

Communication

Communication ~~ Reedley College ~~ Spring 2023

Communication 25: Argumentation

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(Office hours are posted on Canvas but students can also ask for an appointment)

This course will not utilize a textbook. Instead, all the content will be provided in class. This means that questions on exams will come from lectures in class, and any reading provided in the Canvas shell. Please take notes while watching lectures in class – if you are absent you need to ask a friend for notes. After you review those notes come to me with questions during an office hour.

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) This course has a prerequisite of completion of English 1A & an advisory for the completion of Communication 1 or 1H.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students 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.

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. Develop and advance a reasoned position on a debatable issue.
7. Develop an understanding of the Narrative Paradigm in creating persuasive arguments.

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 and/or plagiarizing in my class will receive a zero on the assignment and any assignment connected to that assignment. In addition those students will also forfeit all participation points. Finally any student caught cheating will **NOT** be allowed to take the final exam. **Turn it in** will be used and students need to address and resubmit any assignment with a 36% or more match prior to the final due date/time.

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.

My Teaching Philosophy

Teaching for me, has always been about helping students. If you are having an issue – talk to me. I'm not near as scary as I may look. Please reach out to me and I promise I will listen to you and together we will come up with a solution to help you be the best student possible. Especially in this current environment all I can do is be here – but you have to ask. I will meet you online - day or night – but I need advanced planning. ALWAYS keep in mind my intention is to help you. I care and want you to succeed. Meet me halfway – come to class, take notes, pay attention to the announcements, and ask questions! Since there is no textbook, my lectures are critical. All quiz questions are based on my lectures – do your best to not miss class. If you do contact a classmate for notes. Then meet me in zoom and we can go over the notes. I will not "reteach the content" but I will explain or answer questions. I believe that all students are capable of learning in ANY modality. Depending on what may occur this semester we will work together to help you succeed. Please give it your best effort and trust that I am here to help you through the course.

No one wants you to succeed more than I do!

My Personal Sanity

The last two years have taken a toll on all of us. Because of this I had to think more about my work/life balance. I will no longer reply to emails or pop into my zoom office after 6 pm on weekdays. You are welcome to email me anytime, but I will not reply from 6 pm to 8 am on weekdays. Also, I am not available from 6 pm on Friday until 8 am on Monday. The only exception will be for students who request appointments in advance.

Assignments

Graded Item	Points Possible
Introduction Debate	20
Persuasive Position Presentation **SA Presentation 80 Outline/Reference 20	100
Mini Debate **SA Individual debate 100 pts Debate Briefs 2 @ 10 pts each (Extra Credit: Given to winning team – 5 pts)	120
Cooperative Debate **SA Individual 180 pts. Group & Dyad work 10 pts Win 10 pts Strategy meeting with Dr. C 10 pts Debate Briefs 2 @ 20 pts each	250
Other Assignments Given in Class/Canvas: Response to Persuasive Position 10 pts Debate Games 10 pts Flowing Exercise 10 pts Debate Proposition Submission 10 pts SPARS 40 pts Movie Analysis 30 pts	110
Flow Sheets	100
Participation & SPAR Flow Sheets	100
Mid Term	100
Final	100
Total Points Possible	1000

Mandatory Signature Assignments: are indicated above with ****SA**
these assignments are REQUIRED in order to take the final exam OR earn any extra credit.
Students must pass signature assignments with a C or better. Students who do not earn a C or better on the attempt signature assignments will not earn the right to take the final exam, will lose all participation points, flow sheet points and will not be allowed to earn extra credit.

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* (defined by Dr. C as less than 10 points); this will be done on the basis of attitude and participation throughout the semester and is solely at the discretion of the instructor.

Students will not qualify for this *on the margin* grade adjustment if they did not submit any outside extra credit, or if they have utilized 2 or more of the 12 hour window options. On the margin grade adjustments are not a given they are “solely at the discretion of Dr. C.”

Classroom Advisory, Requirements and Department

Students must respect the other students in the class. Comments made in class or in Canvas must be respectful and appropriate. I reserve the right to block any student whose comments are out of bounds or ask a student to leave the room. If necessary students can be reported to the dean of student services or removed from the course. As a communication course, part of the content is to recognize that our messages should be created for a specific audience. The audience for this course is: “educated adults” and I will expect the discussions and posts to be appropriate for an educated adult audience. Under no circumstances will name-calling, hate speech, etc. be allowed.

Please know that due to the nature of this course (controversial topics), it is possible that the subject and language in the debates will be controversial and for educated adult audiences.

Canvas - Canvas will be our primary method of assignment submission (these are paperwork assignments not actual debates/presentations). Students should be familiar or become familiar with Canvas. Please seek additional help during an office hour or ask the tutorial center for extra assistance. Keep in mind when reviewing grades in Canvas the point total is the ONLY thing that matters, percentages do not reflect true grade. Technical difficulties are **NOT** a valid excuse. All deadlines are final – plan ahead, and drop box early. Assignments will be due at 10 pm. Students will have the ability to “purchase” a 12-hour window to upload assignments the cost is a 5-point penalty assessed on the current assignment. There is no actual process for “purchasing” the purchase happens automatically. This penalty will be given even if the assignment is one minute into the 12-hour window. The 12-hour window eliminates all technology excuses, high turn in score, or lack of submission. The 12-hour window is implemented to allow students to figure those issues out. I will NOT excuse any assignment that did not get into the drop box beyond the 12-hour window.

Participation/Engagement Points: This class is only good if it is interactive therefore; participation is vital to the classroom environment. Each student is expected to attend class every week, take notes during the lectures and participate in all the in-class assignments.

Brief Descriptions of Assignments

Persuasive Position Presentation: Students will prepare a presentation 3-4 minutes in which they will be assigned a current controversial topic where they will be given the proposition, and the side they will defend. This speech will be presented in class on the date assigned.

Debates: Debate dates will be assigned. **Debates must be given on the date assigned.** Debates will include SPARs, Mini, and Cooperative formats. Students will participate in two SPARs. These are impromptu debates that require no advanced preparation. Students will also present a Mini debate. This is a much shorter version of the Cooperative Debate given at the end of the semester. Both the Mini and Cooperative Debates require research. Students will be assigned a proposition. The mini debate will be an individual debate with two students or depending upon enrollment could be 2 students against 2 students. 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 a 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. Briefs are required for both the Mini and the Cooperative Debates. Please use template provided in Canvas. Debates cannot be made up, if you miss your debate you will earn a zero on the assignment.

Mid Term & Final: There will be two exams in this class. The final exam is comprehensive covering all of the content covered in the course. Material for the exams will come from lectures, videos, and any reading assignments given in Canvas. Both exams will be given in class. Students must bring a Scan Tron 882. These can be purchased at the student store. Please come prepared. I will allow handwritten notes taken in class to be used for these exams. No photocopied or typed papers will be allowed. Notes will be checked prior to the exam being given. Students who have missed a signature assignment will not be allowed to take the final exam.

Additional Point Assignments (Extra Credit): In addition to the assignments there will be limited extra credit assignments. They will be announced in Canvas. It is the student's responsibility to look them up and turn them in by the deadline posted in Canvas. Extra credit assignments submitted by students who have missed signature assignments (see list of assignments for ****SA** designation) will **not** be accepted. In addition students who have taken advantage of the 12 hour late window 2 or more times do not qualify for extra credit. The sole purpose of extra credit assignments is to enhance learning not to take the place of assignments.

The class calendar 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.”