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Argumentation and Debate

Spring Semester 2024

Instructor: Vanessa Buldo

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Office Hours: Monday and Friday 7-8am virtual via email and zoom by appointment. Wednesday 9:30-10:30am and Tuesday and Thursday 8:30-9:30am in the Reading and Writing Center.

**Required Materials:**

(4) scantrons 882

No textbook required

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to provide students with the techniques necessary for effective public argument. Analysis, reasoning, advocacy, and criticism of ideas. Emphasis on deriving conclusions based on valid evidence and sound inferences without using fallacies of thought and language. Demonstration of basic argumentation principles through a variety of oral presentations and written assignments. This course focuses on how to develop effective, ethical, reasoned arguments accompanied by the critical thinking skills required to judge the validity of others’ arguments. This course fulfills the G.E. requirement for Critical Thinking (Foundation A3). G.E. credit requires a grade of “C” or better.

**Student Learning Outcomes (assessed through signature assignments):**

After the completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Critically formulate, advocate and evaluate oral arguments using logic, discriminating between valid and fallacious forms of reasoning in a variety of debate formats.
2. Construct and deliver dynamic, competent and ethical presentations that are adapted to the purpose and audience.
3. Utilize organizational patterns and research materials that incorporate sufficient, credible, and relevant evidence.
4. Explain the principles of human communication by critically evaluating public speeches through constructive critique and self-analysis.

**Course Objectives:**

In the process of completing this course, the student will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Recognize, develop, and defend arguments orally.
2. Use research and organization to formulate arguments for oral presentation and refutation.
3. Evaluate others’ arguments and oral presentations.
4. Analyze audiences in order to formulate effective arguments.
5. Recognize fallacies and illogical arguments.
6. Develop and advance a reasoned position on a debatable issue.

**Late and missed assignments:**

1. A presentation that is not presented on the assigned date will receive zero points for that assignment. **No late essays will be accepted. Student may make-up one speech with a two-letter grade drop on assigned days. The make-up day may not be during regular class, but students will need to work within the given schedule. Make-up outlines are due as indicated on the daily schedule. Students must turn in an outline on the due date for makeups or they will not qualify to make-up their speech.**
2. No attachments by e-mail accepted for any assignment. If a student wants an assignment reviewed prior to the date it is due he/she must provide a hard copy.
3. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the instructor and inform him or her of any problem.
4. Accommodations will be made for students with a verifiable medical excuse.

**Classroom Deportment and Student Rights:**

Each student is expected to respect the rights of the other students in the class and the instructor. The exploration of controversial ideas is an essential component of this class. Students who do not behave in a respectful manner will be asked to drop the class. Since this class is built on an interactive environment, student attendance is critical and required.

So that students are fully aware of their rights and responsibilities they are encouraged to become familiar with the Schedule of Courses. Students with disabilities should identify themselves so that appropriate accommodations can be made.

**All work submitted in this class must be your own. The use of artificial intelligence or AI technology for assignments or work without citations, and source credit is considered plagiarism and violates academic integrity.**

**Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated and will result in a zero on an assignment, failure in the class, and proper consequences for all students involved.**

**Assignments**:

Pro/Con Speech 100

Mini Debate 150 (**Signature Assignment**)

Controversial Debate 200 (**Signature Assignment**)

Outlines and Briefs 50

Participation 100

Quizzes (3) 200

Essay 100 (**Signature Assignment**)

Final 100

**Briefs are required to be turned in by the due date to qualify for speeches.**

**Extra Credit may be earned only if signature assignments have been completed and will not exceed 50 points.**

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

**Dropping and adding classes:**

It is the student’s responsibility to add or drop a class by the designated date. Failure to drop a class prior to the drop date will result in an F in the class.

**Students with four or more absences will be dropped. Once the drop date has passed students with multiple absences will receive zero points for participation.**

**Late and missed assignments:**

1. A presentation that is not presented on the assigned date will receive zero points for that assignment. **NO LATE WORK ACCEPTED**.
2. No attachments by e-mail accepted for any assignment. If a student wants an assignment reviewed prior to the date it is due he/she must provide a hard copy.
3. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the instructor and inform him or her of any problem.
4. Accommodations will be made for students with a verifiable medical excuse.

**Daily Schedule**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1-9 | Orientation to class  Origins of Argumentation |  |
| 1-11 | Ethical Standards  Assign Pro/Con Speech |  |
| 1-16 | Foundations of Argumentation |  |
| 1-18 | Grounds for Argument |  |
| 1-23 | Quiz #1 |  |
| 1-25 | Propositions | **Briefs Due on Canvas** |
| 1-30 | Pro/Con Speeches Begin |  |
| 2-1 | Speeches continued |  |
| 2-6 | Speeches |  |
| 2-8 | Speeches |  |
| 2-13 | Speeches Finished  Mini Debate Assigned |  |
| 2-15 | Inductive and Deductive Reasoning  Fallacies |  |
| 2-20 | Quiz #2 | **Reflection Essay Due** |
| 2-22 | SPARS |  |
| 2-27 | SPARS |  |
| 2-29 | Toulmin’s Model |  |
| 3-5 | Credible Research  Tests of Evidence |  |
| 3-7 | Quiz #3 |  |
| 3-12 | Research and Sources |  |
| 3-14 | Mini Debate Preparation  Meet with partners | **Briefs due on canvas** |
| 3-19 | Mini Debates Begin |  |
| 3-21 | Debates continued |  |
| 3-25-3-31 | Spring Break |  |
| 4-2 | Debates |  |
| 4-4 | Debates Finished |  |
| 4-9 | Cooperative Debate Assigned |  |
| 4-11 | Topics chosen |  |
| 4-16 | Research due  Debate preparation | **Briefs due on canvas** |
| 4-18 | Debates begin |  |
| 4-23 | Debates |  |
| 4-25 | Debates |  |
| 4-30 | Thanksgiving Break |  |
| 5-2 | Debates |  |
| 5-7 | Debates | **Make-up outlines due on canvas** |
| 5-9 | Make-up day  Final Exam Preparation |  |
| 5-16 | Thursday Final Exam 9-10:50 am |  |

\*Note: this syllabus is subject to change depending on the needs of the class.