



Communication ~~ Reedley College ~~ Spring 2017

Communication 25: Argumentation

Instructor: Linda Carvalho Cooley

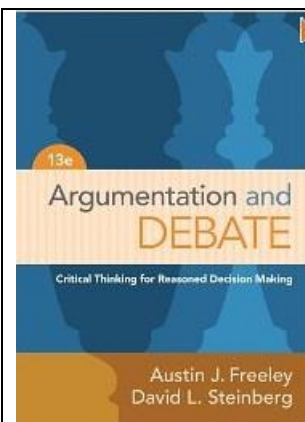
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(Office hours are posted on the webpage – any changes are announced via Canvas)



Required Materials:

Textbook:

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

ISBN # 978-1-3050-4250-6

Three scan-tron forms (882)

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 and Communication 1.

Classroom Department

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, 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.

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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 Debate                                                                                                                                                                                      | 10              |       |
| Persuasive Position Presentation<br><b>*Signature Assignment</b>                                                                                                                                         | 50              |       |
| Persuasive Position Response Paper                                                                                                                                                                       | 30              |       |
| SP-AR Debates (2 @ 50 pts. each)<br>Spontaneous Argumentation Debates                                                                                                                                    | 100             |       |
| Mini Group Debate Brief                                                                                                                                                                                  | 80              |       |
| Cooperative Debate<br>(Individual 150 pts.)<br>(Group presentation & Dyad work 20 pts.)<br>(Win 20 pts.)<br>(Peer Evaluation 10 pts.)<br>(Debate Briefs 2 @ 25 pts each)<br><b>*Signature Assignment</b> | 250             |       |
| Audience Evaluations (Flow Sheets)                                                                                                                                                                       | 50              |       |
| Participation                                                                                                                                                                                            | 100             |       |
| Movie Argument Analysis                                                                                                                                                                                  | 30              |       |
| Quiz 1                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 100             |       |
| Quiz 2                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 100             |       |
| Final                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 100             |       |
| <b>Total Points Possible</b>                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>1000</b>     |       |

**\*Signature Assignments: are indicated above**

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. Students who do not attempt extra credit will not qualify for “on the margin” consideration.

**Grade Checks and Canvas** - grades are posted on Canvas for the convenience of the students. Canvas will be utilized as a grade repository, for submission of some assignments and for announcements. Announcements will be made in class explaining what needs to be put in the Canvas drop box or turned in physically. Keep in mind when looking at Canvas that the point total is the ONLY thing that matters percentages do not reflect true grade.

### 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. When you are in class it is expected that you are “present” – students who are on their cell phones or sleepy or engaged in private conversations will be told to leave.

## 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 chooses to miss 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. 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 up to a total of 6 absences. These points will come from your participation points first, followed by your audience evaluation points. Once those 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 all other absences will result in a deduction of points as stated. 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 students' 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. In class activities/assignments cannot be made up. Sign in sheets are often used to take attendance, it is the student's responsibility to sign in.

**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 – or at the time designated on Canvas. Learn to use Canvas and post early. I will not accept “technology” excuses. Also if the door is locked do not knock or attempt to come through the lab door – you are officially absent and your work will not be accepted. Doors will be locked on presentation days and quiz days only.***

## Additional Point Assignments

In addition to the assignments there will be 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 signature assignments (see list of assignments for \*signature assignment designation) will **not** be accepted. In addition students who have six or more absences will not be allowed to earn extra credit or take the final exam. The sole purpose of extra credit assignments is to enhance learning not to take the place of assignments.

## **Brief Descriptions of Assignments:**

**Persuasive Position Presentation and Response Paper:** Students will prepare a presentation no longer than 5 minutes in which they will take a current topic (brainstormed in class), write a proposition, pick a side and defend it. Grading will be based on presentation, and research. Students will be assigned to write a response paper after this assignment. Outlines and reference papers along with response papers will be submitted via Canvas.

**Movie Analysis:** In class we will view a movie. 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 via Canvas.

**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. Debates will include SPAR, mini-group, and cooperative formats. Each student will participate in 2 spar debates. SPAR stands for **SPontaneous ARgumentation**. 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 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.

**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 final schedule below calendar of assignments 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 lack of completing all signature assignments. In addition any student who has 6 or more absences will not be allowed to take the final exam.

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

**Signature Assignments:** Students must pass signature assignments with a C or better. Students who do not earn a C or better on the two signature assignments will not earn the right to take the final exam, will lose all participation points, audience evaluation points and will not be allowed to earn extra credit.