of the journal will take place at the end of the semester. We’ll start the journals at the end of the 1st week.

**Your rough draft
doesn't have to
be good.
It just has to be.**

Rough Drafts:

Since this class emphasizes the process of writing, it is important that you participate in class activities and assignments that will help you produce the finished product. We will generally have 2 draft workshops for each paper. Students who fail to have a workable rough draft for class workshops on the assigned days

will receive an NP for attendance for that day. In addition, please note that essays cannot be accepted for credit if no drafts have been submitted for review in peer edit or conference sessions.

Attendance and Participation:

You are expected to attend classes and conferences. This is a workshop class; sessions cannot be fully summarized afterwards.

Attendance Percentages:	
Present (at class or conference):	100%
Tardy	85%
Dbl Tardy	60%
Zoom in	85%
NP (no participation)	0-50%

All classes will offer a zoom option, and students in person may use zoom to view class materials and pose questions or comments via chat.

If the class is held in person and you are unable to attend in person, you may zoom in and still receive 85% credit for the class—so, this will not affect your grade unless it is used for several classes. If you are zooming in, be sure to send me a chat at the beginning of class notifying me that you are zooming; otherwise, you may be marked absent. For group work—if an in-class group approves, you may join and work in a breakout room with that group. If more than one student is zooming, they may work in breakout room for group work.

If the entire class is held on zoom rather than in person, then of course everyone who attends via zoom will have 100% attendance credit for that day.

Students will be expected to contribute to group workshops and submit in-class assignments to satisfactorily complete the participation requirement. Students must also complete posts on their journals on a regular basis as part of the participation assessment.

Conferences:

We will schedule several conference times during the semester. A link to the sign-up sheet for the conferences will be made available on Blackboard a few days

beforehand. Class and office hour times will be cancelled to make enough conference slots available for everyone.

Note that A CONFERENCE COUNTS AS A CLASS MEETING, and missed conferences will be treated as absences. Essays will not be accepted for grading and will receive a “0” if both the conference and the drafting workshop for that assignment are missed and I have not seen a draft.

Academic Integrity

The University of Southern California is foremost a learning community committed to fostering successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas. Academic misconduct is in contrast to the university’s mission to educate students through a broad array of first-rank academic, professional, and extracurricular programs and includes any act of dishonesty in the submission of academic work (either in draft or final form).

This course will follow the expectations for academic integrity as stated in *the USC Student Handbook*. All students are expected to submit assignments that are original work and prepared specifically for the course/section in this academic term. You may not submit work written by others or “recycle” work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s). Students suspected of engaging in academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Other violations of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (e.g., falsifying data), knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty, and any act that gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage.

The impact of academic dishonesty is far-reaching and is considered a serious offense against the university and could result in outcomes such as failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.

For more information about academic integrity see the student handbook or the Office of Academic Integrity’s website, and university policies on Research and Scholarship Misconduct.



Note on AI-Generated writing:

Since creating, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, all assignments should be prepared by the student working individually or in groups. Students may not have another person or entity complete any substantive portion of the assignment. Developing strong competencies in these areas will prepare you for a competitive

workplace. Therefore, using AI-generated tools is prohibited in this course, will be identified as plagiarism, and will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.

If found responsible for an academic violation, students may be assigned university outcomes, such as suspension or expulsion from the university, and grade penalties, such as an “F” grade on the assignment, exam, and/or in the course.

Other Policies:

- Non-class materials--do not read or work on non-class materials (homework or reading for other classes, Wordle, etc.) at any time during class. Since students cannot participate in this class while working on outside activities, these activities will result in a marking of “NP” for that day. If you don’t find the class stimulating enough to engage your full attention, change the situation by adding your voice to the discussion
- Emailed drafts--We will work on drafts during conferences and office hours; per department policy, I cannot respond to full drafts via e-mail. You may email me a small portion (a thesis statement, a paragraph), and request feedback on a specific issue.

Course Content Distribution and Synchronous Session Recordings Policies

USC has policies that prohibit recording and distribution of any synchronous and asynchronous course content outside of the learning environment.

Recording a university class without the express permission of the instructor and announcement to the class, or unless conducted pursuant to an Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) accommodation. Recording can inhibit free discussion

in the future, and thus infringe on the academic freedom of other students as well as the instructor. (*Living our Unifying Values: The USC Student Handbook*, page 13).

Distribution or use of notes, recordings, exams, or other intellectual property, based on university classes or lectures without the express permission of the instructor for purposes other than individual or group study is not permitted. This includes but is not limited to providing materials for distribution by services publishing course materials. This restriction on unauthorized use also applies to all information, which had been distributed to students or in any way had been displayed for use in relationship to the class, whether obtained in class, via email, on the internet, or via any other media. (*Living our Unifying Values: The USC Student Handbook*, page 13).

The Writing Center

213 740-3691

<https://dornsife.usc.edu/writingcenter/>

The Writing Center offers ½ and 1-hour individual tutoring sessions available to all USC students. You will need to register online with your USC userid and a password to begin setting up appointments. Experienced consultants

will work with you on any stage of the writing process, from interpreting a prompt, to creating a rough plan, to polishing your final draft. The Writing Center consultants will not proofread or edit your paper for you, but they will help you to develop skills to revise your own work. You may sign up in advance or walk in for a thirty-minute one-on-one consultation.

In order to maximize your meeting with a Writing Center consultant, come prepared with a copy of your assignment, all drafts and prewriting, and specific questions.





Writing 150 Grading Contract

This class uses a **grading contract**. Under the terms of this contract, students are guaranteed a semester grade of **B** or **B-** (with a passing grade on the final 2 projects) provided that they meet the following terms:

1. **Attendance:** You can miss 2 full class meetings without incurring a penalty (two weeks if all of the absences are excused). Note that partial attendance marks my add up to full absences “Excused absences” refers to absences that are related to university-sanctioned events (such as athletic contests or religious holidays), or for reasonable cases where you simply cannot attend class—this might include illness (mental or physical), “acts of God,” accidents, or other unavoidable mishaps. Be sure to communicate with me if you will need to take an excused absence. All work you miss while absent needs to be submitted at the beginning of the next class meeting you attend.

2. **Tardiness:** Arriving to class later than 5 minutes after our scheduled starting time counts as a tardy; arriving after activities have been explained and started (groups have been set up and have started work, for example) counts as a double-tardy.

3. **Essays:** You must complete all four of the major essay assignments, and they must be completed **in good faith**—that is, represent an honest effort to fulfill the goals of the assignment and engage the topic. They must be handed in on time. Bear in mind that you must hand in all the essays to pass the course. If one or more essays are missing on the last day of class, additional penalties will be applied: see the chart below for details (numbers in parentheses indicate missing essays in the “Late Essays” column).

4. **Ancillary work:** You must complete **all of** the smaller writing assignments, including the online journals, in-class work, reading responses, stylistic exercises, and so on. This work needs to be submitted on the day assigned.

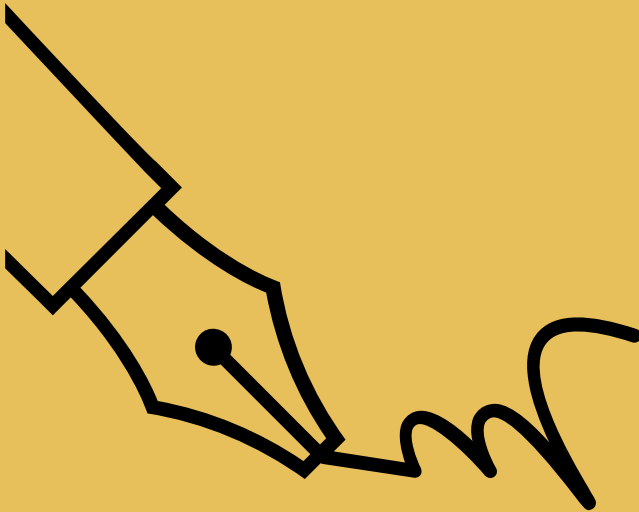
5. **Professionalism:** All your work needs to show signs that you are putting in serious and focused effort. This means that you need to be an active participant in class and a good reading partner for your student colleagues (especially during peer review

activities), and that your written work should be carefully copyedited, should meet the length requirements, fully engage the topic, and so on.

Final Grades: Semester grades will be determined based on assessment of the Final Portfolio--which consists of Writing Project 4, a revised essay, and a reflective cover letter--and the extent to which you've fulfilled the terms of the grading contract.

- If you've **met the terms of the contract**, and you earn a B, B+, A-, or A average on WP4 and the Portfolio/Revision, then that earned grade will be your semester grade.
- If you've **met the terms of the contract**, and you earn a B-, you will still get a B as your semester grade.
- If you've **met the terms of the contract**, and you earn a C+ or C, you will get a B- as your semester grade.
- If you've **met the terms of the contract**, and you earn a C-, you will get a C+ as your semester grade
- If you've **met the terms of the contract**, and you earn a C-, D or D+ you will get a C+ as your semester grade.

Contract Violations:



If you've **violated the terms of the contract**, then your final grade will be *lowered by one step or more depending on how many violations you've accrued.* See the table below for details.

This table shows how your semester grade will be affected if you don't meet the terms of the contract:

Grade Step Deductions	Total Absences	Late Essays	Late Ancillary Work	Incomplete Assignment (WP1, WP2, or WP3 doesn't meet minimum requirements)
0 steps lower	2 or fewer (4 if excused)	None	2	
1 step lower	3		3	1
2 steps lower	4	1	4	2
3 steps lower	5		5	3
4 steps lower	6	2	6	
5 steps lower	7		7	
6 steps lower	8	3	8	
Automatic F	9		9	

About Grade Steps: A Grade Step is one full grade below the assigned Final Portfolio grade. In other words: if you've violated the contract, your final grade will be whatever your final portfolio grade is, minus the contract deductions. So, if your final portfolio is an A, but you have 4 unexcused absences, your semester grade will be lowered to a B+ (2 steps, from A to B+). If you earn a B+ on the final portfolio, but you have 2 late essays, your final grade will be lowered 4 steps, down to a C (B-, C+, and C = 4 Steps Lower than a B+).

Note that penalties are cumulative. So, if you have 1 incomplete assignment, **plus** 2 late essays, your final grade will be by **3 Steps**. Or, if you have 4 absences (grade drops 1 Step), plus 4 late ancillary assignments (grade lowered 2 Steps), your final grade will be lowered by **3 Steps total**.

Extensions on Deadlines: Papers can have a deadline extended 36 hours with a Deadline Extension Request submitted on Blackboard by the due date. These will be available for WP1, WP2, and WP3, but NOT WP4. Please be aware that post-deadline and late papers will probably receive minimal comments, and will be placed in the end of the grading queue.

Note that Writing Project 4 cannot be submitted late; these essays are read through the Portfolio Grading System, and must be distributed to a second reader by the date indicated.

