Communication 25 53070

Argumentation and Debate

Spring 24 Online/Live Zoom on 4 Wednesdays (See Canvas for Dates)

**Instructor:** Brianda Louro Parreira

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**Preferred Method of Contact:** CanvasInbox

**Office Hours/Location:** Zoom office hours every Wednesday from 12:45 to 1:45 p.m.

**Class Website:** Log onto canvas and click your Comm 25 Course

# Required Textbook:

Hollihan, Thomas A., & Baaske, Kevin, T. (2021). Arguments and Arguing. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press.

# Course Description

## Argumentation is designed to provide students with the methods of critical inquiry and advocacy. Emphasis is placed on analysis, presentation, and evaluation of oral and written argumentation. This course focuses on identifying fallacies, testing evidence, and advancing a reasoned position while defending and refuting arguments. Students write a minimum of 6,000 words during the course of the semester.

# Course Advisory:

Recommended that you are eligible to take English 1A prior to enrolling in this course.

# Learning Outcomes:

1. Formulate and deliver oral arguments using critical thinking, logical reasoning, and ethical approaches.
2. Incorporate credible evidence to defend a position using a variety of sources.
3. Distinguish between valid and fallacious forms of reasoning.
4. Evaluate the effectiveness of oral arguments.

Course Objectives:

1. Recognize, develop, and defend arguments orally.

2. Use research and organization to formulate arguments for oral presentation and refutation.

3. Develop an understanding of the reasoning process and utilize various methods of reasoning.

4. Critically evaluate others’ reasoning and evidence in arguments and oral presentations.

5. Analyze audiences in order to formulate effective arguments.

6. Recognize fallacies and illogical arguments and argue ethically.

7. Develop and advance a reasoned position on a debatable issue.

8. Analyze, advocate, and criticize ideas, especially through the process of debate.

# Important Dates:

Please see class tentative schedule for a list of important due dates, holidays, etc.

# ADA Statement

"If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (ie: Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the American with Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation act please contact your instructor as soon as possible."

## Classroom Expectations:

### *Participation.* COMM 25 is a lecture, discussion, and performance course, and open participation in this learning environment requires that we all respect the right of students and instructor to present diverse and controversial ideas. Differences of viewpoint should be offered in a manner that promotes the free exchange of ideas and the development of mutual understanding. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process will not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

### *Course Material and Readings*. Readings should be completed in their entirety by the first class for which they are assigned. Readings are clearly identified in the class schedule. By having the reading completed before the lecture, we can answer questions that may arise together during meeting times. This is a course centered around public speaking and students are encouraged to comment on the material.

*Monitor Our Canvas Course Page.* Our course will use Canvas as a place to store and keep important course documents (e.g., syllabus, assignment descriptions, class announcements), record student grades, and submit quizzes and assignments. You should regularly check our Canvas page throughout the semester (every day is recommended). Learn how to use Canvas: All work and lectures will be completed and submitted via Canvas. No work will be accepted via email, hard copy, etc. The “I didn’t know how” excuse will not be accepted. Make sure you have ample time to submit assignments. For access to computers and hot spots, visit [Technology Services.](https://www.reedleycollege.edu/campus-life/technology-help.html)

### *Classroom Code of Conduct.* In this course, we are learning the building blocks that will allow us to better communicate not only on a platform, but with our peers, colleagues and friends. This college prides itself on diversity and inclusivity, which means we will have not only diversity among our identities, but amongst values, ideas, religions, and political views. In order to foster a positive environment, there are a few tips to respect diversity and foster good discussions. **Sexist, racist, transphobic, homophobic, or any other derogatory language will not be tolerated in the classroom**. Be sure to allow everyone’s voice to be heard and if you are not sure if you are being respectful, remember the golden rule: treat others as you wish to be treated. In this class, we will discuss differences, not dispute them, and keep an open environment to facilitate good conversation and communication practices.

*Cheating*. Cheating will not be tolerated in this classroom and will receive a zero. Cheating is the act or attempted act of taking an examination or performing an assigned, evaluated task in a fraudulent or deceptive manner, such as having improper access to answers, in an attempt to gain an unearned academic advantage. Cheating may include, but is not limited to, copying from another’s work, supplying one’s work to another, giving or receiving copies of examinations without an instructor’s permission, using or displaying notes or devices inappropriate to the conditions of the examination, allowing someone other than the officially enrolled student to represent the student, using AI or Chat GPT to create assignments, or failing to disclose research results completely.

*Plagiarism*. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this classroom and will receive a zero. Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating, the use of another’s words or ideas without identifying them as such or giving credit to the source. Plagiarism may include, but is not limited to, failing to provide complete citations and references for all work that draws on the ideas, words, or work of others, failing to identify the contributors to work done in collaboration, submitting duplicate work to be evaluated in different courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors involved, using AI or Chat GPT to create assignments, utilizing purchased essays online, or failing to observe computer security systems and software copyrights. Incidents of cheating and plagiarism may result in any of a variety of sanctions and penalties, which may include failing grade on the particular examination, paper, project, or assignment in question, at the discretion of the instructor and depending on the severity and frequency of the incidents.

# Class Attendance, Drop, Participation and Work Policies:

### 1. *Zoom:*

* 1. **Debates and Speeches will be completed live over zoom**. Please create an account if you haven’t done so already. Zoom days can be found on the Tentative Course Schedule and are contingent on the speech day your team signs up for the week prior to presentation days. Speeches **will not be recorded.** You cannot pass the class without attending and completing the debates live over zoom.

### 2. *Attendance and Participation:*

* 1. Attendance is used to determine your participation in the course. If you are not present, you cannot participate in class and thus miss out on activities and participation points. Attendance is recorded through the completion of weekly assignments on canvas. A weekly module will open containing lectures, activities, discussion boards, and sometimes quizzes. If you complete all of your assignments in the module for the week by the scheduled due date (see schedule) you will be marked “here.” If you fail to complete your assignments, I will mark you “absent.”
  2. I will send weekly reminders about upcoming assignments.

### 3. *Drop Policy:*

* 1. **Students who do not complete the first week of assigned modules by the due date will be dropped from the class.**
  2. **Students who miss the first speech (Pro/Con Persuasive) Will be dropped from the course.**

### 4. *Late Work Policy*

* 1. Dates are Firm**. Missing assignments will receive a zero.** Student may petition for extensions due to personal and legitimate circumstances. Petitions must be submitted via email within 24 hours of missed assignment due date. Some examples of “legitimate circumstances”: Family death, Severe illness, COVID symptoms, Child Illness, essentially circumstances out of your control. Your best option is to email me and ask. I cannot help you succeed if I do not know what is going on.

I am always here to help! Participating in the course, keeping in contact, and submitting assignments on time all lead to a successful class experience!

# Course Grades

Your grade in this class will be based on the points that you earn in the following activities/assignments (See Tentative Class Schedule for dates):

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Assignment** | **Details** | **Total Point Values** |
| Pro/Con Persuasive Speech | Prompt Provided  Points include briefs.  Rubric Scale | 125 |
| Micro Debate | SPARS | 25 |
| Mini Debate | Prompt Provided  Points include briefs.  Rubric Scale | 155 |
| Policy Debate | Prompt Provided  Points include briefs.  Rubric Scale | 170 |
| Flow Sheets | 1, 2, 3 @ 10 points Each  Audience participates by flowing arguments.  Sheets provided on Canvas. | 30 |
| Participation | **Based on attending class and completing the following activities:**  Intro and Partner Hunt: 20  Welcome Quiz: 10  Activity Ch1: 10  Chapter 2 Review: 10  Demographics Activity Attendance Check: 10  Ch 5 Activity Propositions: 10  Research Activity (Wk2 APA): 10  Activity for Chapter 6: 10  Get approval for MD Proposition: 10  Activity Chapter 9: 5  Policy Prop Approval: 10 | 115 |
| (3) Quizzes | Quiz 1 60 Pts  Quiz 2 100 Pts.  Quiz 3 100 Pts. | 260 |
| Essays | Visual Arguments—75  Group Peer Reviews—25  Final Reflection—25 | 120 |

**Extra Credit may be available but is not promised.**

The following numerical guidelines will be used in the assignment of final grades.

900-1000 = A

899-800 = B

799-700 = C

699-600 = D

599-0 = F