



Communication ~~ Reedley College ~~ Spring 2014

## Communication 25: Argumentation

Instructor: Linda Carvalho Cooley

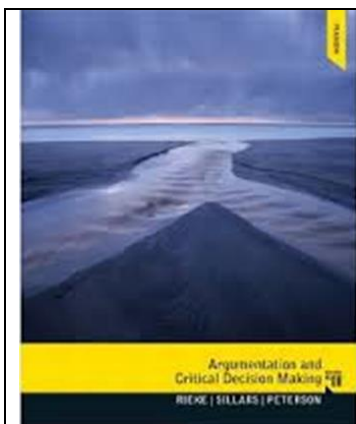
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(Office hours are posted on the webpage)



Required Materials: Textbook & Scan Trons

Textbook:

Rieke, R.D., Sillars, M.O. & Peterson, T.R. (2013). Argumentation and Critical Decision Making. Boston, MA: Pearson.

ISBN # 978-0-205-21059-6

Three scan-tron forms (882)

### 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.

### Classroom Deportment

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. When presentations are in progress students arriving late are to stay outside until the presentation is complete. Interrupting a presentation for any reason other than a severe emergency is inconsiderate and will not be tolerated. Cell phones, and pagers should be turned off before coming to class.

## Student Rights

Students are encouraged to become familiar with the “Campus Policies” section of the Schedule of Courses. This material includes information regarding cheating and plagiarism, disruptive classroom behavior, and other instructional issues. Students caught cheating in my class will receive a zero on the assignment and any assignment connected to that assignment (e.g. cheating on a debate will result in a zero on the debate, briefs, the reflection and on all audience evaluations). Any student caught cheating will also forfeit all participation points. In addition any student caught cheating will **NOT** be allowed to take the final exam.

Students with disabilities: If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

## Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Critically formulate and evaluate oral arguments using logical reasoning.
2. Construct and deliver dynamic and competent presentations that are adapted to the purpose and audience.
3. Utilize research materials that incorporate sufficient, credible, and relevant evidence.
4. Choose appropriate organizational patterns.
5. Analyze the effectiveness of communication through constructive critique.

## Specific Course Objectives

At the completion of the course the student will be able 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. Explore solutions to current issues/problems in society.

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***This schedule and syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor – it is the responsibility of the student to check on announcements made during any absence.***

“Per Title V Regulation 58170(e), students must be referred to academic support services by counselors or instructors. With this statement on my course syllabus, I am referring any students in my class in need of academic support to tutorial services. Tutorial services may include: the tutorial center, writing center or the communication lab. Referral reason: Mastering the content, study skills, and basic skills of this course is aided by the use of trained peer tutors.”

## Assignments

| Graded Item                                                                                                                                 | Points Possible  | Score |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------|
| Introduction speeches                                                                                                                       | Credit/No Credit |       |
| Art as Argumentation Presentation                                                                                                           | 50               |       |
| Art as Argumentation Claim Opinion Handout                                                                                                  | 10               |       |
| Art as Argument Reflection                                                                                                                  | 30               |       |
| SP-AR Debates (2 @ 50 pts. each)<br>Spontaneous Argumentation Debates                                                                       | 100              |       |
| Mini Group Debate                                                                                                                           | 80               |       |
| Cooperative Debate<br>(Individual 100 pts.)<br>(Dyad 50 pts.)<br>(Group presentation 10 pts.)<br>(Win 20 pts.)<br>(Peer Evaluation 20 pts.) | 200              |       |
| Cooperative Debate Briefs with Claims                                                                                                       | 50               |       |
| Audience Evaluations (Flow Sheets)                                                                                                          | 50               |       |
| Participation                                                                                                                               | 100              |       |
| Movie Argument Analysis                                                                                                                     | 30               |       |
| Quiz 1                                                                                                                                      | 100              |       |
| Quiz 2                                                                                                                                      | 100              |       |
| Final                                                                                                                                       | 100              |       |
| Total Points Possible                                                                                                                       | 1000             |       |

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

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

The instructor reserves the right to increase points for students who are on the margin; this will be done on the basis of attitude and participation throughout the semester and is solely at the discretion of the instructor.

### Just a Note Regarding My Teaching Philosophy

If you are absent do not approach me to ask “what did we do when I was gone?” Each student must assume full responsibility for all notes, assignments or announcements made during class. I cannot and will not re-teach a lesson in my office or in the hallway before or after a class. My power point presentations are for students who come to class – students who are not in class will have to rely on the book or notes from a friend. Just because you miss class when an assignment is given out or when an assignment is due does NOT excuse you or extend the due date.

## Attendance

Due to the nature of this course, attendance is important. Roll will be taken at each class session. I will drop anyone who misses the first day of class. I will also drop anyone who misses the second day of class. Per college policy I can drop any student who misses 4 class periods. If a student misses 4 classes prior to the drop date I will drop that student. Roll will be taken at each class session. Class points will be drastically reduced by absences. I will subtract 25 points for each absence. Understanding that perfect attendance can only happen in a utopian world each student is allowed 2 absences. I will no longer investigate or decide if an absence is excused or not. Every student has two freebies – after that I will deduct 25 points for EVERY absence regardless of reason. These points will come from your participation points first. If you exceed four absences I will deduct points from your audience evaluation points. Once participation and audience evaluation points are depleted students will NOT be allowed to earn extra credit OR take the final exam. Make sure you understand this – you have TWO free absences, four absences will deplete your participation points and six will deplete both your participation, audience participation AND you will not receive any extra credit OR be allowed to take the final exam. NO EXCEPTIONS!! Arriving late to class and leaving early are unacceptable and will result in a reduction of participation points. Two tardies or early departures are equivalent to one absence. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of their absences. If you know in advance that you will be absent please inform the instructor so that accommodations can be made for speeches or quizzes **prior** to your absence. Also understand that notifying the instructor does not excuse the absence and any assignment due during that absence MUST be made up **prior** to not after the fact.

**Please be aware that I WILL enforce this policy and will not make exceptions!**

It is your responsibility to keep track of your absences and tardies

**I will not give warnings.**

## Late and Missed Assignments

***I will NOT accept any emailed or handwritten papers.***

***I have a very strict policy on late work.***

***ALL WORK IS DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CLASS –***

***DO NOT COME IN LATE AND ASSUME I WILL ACCEPT YOUR WORK.***

***Also if the door is locked do not come through the lab door – you are officially absent and your work will not be accepted.***

## Additional Point Assignments

In addition to the assignments I will be offering limited extra credit assignments. They will be briefly announced in class and posted on the classroom web page. It is the student's responsibility to look them up and turn them in by the deadline posted on the webpage. Extra credit assignments submitted by students who have missed debates, quizzes or any other assignment will **not** be accepted. In addition students who have six or more absences will not be allowed to earn extra credit. Extra credit points can only be earned by students who have attempted all assignments. Their sole purpose is to enhance learning not to take the place of assignments.

## **Brief Descriptions of Assignments:**

**Art As Argumentation:** Students will prepare a presentation no longer than 5 minutes in which they will illustrate to the class how artistic works can be an argument. Grading will be based on presentation, and a handout showing the claim and your opinion. These presentations will be assigned and must be presented on their assigned dates. I will not allow extensions or make ups. Students will write an argumentative reflection paper after this assignment.

**Movie Analysis:** In class we will view a movie that makes several claims. Students will take notes and evaluate the arguments set forth by the movie. A two page evaluation and explanation of the arguments will be turned in. They must be typed and will not be accepted late.

**Debates:** Debate dates will be pre-assigned. **I do not allow anyone to give their debates on a day other than their assigned date. Do not ask for an extension.** If you are unable to present on your assigned date you will be given a 0 on that presentation. I will only allow make up debates for severe medical excuses. Make ups will be on the basis of time available. Debates will include SPAR and Cooperative formats. Each student will participate in 2 spar debates. SPAR stands for **SP**ontaneous **AR**gumentation. These debates are short impromptu debates. Students will also participate in a mini group debate preparing claims and data in a written format. Finally each student will also participate in one Cooperative Debate. The cooperative debate will be a group assignment where a dyad will formally debate another dyad on a controversial local, national or world issue. These debates will follow modified Parliamentary Debate format and will be researched in advance. More information regarding the grade distribution and formats will be given in class at a later time.

**Quizzes & Final:** There will be three exams in this class. The final exam is comprehensive but will only contain items either previously tested or from the final content of the course. Material for the exams will come from lectures, reading assignments and class discussions.

**Finals:** Finals are held in the same classroom but not necessarily at the same time. Please note schedule below so that you are aware of the time and date of your final. Please note – I will not allow anyone to take the final if they show up after the door is locked. Please be aware and be on time. I will also NOT allow students to take the final prior to finals week, unless there is a verifiable MEDICAL reason. Some students may not be allowed to take the final due to plagiarism, cheating or attendance.

Final is comprehensive and will cover all content from the course.