

Sample Syllabus
for
Green and Praxis: A Brief Rhetoric

Course Description

This syllabus is designed for a first- or second-semester writing course rooted in rhetoric and argument. It uses *Praxis* as the secondary text but can be adapted to work with other brief rhetorics that emphasize basic rhetorical concepts and argumentation.

Required Texts

- Rollins, Brooke, & Lee Bauknight, eds. *Green*. Southlake, TX: Fountainhead Press, 2010.
- Clark, Carol Lea. *Praxis: A Brief Rhetoric*. Southlake, TX: Fountainhead Press, 2009.

Assignments

- **Short Writing Assignments**
 - Based on exercises in *Green* and *Praxis*.
- **Essay 1: Finding and Defining an Argument**
 - Based on Activity 1.8 on *Praxis* p. 19
- **Essay 2: Comparative Analysis of a Green Issue**
 - Based on Major Assignment 2 in *Green* (pp. 199-201) and Rhetorical Analysis Assignment in *Praxis* (pp. 113-114)
- **Sequenced Researched Argument Project**
 - **Essay 3: Bibliography and Explanatory Essay**
 - Based on Annotated Bibliography Assignment on *Praxis* pp. 134-135 and on Major Assignment 3 in *Green*, pp. 202-03.
 - **Essay 4: Causal Argument**
 - Based on the research completed for the bibliography and Essay 3, each student will define a problem related to his or her food issue and compose an argumentative essay that examines the causes or consequences of this problem.
 - **Essay 5: Policy Argument**
 - The research project culminates with an argumentative essay that proposes a course of action to deal with the problem outlined in the causal argument. (Can be based on *Praxis* assignment on pp. 153-153 or on Major Assignment 5 in *Green*, pp. 206-207).
- **Note:** For a Service Learning option, the Researched Argument project could be based on Major Assignment 4 from *Green* (pp. 204-05).

Schedule

Week 1: Course Intro: Finding Connections to the Environment

Readings: *Green*: “Introduction: Shades of Green” (pp. 1-7); “For the Love of Life” (pp. 9-25); “Excerpts from *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*” (pp. 27-34). *Praxis*: Ch. 1.

Assignment: Short Writing Assignment (SWA) based on Explore on *Green* p. 7 or Compose on *Green* p. 34.

Week 2: Green Identities

Readings: *Green*: “Obsolete Geographies” (pp. 37-43); “Excerpts from *Green Chic*” (pp. 83-90); “Meet the Radical Homemakers” (pp. 91-97). *Praxis*: Ch. 2.

Assignment: SWA based on Major Assignment 1 on *Green* p. 197-98.

Week 3: Green Arguments

Readings: *Green*: “Denali/Denial” (pp. 81-82); “Sounding the Alarm” and “The Obligation to Endure” (pp. 51-64); “Excerpts from *The American Forests*” (pp. 45-50).

Assignment: Essay 1: Finding and Defining and Argument (based on Activity 1.8 on *Praxis* p. 19)

Week 4: Rhetoric, Argument, and Analysis

Readings: *Praxis*: Ch. 3. *Green*: “Life after the Year without Toilet Paper” (pp. 99-111); “To Really Save the Planet, Stop Going Green” (pp. 113-116).

Assignment: SWA based on Activity 3.2 on *Praxis* p. 67 or Invent on *Green* p. 116.

Week 5: Rhetoric, Argument, and Analysis

Readings: *Praxis*: Ch. 4. *Green*: “Excerpts from *As the World Burns*” (pp. 117-132); “Excerpts from *Climate and Energy Truths*” (pp. 155-159); “Prime-Time Subversion” (pp. 133-153).

Assignments: SWAs based on Invent and Collaborate on *Green* p. 159.

Week 6: Writing a Comparative Analysis

Reading: *Green*: “A Hole in the World” (pp. 65-75); “The Brown Pelican” (pp. 77-80).

Assignment: Essay 2: Comparative Analysis of a Green Issue, based on Major Assignment 2 in *Green* (pp. 199-201) and Rhetorical Analysis Assignment in *Praxis* (pp. 113-114).

Week 7: Research and Argument

Readings: *Praxis*: Ch. 5. *Green*: “The Population Debate Gets Personal” (pp.185-188).

Assignment: SWA based on Explore on *Green* p. 188.

Week 8: Conducting Research and Explaining Sources

Readings: *Praxis*: Appendix (Documenting Sources). *Green*: “The Geoengineering Gambit” (pp. 173-184).

Assignment: SWA based on Invent or Compose on *Green* p. 184.

Week 9: Writing Essay 3

Readings: *Praxis*: Ch. 6.

Assignment: Essay 3: Bibliography and Explanatory Essay, based on Annotated Bibliography Assignment in *Praxis*, pp. 134-135, and on Major Assignment 3 in *Green*, pp. 202-03.

Week 10: Causal Arguments

Readings: *Green*: “Earth Without People” (pp. 189-196); “Meet the Radical Homemakers” (pp. 91-97).

Assignment: SWA based on Activity 6.1 on *Praxis* p. 143 or Invent on *Green* p. 196.

Week 11: Revision

Readings: *Praxis*: Ch. 7.

Assignment: Essay 3: Causal Argument

Week 12: Policy Arguments

Readings: *Green*: “A Manifesto for the Planet” and “Reframing the Problems” (pp. 160-172).

Assignment: SWA based on Compose on *Green* p. 172.

Week 13: Policy Arguments

Readings: Review *Praxis* pp. 143-154.

Assignments: SWAs based on Activity 6.2 and 6.3 on *Praxis* p. 146

Week 14: Peer Editing

Readings: Review *Praxis* pp. 165-168.

Assignment: Essay 4: Policy Argument