

SPC 3515 Argumentation
Section 055H
University of Florida
Dial Center for Written & Oral Communication
Spring 2013
Room: MAT 7

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Office Hours:
Wednesday 12:00- 3:00 PM
And by appointment.

Required Texts

Argumentation and Critical Decision Making, 8/E
Richard D. Rieke, Malcolm O. Sillars, and Tarla Rai Peterson,
ISBN-10: 0205210597
Publisher: Pearson
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The ability to participate effectively in reasoned discourse leading to critical decision making is required in virtually every aspect of life, particularly in a democracy. Competency in reasoned discourse, written or oral is increasingly expected of those who are involved in government, business, citizen action, or any of the professions. Read almost any job description at the entry or advanced level and it is likely that written and oral communication competence and the ability to think critically will be included among the qualifications sought by the employer. This course is designed to improve your understanding and skill in these areas.

Analysis of argument is a basic skills course. You will learn how to use the practical logic appropriate to communication behaviors ranging from interpersonal talk to formal argumentation when you want to think and interact critically and make wise decisions. What you learn in this class will make you more effective in writing college papers in any discipline, reasoning with others in any setting such as interpersonal, political, legal, scientific, business, social, or religious. Reasoned discourse, the subject of this course, is the foundation of Argumentation and Advocacy. You should become a better citizen through your ability in the analysis and application of argument.

COURSE GOALS

This course addresses speaker-centered argument in practical, everyday settings. After this course you should be able to:

- Understand the characteristics of argumentation;
- Understand how argumentation serves critical appraisal;
- Identify and analyze issues;
- Build argumentative cases;
- Understand types of argument;
- Understand and evaluate the evidence in arguments;
- Understand the role of values and credibility in arguments;
- Be able to attack and defend a claim.

INSTRUCTOR EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

Attendance: You will be expected to attend every class session. You are allowed three excused **or** unexcused absences during the semester. Missing more than three classes may result in your failing the course. Missing an exam or presentation will result in the loss of all points for that exam or presentation. An excused absence is defined as one that can be documented in writing and is due to a medical problem with the student or immediate family, death in the student's immediate family, or an officially recognized university sponsored event.

Tardiness: You will be expected to arrive at class on time. Tardiness is not acceptable and will result in a reduction of your grade. Three "lates" are the equivalent of one absence and you are permitted one unexcused absence. If you arrive late on the day of your speech presentation, you may not be permitted to deliver your speech that day. If you are tardy, notify the professor after class so the absence can be changed to tardy.

Assignments: All assignments are due on time during the class period. Writing assignments must be your original work and will not be accepted through email. A late writing assignment will be deducted 15% for each day it is late. Oral assignments, formal presentations, and exams cannot be made up. Late work is below average work.

Electronic devices and food: Cell phones, personal digital assistants, and ALL OTHER electronics must be turned off before entering the classroom. Food is not allowed in the class. Laptops are permitted during lecture but are not permitted during peer presentations.

Plagiarizing: Plagiarizing is a serious academic offense. If you are caught plagiarizing an assignment, you will receive a 0 for the assignment and an official UF written notice. Refer to the section on plagiarism in the UF Student Handbook.

Classroom Civility

We want to build a classroom climate that is comfortable for all. In a communication class, it is especially important that we (1) display respect for all members (classmates and instructor); (2) pay attention to and participate in all class sessions and activities; (3) avoid unnecessary disruption during class time (e.g., having private conversations, reading out of class material, doing out of class work, receiving cell phone calls or pagers, etc.); and (4) avoid racist, sexist, or other negative language that may unnecessarily exclude or affect members of the class. This is not an exhaustive list of behavior; rather, they represent the minimal standards that help make a classroom a productive place for all concerned. The University code for classroom behavior and academic misconduct will be enforced in this course.

COURSE EVALUATION & GRADING CRITERIA

Debate (in class)	100 points
Mid-term Exam	200 points
Comprehensive Final Exam	200 points
Research Assignment for Debates	100 points
Balloon Debate/Character Analysis	150 points
Campus Issue Assignment	50 points
In Class Work Assignments	100 points
Class Participation	100 points
TOTAL	1000 points

A	=	930-1000	A-	=	900-929			
B+	=	870-899	B	=	830-869	B-	=	800-829
C+	=	770-799	C	=	730-769	C-	=	700-729
D+	=	670-699	D	=	630-669	D-	=	600-629
F	=	599-						

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

The University's policy on religious holy days as stated in the University Catalog and Student Handbook will be followed in this class. Any student may request to be excused from class to observe a religious holy day of his or her faith.

DISABILITY NOTICE

I understand that there is Office of Disability Services available to me should I need it. It is my responsibility to contact them to process my request to have my needs met. I need to follow their procedures as to proper notification to the instructor.

Note: Syllabus may be amended as necessary.
*** (Tentative Schedule) ***

Week One

T 1/7 Orientation / Syllabus, how to follow current events, thinking about our thinking
TH 1/9 Argumentation Discuss

Week Two Part 1: Principlesion

T 1/14 Chapter 1 Defining Argumentation
TH 1/16 Continued

Week Three

T 1/21 Chapter 2 Appraising Argumentation Lecture
TH 1/23 Continued (**Campus Issue Assignment**)

Week Four

T 1/28 3 Making Sense of Argumentation
TH 1/30 4 The Nature of Arguments

Week Five

T 2/4 5 Analysis in Argumentation
TH 2/6 Continued

Week Six

T 2/11 6 Case Building
TH 2/13 Continued

Week Seven

T 2/18 Study Midterm/Discuss Policy Debates
TH 2/20 **Mid-Term Exam**

Week Eight Part 2: Tools

T 2/25 7 Support: Evidence
TH 2/27 Continued

Week Nine

T 3/4 *Spring Break*
TH 3/6 *Spring Break*

Week Ten

T 3/11 8 Support: Values
TH 3/13 9 Support: Credibility

Week Eleven

T 3/18 10 Refutation
TH 3/20 Continued

Week Twelve

T 3/25 11 Refutation by Fallacy Claims
TH 3/27 Research Review

Week Thirteen

T 4/1 Policy Debates **Debate**
TH 4/3 Policy Debates **Debate**

Week Fourteen

T 4/8 Policy Debates **Debate**
TH 4/10 Policy Debates **Debate**

Week Fifteen

T 4/15 Discuss Balloon Debate
TH 4/17 **Balloon Debate (x2)**

Week Sixteen

T 4/22 **Balloon Debate**

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, April 30th, 12:30 – 2:30 in MAT 7