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Communication 25 - Argumentation - Summer 2014



Required Text:

Rieke, R.D., Sillars, M.O, Peterson, T.R. (2013). *Argumentation and critical decision making* (8th ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson.

Recommended Text:

Bourhis, J., Adams, C., Titsworth, S. (2008). *Style manual for communication studies* (3rd ed.). New York, NY: McGraw Hill.

Course Description: This course is designed to provide students with the techniques necessary for effective public argument. The use of 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.

ADVISORY: Eligibility for English 1A STRONGLY recommended.

Course Outcomes:

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

- A. Critically formulate and evaluate oral arguments using logical reasoning.
- B. Construct and deliver dynamic and competent presentations that are adapted to the purpose and audience.
- C. Utilize research materials that incorporate sufficient, credible, and relevant evidence.
- D. Choose appropriate organizational patterns.
- E. Analyze the effectiveness of communication through constructive critique.

Course Objectives:

In the process of completing this course, students will:

- A. Recognize, develop, and defend arguments orally.
- B. Use research and organization to formulate arguments for oral presentation and refutation.
- C. Evaluate others' arguments and oral presentations.
- D. Analyze audiences in order to formulate effective arguments.
- E. Recognize fallacies and illogical arguments.
- F. Explore solutions to current issues/problems in society

Policies and Rules:

Attendance - Attendance will be taken for record keeping purposes only. In my experience, students that come to class more frequently are oftentimes more successful. There are 2 exceptions to this policy - 1) if you are absent without contacting me during the first week, I am required to drop you from the course and 2) you will receive a 20 point deduction in your own speech grade if you are absent during any major speech presentation day.

Assignments - Because I am trying to cut back on paper usage, all assignments in this class will be submitted electronically. I know that for some of you this is going to be a new experience, so here are some tips: 1) make sure to save your assignments as .doc(x) or .pdf(x). My computer cannot open other file formats. 2) Sometimes computers are glitchy! Especially 5 minutes before a major deadline. If either Blackboard or the dropbox are acting up, just email me a copy of your assignment. It's easy for me to upload it for you.

Remember that assignment deadlines are strictly enforced (no late work is accepted), so plan ahead to get your assignments in before the deadline.

We will be performing 4 major speeches in this class.

- The *argumentative* speech focuses on a proposition of policy. It is designed to show how stock issues work in the beginning stages of debate preparation. You will also refute your own speech, in the *refutation paper* assignment.
- The *evaluative* speech is a partner speech where you and a partner will choose a proposition of value to argue. You will not be debating, rather one of you will give a speech on the affirmative side and the other will give a speech on the negative side.
- The *SPAR debate* will be our first debate. SPAR stands for spontaneous argumentation. This debate is impromptu.
- The *policy debate* refocuses you and your partner on the topic of your evaluative speech.

You can find more detail about these assignments and grading on Blackboard. You must submit an outline/flow sheet for each major speech assignment - if you do not submit an outline, or do not do the presentation, you will not receive credit for the entire assignment sequence (listed below) and all in-class activity, homework, quiz points. This means that you cannot pass the class if you miss a major speech assignment.

A final note on workload: the college estimates that for every hour you spend in class, you should expect to spend two outside of class. Some of you will need more, and some of you will need less. But as you are planning your extracurricular activities, please remember, on average, you can expect to spend 24 hours a week on this class - both in and out. I'd also like you to realize that this is an **accelerated** summer class - each week in class is equal to three weeks of regular semester coursework.

I will keep grades available on Blackboard, but you may also keep track of your own scores here.

Assignment	Points	Your Score	Grading Scale
argumentative speech, outline, refutation paper	200		1000-899.5 = A
evaluation speech, outline, flow sheet	150		899.4-799.5 = B
SPAR debate, flow sheet	50		799.4-699.5 = C
policy debate, brief, flow sheet	200		699.4-599.5 = D

in class activities, mini speeches, homework, quizzes	200		599.4 and below = F
letter to the editor	100		
online participation	100		

Cheating and plagiarism - I believe very strongly in academic integrity, and because of this, I take cheating and plagiarism very seriously. We will use Turnitin, a plagiarism detection agency, as a safeguard against any temptations. If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing, please know that I will report it to the college, and you will not receive credit on the assignment. Realize this includes verbal citations as well as in-text citations - if you do not cite sources in a major speech or paper assignment, you will not receive credit for the assignment. Plagiarism also includes “recycling” or using materials from another course for this course. All assignments created for this course must be original work done for this course (even if you are repeating!)

STATE CENTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY

Academic dishonesty is unacceptable and will not be tolerated by the State Center Community College District. Cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities erode the college’s educational and social role in the community.

CHEATING - Cheating is the act of deception by which a student misleadingly demonstrates that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise. Examples include but are not limited to: Copying or allowing another to copy a test, paper, project, or performance. Using unauthorized materials during a test, for example, notes, formula lists, or “cheat sheets.” Taking a test for someone else or permitting someone to take a test for you.

PLAGIARISM - Plagiarism is the act of representing the work of another as one’s own without giving credit. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to: Incorporating the ideas of words of another’s work without giving appropriate credit. Representing another’s artistic or scholarly works such as musical compositions, computer programs, photographs, etc., as one’s own.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES - When a faculty member discovers a violation of the cheating or plagiarism policy, the faculty member: Will arrange a conference with the student and at that time advise the student of the allegations. Will notify the dean of the division in writing that an act of dishonesty has occurred. May give the student an F for the assignment and/or for the course. A student may appeal the faculty member’s action to the Academic Standards Committee

Classroom Behavior - I know that giving speeches is not a favorite activity for most people. Because of this, I believe it is extremely important for you all to feel comfortable in the classroom and with your classmates. You should feel like the classroom is a safe space to participate. If anyone makes you feel uncomfortable, please let me know. Rude comments, eye rolling, sleeping or being disruptive during class will not be tolerated, and you will be asked to leave.

Also note that while all courses have potential for disagreements, this is a class that is based on them. We will talk about issues that you may not agree with and you may have to argue for/against things that you find uncomfortable or controversial. There is a difference between having your arguments critiqued and having your beliefs critiqued.

Because of the nature of this class, privacy is of utmost importance. As such, the use of cell phones and other electronic devices is prohibited. Each time you are seen using your phone/tablet/computer, you will be asked to leave and will lose 10 points from your in-class activities score. If you use a laptop/tablet to take notes, please come and talk to me before class about it.

E-mail Policy - I answer all emails/calls/texts within 24 hours during the week, and 48 hours on the

weekend. Please know that I am happy to answer questions outside of class and office hours. Remember, as you are contacting me, to include your name and which class you are in.

Children and Guests - Unfortunately, I cannot allow children, guests, or animals in the classroom.

Student Rights - You are encouraged to read the “Campus Policies” section of the Schedule of Courses, so you are fully aware of their rights and responsibilities.

Students with disabilities should identify themselves so that appropriate accommodations can be made. 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 me as soon as possible.

Disclaimer - Due to unforeseen circumstances, I may need to change, add, or delete course assignments or materials. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to check on changes, assignments, and announcements you may have missed.

Schedule Summer 2014

*Note: students should read the scheduled chapter for the class **before** they come to class.*

Date	Topic	Reading and Assignments Due
6/23	syllabus, what is argumentation	chapter 1, intro mini speech
6/24	appraising argumentation	chapter 2, quiz 1
6/25	being reasonable	chapter 3, MOD mini speech, syllabus agreement due
6/26	nature of arguments	chapter 4, quiz 2
6/30	analysis in argumentation	chapter 5, proposition and reasoning mini speech
7/1	case building	chapter 6
7/2	evidence	chapter 7
7/3	evidence	citation mini speech, HW 1
7/7	refutation	chapter 10
7/8	argumentative speeches	outlines due
7/9	argumentative speeches	
7/10	values in argumentation	chapter 8, quiz 3
7/14	credibility	chapter 9, refutation papers due
7/15	debating / flow sheeting	blackboard handout, HW 2
7/16	evaluation speeches	outlines due
7/17	evaluation speeches	
7/21	fallacies	chapter 11, quiz 4
7/22	flow sheeting practice	
7/23	SPAR debates	
7/24	SPAR debates	letter to the editor due
7/25	class workshop	debate brief due
7/29	policy debates	flow sheets due

7/30	policy debates	
7/31	policy debates	

Syllabus Agreement

By signing and turning in this page, I am declaring that I have read and understand the contents of the syllabus for Communication 25 for Summer 2014.

My signature ensures that I understand the policies outlined in the syllabus and am aware that it is available to me on the Blackboard site for reference.

My signature means that if I have questions about due dates or scheduling I know where to look. Additionally, I am aware that I may be directed to the syllabus if I am asking questions that are easily answered by the syllabus.

I am aware that the syllabus is like a magical document full of answers and is meant to be retained and used like a personal assistant for this course.

Finally, to prove that I have read this agreement – I am going to cross out the following sentence before signing this page:

I am not interested in passing this class.

Printed name

Signature

Date