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**Communication 25: Argumentation and Debate Syllabus**

Fall Semester 2015

Instructor: Vanessa Buldo

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Office location: Soc. 38

Office Hours: Monday 10-1 am, Tuesday 10-11 am, Wednesday 10-11 am,

Thursday 10-11 am, Fridays online 10-11 am

Class Meetings- Wednesdays 12:30-1:45 pm FEM 8

**Textbook:**

Freeley, A. J., & Steinberg, D.L. (2014). Argumentation and Debate. (Custom) Boston, MA: Wadsworth.



**Course Description:**

Argumentation is designed to provide students with the methods of critical inquiry and advocacy. Emphasis will be 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 will write a minimum of 6,000 words during the course of the semester. This course fulfills the G.E. requirement for Critical Thinking (Foundation A3). G.E. credit requires a grade of “C” or better. (C-id designation Comm 120)

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

After the completion of this course the student 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.

**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. Explore solutions to current issues/problems in society

**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. Turn cell phones and laptops off before coming to class. Text messaging during class is not appropriate. Since this class is built on an interactive environment, student attendance is critical and required.

**Student Rights:**

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.

**Assignments**:

Art as Argumentation 100

Mini Debate 100

Controversial Debate 150

Discussion Boards 100

Outlines and Briefs 50 (2 @ 25 points each)

Participation 100

Quizzes (3) 200

Paper 100

Final 100

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.

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**. No attachments by e-mail accepted for any assignment. If a student wants an assignment reviewed prior to the due he/she must provide a hard copy.
2. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the instructor and inform him or her of any problem.
3. Accommodations will be made for students with a verifiable medical excuse.
4. The Final Exam must be completed by assigned date. **NO EXCEPTIONS**.

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

**Weekly Schedule**

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| **Week 1****8/17-8/23** | Orientation to class Origins of Argumentation The role of audience Critical Thinking | Chapter 1**Discuss Board 1 Due by 8/23 at Midnight**Chapter 5  |
| **Week 2****8/24-8/30** | Ethical StandardsFields of ArgumentationArt as Argumentation Speeches assigned **Essays Assigned****Quiz #1** **Chapters 1, 2, 5****due by Sunday at midnight** | Chapter 2**Discussion Board 2 Due by 8/30 at Midnight** |
| **Week 3****8/31-9/6** | Prima FaciePropositions and Burden of Proof **Art as Argumentation Speeches Begin** | **Discussion Board 3 Due by 9/6 at Midnight**Chapter 6 Chapter 7 |
| **Week 4****9/7-9/13** | **Speeches continued****Quiz #2** **Chapters 6, 7****due Sunday by midnight** | **Essays Due for Speeches presented 9/2****Discussion Board 4 Due by 9/13** |
| **Week 5****9/14-9/20** | **Speeches Finished** Assign Mini Debate | **Essays Due for Speeches presented 9/9** |
| **Week 6****9/21-9/27** | SPARS Assigned and mini activityTraditions of argumentationToulmin’s Model | **Essays Due for Speeches presented 9/16**Chapter 3**Discussion Board 5 Due by 9/27 at Midnight** |
| **Week 7****9/28-10/4** | SPARS**Quiz #3 Chapter 3 due Sunday by midnight** | **Discussion Board Due 6 by 10/4 at Midnight** |
| **Week 8****10/5-10/11** | Credible Research Mini Debate AssignedTests of Evidence**Mini Debates Begin** | Chapter 8Chapter 9 |
| **Week 9****10/12-10/18** | **Debates continued** | **Discussion Board Due 7 by 10/18 at Midnight** |
| **Week 10****10/19-10/25** | **Debates Finalized**Cooperative Debate Assigned | **Discussion Board 8 Due by 10/25 at Midnight** |
| **Week 11****10/26-11/1** | Meet with partners and opposing teamFallacies in ReasoningResearch due Debate preparation | Topics chosen Chapter 4 |
| **Week 12****11/2-11/8** | Propositions finalized for debate | **Discussion Board 9 Due by 11/8 at Midnight** |
| **Week 13****11/9-11/15** | **Debates begin** |  |
| **Week 14****11/16-11/22** | Debates continued |  |
| **Week 15****11/23-11/29** | Debates | **Discussion Board 10 Due by 11/29 at Midnight** |
| **Week 16****11/30-12/6** | Debates finished |  |
| **Week 17****12/7-12/13** | Review for Final  |  |
| **Week 18****12/14-12/20** | **Final is due Wednesday 12/16 by Midnight** |  |

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