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Textbook update: Spring 2022
C & GE update: April 21, 2022
Board approved: May 11, 2022
Semester effective:

Communications (COMM) 1520 Argumentation and Debate (3 Units) CSU

Advisory: Eligibility for English 1500 or 1501 strongly recommended

Hours and Unit Calculations:

48 hours lecture. 96 Outside-of-class Hours (144 Total Student Learning Hours) 3 Units

Catalog Description: Methods of critical inquiry and advocacy. Identifying fallacies in reasoning and language, testing evidence and evidence sources, advancing a reasoned position, and defending and refuting arguments. Analysis, presentation, and evaluation of oral and written arguments.

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Texts:

Channell, C.E., & Crusius T.W. *The aims of argument: A Text and Reader*. McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

Martenev, J. *Arguing using critical thinking*. Los Angeles Valley College. (OER) 2020.

Crusius, Timothy, and Carolyn Channell. *The Aims of Argument: A Text and Reader*. 8th ed., McGraw-Hill, 2017.

Additional Optional Materials: Perrin, R. *Pocket guide to APA style*. Wadsworth.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, a successful student will be able to:

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

Course Scope and Content:

- Unit I Understanding Argument
- A. What is an argument?
 - B. What is rhetoric?
 - C. Arguing responsibly
 - D. Four criteria of responsible reasoning
 - E. What are the aims of argument?

- Unit II Reading Arguments
- A. Strategies for critical reading
- Unit III Analyzing Arguments: The Toulmin Method
- A. An overview of the Toulmin Method
 - B. A step-by-step demonstration of the Toulmin Method
- Unit IV Critiquing an Argument
- A. What is a critique?
 - B. Why critique an argument?
 - C. How a critique differs from a reaction?
 - D. The assignment
 - E. Choosing an argument
 - F. Exploring your topic
 - G. Drafting your paper
 - H. Revising your draft
- Unit V Analyzing and Using Visual Arguments
- A. Understanding culturally diverse visual arguments
 - B. “Reading” images
 - C. Analysis: Five common types of visual argument
 - D. Analyzing an advertisement or editorial cartoon
- Unit VI Writing Research-Based Arguments
- A. Finding and issue
 - B. Finding sources
 - C. Field research
 - D. Library and Internet research
 - E. Searching your library
 - F. Internet research
 - G. Evaluating sources
 - H. Using sources
 - I. Incorporating and documenting source material
 - J. Creating works cited and reference lists
- Unit VII Ethical Writing and Plagiarism
- A. Why ethics matter
 - B. What plagiarism is
 - C. The ethics of using sources
 - D. The ethics of giving and receiving help with writing
 - E. Ethical writing and good study habits
- Unit VIII Joining the Conversation: Arguing to Inquire
- A. What is comparing diverse perspectives?
 - B. Why write to compare diverse perspectives?
 - C. How does comparing diverse perspectives work?
 - D. Readings
 - E. The assignment

- F. Choosing a topic
- G. Exploring your topic
- H. Drafting your paper
- I. Revising your draft

Unit IX Making Your Case: Arguing to Convince

- A. What is a case?
- B. Why make a case?
- C. How do you make a case?
- D. Readings
- E. Putting your voice into your argument

Unit X Motivating Action: Arguing to Persuade

- A. What is persuasion?
- B. Why write to persuade?
- C. How does persuasion work?
- D. Readings
- E. Using your voice in appealing for action
- F. Preparing to write: Thinking about persuasive appeals

Unit XI Resolving Conflict: Arguing to Mediate

- A. Mediation and other aims of argument
- B. The process of mediation: Looking objectively at different perspectives
- C. Mediation and Rogerian argument

Learning Activities Required Outside of Class

The students in the class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

1. Participating as a member of a team by working cooperatively with others and contributing to group's efforts with ideas, suggestions and effort for group projects
2. Interpreting and communicating information by selecting and analyzing information and communicating the results of others, using oral, writing, pictorial methods for individual and group projects

Methods of Instruction

1. Lectures
2. Discussion
3. Activities
4. Independent Study
5. Purposeful Collaboration

Methods of Evaluation

1. Oral presentation in front of live audience;
2. examinations;
3. evaluation of the oral arguments of others;
4. written analysis of reasoning and arguments;
5. use of appropriate evidence from research;
6. debates

Supplemental Data:

TOP Code:	1506.00 Speech Communication
Sam Priority Code:	E: Non-Occupational
Distance Education:	Under Review
Funding Agency:	Y: Not Applicable (funds not used)
Program Status:	Y: Program Applicable
Noncredit Category:	Y: Not Applicable, Credit Course
Special Class Status:	N: Course is not a special class
Basic Skills Status:	N: Course is not a basic skills course
Prior to College Level:	Y: Not applicable
Cooperative Work Experience:	N: Course is not part of a cooperative work experience education program
Eligible for Credit by Exam:	NO
Eligible for Pass/No Pass:	C: Pass/No Pass
Discipline:	Communication Studies