Speech 25

**ARGUMENTATION**

Fall 2009

**Reedley College**

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Office hours: Appointment only

Course Description and Rationale:

This course will explore the process of argumentation as it relates to the world of communication. We will look at how it functions in both public and interpersonal communication settings, as well as work to improve our effectiveness in making, defending, and recognizing good argumentation. This will be accomplished through analysis, reasoning, advocacy, and criticism of ideas (from both the “real world” and in class). Emphasis will be placed on deriving conclusions based on valid evidence and sound inferences without using fallacies of thought and language. The course will demonstrate these principles by requiring you to do a variety of oral presentations and written assignments.

Course Outcomes: During this course, students will:

* Demonstrate an understanding of the theories and principles of argumentation.
* Formulate arguments using various methods of reasoning.
* Analyze research to develop and defend arguments.
* Identify and evaluate arguments.
* Recognize logical fallacies of reasoning.
* Analyze audiences and adapt arguments to audiences.

Textbook:

Infante, Dominic A. Arguing Constructively. Prospect Heights: Waveland Press, 1988.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

Oral Presentations *Point Value*

Presentation #1 Belief Speech 0 (required)

Presentation #2 Pro/Con Speech 100

Presentation #3 Persuasive Speech 200

Presentation #4 Moot Court 260

Total=560

Exams

The procedure for exam taking will be as follows:

1) Each student will take a brief quiz which will be turned in to me, then 2) in groups of 4-5students, a second exam will be taken and the group decides which are the “correct” answers, then 3) group members complete and sign a single answer sheet. A student’s score is the total of the correct answers on her/his individual exam plus the total number of correct answers on the group sheet. Due to this system, there can be NO make-ups of the group part of exams. The individual part of the exam can be made-up, but must be taken immediately (first day/night back) or you will receive zero points. Please be on time for the exam in order to have a chance at the total number of points.

*Point Value*

Exam #1 Chapters 1, 2, 3 plus lecture 100

Exam #2 Chapters 4, 8, 9 plus lecture 100

Exam #3 Chapters 5, 6, 7 plus lecture 100

Total=300

Interpersonal Argument Paper

This is a 2-3 page, typed paper identifying, discussing, and analyzing your argumentation strengths and weaknesses in your interpersonal relationships. You should use this time to identify your problem areas, what factors cause your conflicts, and propose a plan for improving your interpersonal argumentation skills. Use chapter 7 to help you write this paper. The more reference you can include in your paper the better your grade☺

Total=40

Peer Speech Evaluations and Participation

Throughout the semester, students will periodically be asked to give written and/or verbal critiques of other students’ speeches/arguments/debates. This is a mandatory part of the class. Unlike other classes you may take at the college level, this class has a hard time functioning unless all students are present to give suggestions, offer praise, and get help/advice from other classmates throughout the semester. **You are expected to attend class and be on time in order to reap these benefits as well as provide help to your peers. Missing class (regardless of reason) especially when others are giving speeches/arguments/debates/presentations WILL hurt this section of your grade.**

**In addition, you are also expected to complete all assignments. This includes not only graded assignments but non graded assignments as well (Speech #1, group lectures, in class activities, etc.).**

**No ipods or anything of the sort in class! No cell phones in class!! If I see a cell on your desk , in your hands, on your laps or anywhere near your person, you will lose all *Peer Speech Evaluations and Participation* points.**

**One more thing, all of you must be on your best behavior. Do not ridicule me or your fellow classmates!!**

**I DO AND WILL deduct points from this section (Peer Speech Evaluations and Participation).**

Total=100

Late Assignments:

MY LATE ASSINGMENT POLICY IS A STRICT ONE! I am no longer wasting valuable time dealing with reasons or excuses for late work. Good news: I will accept late work...maybe. Bad news: Regardless of the reason, late work will be given a penalty-a deduction of points. In other words, even if you are sick, on a college-sponsored trip, dealing with hard times at work or home, etc. you will receive a penalty if any of your work is late. Late work is what I say it is. So even if you show me your work that is on your flash drive…or whatever, it is still late! The amount of points deducted will be entirely up to the instructor.

Here is the exception; the moot court presentation cannot be made up. Your team must present without you, and this will not make them happy or you because you will receive a zero for the assignment.

I do not search you out for make-ups if you miss an assignment. It is your responsibility to approach me.

Drop policy:

Be advised that after the drop date ( …I’m not sure on this, find out for yourself!!) you will be issued a letter grade (“A” through “F”) if you are still enrolled in class. It is **your responsibility to drop the class**, it is **NOT MINE**!!!

Please note:

The College’s policies regarding student conduct in classes, including cheating and plagiarism, are located in the college catalogue and the schedule of courses. You should be aware of these policies and abide by them. Also, students with disabilities are reminded that it is your responsibility to identify yourself to the College Disabled Students Services and to your instructor(s) so reasonable accommodation for learning and evaluation within the course can be made.

FINAL GRADES WILL BE BASED ON THE FOLLOWING SCALE:

1000-900=A 899-800=B 799-700=C 699-600=D 599-0=F

It is a good idea to keep all graded assignments that I pass back to you as proof of your status, at least until you receive your final grade at the end of the semester (that’s good advice for all of your classes).

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

You are expected to have read/scanned the chapter(s) in the text before we analyze it in class.

**Tuesday Night** **Assignments Due**

Aug. 18 Introduction to the class and Chapter 1

Aug. 25 Chapters 1 and 2

(Sign-ups for Pro/Con Speech)

Sep. 1 Belief Speech

Sep. 8 Chapter 3 and Pro/Con Discussion

Sep. 15 Exam #1 and Pro/Con Speech Preparation Pro/Con and

Persuasive Topic Due

Sep. 22 Pro/Con Speech Speech Notes Due

Sep. 29 Pro/Con Speech Speech Notes Due

Oct. 6 Chapters 4 and 8

(Sign-ups for Persuasive Speech)

Oct. 13 Chapter 9 and Persuasion Discussion

Oct. 20 Exam #2 and Persuasion Speech Preparation

Oct. 27 Persuasive Speech Speech Notes Due

Nov. 3 Persuasive Speech Speech Notes Due

Nov. 10 Chapter 5 and Moot Court Discussion

Nov. 17 Chapters 6 and 7

(Sign-ups for Moot Court & members’ names are Due)

Nov. 24 Chapter 7 and Moot Court Preparation

Dec. 1 Moot Court Speech Notes Due

Dec. 8 Moot Court Speech Notes Due

Interpersonal Arg.

Paper Due

Dec. 15 Final: 6:00-8:00 p.m.

1) Exam #3