



COMM 005: ARGUMENTATION AND DEBATE

Proposer:**Name:**

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Effective Term:

Fall 2025

Credit Status:

Credit - Degree Applicable

Subject:

COMM - Communication

Course Number:

005

Discipline:

And/Or	(Discipline)
		Communication Studies	

Catalog Title

Argumentation and Debate

Catalog Description

An introductory course in argumentation and debate, this course covers research into, and critical analysis of, major public issues through written and spoken formats. The course will provide practice in persuasive speaking, writing and formal debate, with emphasis on research, organization, logical proof, and effective presentation. Students will engage in analysis and critical deconstruction of written and spoken presentations. Students will also learn how to understand and avoid fallacies in their persuasive presentations.

Prerequisites

ENGL 001 or equivalent college course with a minimum grade of C

Validation**Validation Type**

Communication or Computation Skill/Statistical Validation

Course

ENGL 001

Complete the Prerequisite/Corequisite Objectives and provide sound quantitative research to document the need for the requisite.

Method of Instruction:

Distance Education

Lecture and/or Discussion

Course Units/Hours:**Course Units Minimum:**

3

Lecture Hours Minimum (week)

3

Total Contact Hours Minimum (semester)

52.5

Total Outside Hours Minimum (semester)

105

Total Student Learning Minimum Hours (semester)

157.5

Repeatability:

No

Open Entry/Exit:

No

Field Trips:

Not Required

Grade Mode:

Standard Letter

TOP Code:

150600 - Speech Communication

SAM Code:

E - Non-Occupational

Course Content

Methods of Assessment:

Essay quizzes or exams
Multiple choice tests
Oral presentations
Problem solving assignments or activities
Problem solving quizzes or exams
Project
Short answer quizzes or exams
Skill demonstrations
Written essays or extended papers

Course Topics:

Course Topics	
1	The role of argumentation and debate in society.
2	Research skills, analysis and evaluation of evidence and sources.
3	Analyze, criticize, and generate oral and written complex ideas and arguments surrounding diverse perspectives.
4	Identify assumptions within arguments, both written and presented.
5	Critical analysis of discourse and written arguments.
6	Research skills, analysis and evaluation of evidence and sources
7	Analyze, criticize, and deconstruct arguments (written and spoken) that include logical fallacies.
8	Advocacy of argumentation techniques
9	Methods of critical inquiry and reasoning
10	Reasoning processes and the role of similarity of cause to reason
11	Causal reasoning processes.
12	Historical perspectives of arguments.
13	Illogical reasoning processes and the roles of identifying illogical reasoning processes
14	The questioning process and the role of causality to authority

- 15 Organizational processes for affirmative and negative debate
- 16 Critical reflection on one's own thought and reasoning process.

Course Objectives:

Course Objectives	
1	Develop an understanding of the reasoning process and skills in various methods of reasoning within written and spoken arguments.
2	Foster the use of critical thinking skills in oral and written communication, through thorough investigation of logic.
3	Learn to recognize the fallacies of reasoning in written and spoken arguments.
4	Learn how to analyze, advocate, and criticize ideas, especially through the process of debate.
5	Learn to critically evaluate reasoning and evidence, and analyze issues from diverse perspectives about global, cultural, social, and environmental issues.
6	Develop research skills.

Course Outcomes:

Course Outcomes	
1	Critically evaluate reasoning and evidence.
2	Develop an understanding of the reasoning process and skill in utilizing various methods of reasoning.
3	Analyze, advocate, and criticize ideas, especially through the process of debate.
4	Recognize fallacies of reasoning and argue ethically.
5	Develop research skills.
6	Foster the use of critical thinking skills in oral and written communication.

Assignments:

Assignment Type:	Details
Writing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A minimum of 5000 words of written assignments. 2. Apply writing strategies such as drafting, collaboration, self and peer editing, and revision to develop written arguments. 3. Write argumentative research papers that advocate for or against a policy change on a significant contemporary issue 4. Compose essays that employ writing strategies such as analysis, synthesis, summary, and evaluation, and that emphasize writing tasks, such as causal analysis, argumentation, definition, interpretation, and comparative analysis. 5. Prepare argument outlines or debate briefs. 6. Write in-class essays exhibiting acceptable understanding of mechanics, organization, development, and coherence. 7. Write final research paper to critically analyze a current political, economic, global, cultural, or gender issue using APA or MLA style sheets. <p>Writing assignment in the following are examples only. These, or others writing assignments, may be used by a professor in this course.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Develop a reflective essays, detailing the strengths and weaknesses of arguments, from personal or public debates. 2) Students develop summary information on source credibility. 3) Students create counter argument papers, these will be in response to an affirmative case presented in class. 4) Debate Briefs
Reading	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Students will have chapter reading assignments, outside reading assignments, handout material, etc. 2) Historical Debates 3) Current arguments being presented in social movements
Other	Students will have multiple debates. Cover multiple topics, the students will present fact, value, historical, or policy propositions.

Homework	<p>Homework assignments in the following are examples only. These, or other homework assignments, may be used by a professor of this course.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Observation of debates. Identifying the Stock Issues addressed in the debate. 2) Application of Stock Issues to a personal decision a student is working on. 3) Group meetings/Debate team meetings to develop Fact/Value/Policy debates. 4) Any other assignment created by the professor that is to be completed outside of class time.
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Textbooks or other support materials

Resource Type:	Details
Books	Lapakko, D. (2017). Argumentation: Critical Thinking in Action (7th Ed.). Kendall Hunt ISBN 9781524905699
Zero Textbook Cost	Marteney, J. (2023) Arguing Using Critical Thinking. LibreTexts.

Equity Review:

No

Transferable to CSU

Yes - Approved

CSU General Education

Transferable to CSU
CSU GE A3: Critical Thinking

Transferable to UC

Yes - Proposed

Transferable to UC Justification

Course includes all listed standards in proposed Cal-GETC Area1B

UC/IGETC General Education

Transferable to UC
IGETC 1B: Critical Thinking-English Composition

COS General Education

COS GE A2: Oral Communication/Analytic Thinking

Other Degree Attributes

Not a Basic Skills Course

Distance Learning Addendum

COMM 005 DLA 3-24.pdf

Prerequisite Support Documents

Comm 5 Success Rates.docx

Banner Title:

Argumentation and Debate

Course Control Number:

CCC000451973

C-ID:

COMM120