

Las Positas College  
3000 Campus Hill Drive  
Livermore, CA 94551-7650  
(925) 424-1000  
(925) 443-0742 (Fax)

**Course Outline for CMST 46**  
**ARGUMENTATION AND DEBATE**  
**Effective: Fall 2017**

**I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

CMST 46 — ARGUMENTATION AND DEBATE — 3.00 units

Methods of critical inquiry and advocacy of contemporary moral, political, economic, and philosophical issues in a diverse multicultural society. 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.

3.00 Units Lecture

**Strongly Recommended**

ENG 1A - Critical Reading and Composition

**Grading Methods:**

Letter or P/NP

**Discipline:**

	<b>MIN</b>
<b>Lecture Hours:</b>	54.00
<b>Total Hours:</b>	54.00

**II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1**

**III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:**

**Before entering this course, it is strongly recommended that the student should be able to:**

A. ENG1A

**IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:**

**Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:**

- A. Analyze the usefulness and limitations of the argumentation process;
- B. Classify the different components of the argumentation process and recognize how the parts interact and react to one another;
- C. Recognize, create, define and analyze propositions;
- D. Critically evaluate reasoning and evidence;
- E. Discover, evaluate and incorporate evidence in argumentation;
- F. Describe the reasoning process and implement skills in utilizing various methods of reasoning;
- G. Analyze, advocate, and criticize ideas, especially through the process of debate;
- H. Recognize fallacies of reasoning and argue ethically;
- I. Employ effective research skills;
- J. Practice the use of critical thinking skills in oral and written communication;
- K. Apply effective delivery skills in debate settings (language use, non-verbal presentation, vocal deliver);
- L. Write a policy proposition proposal.

**V. CONTENT:**

- A. Examination of the nature of argumentation
  - 1. Historical development of argumentation
  - 2. The usefulness of argumentation
  - 3. The limitations of argumentation
  - 4. Ethical standards in argumentation
- B. Methods of critical inquiry and reasoning
  - 1. Presumption
  - 2. Burden of proof
  - 3. The prima facie case
  - 4. The model of an argument
    - a. Claims
    - b. Grounds
    - c. Warrants
    - d. Backing
    - e. Qualifiers
    - f. Rebuttals

- C. Classification of propositions
  - 1. Propositions of fact
  - 2. Propositions of value
  - 3. Propositions of policy
- D. Advocacy and argumentation techniques
  - 1. Audience analysis
  - 2. Language choice and style
  - 3. Delivery techniques
  - 4. Building credibility with an audience
- E. Research skills, analysis, and evaluation of evidence and sources
  - 1. The discovery of evidence
  - 2. Research techniques
  - 3. Types of evidence
  - 4. Tests of evidence
- F. Reasoning in argumentation
  - 1. Argument from cause
  - 2. Argument from sign
  - 3. Argument from generalization
  - 4. Argument from parallel case
  - 5. Argument from analogy
  - 6. Argument from authority
- G. Logical fallacies and ethical arguments
  - 1. Fallacies in reasoning
  - 2. Fallacies in research
  - 3. Fallacies of appeal
  - 4. Fallacies in language
- H. Advocacy and argumentation techniques
  - 1. Audience analysis
  - 2. Language choice and style
  - 3. Delivery techniques
  - 4. Building credibility with an audience
- I. Critical analysis of discourse
- J. Analysis, presentation, and evaluation of oral and written arguments
  - 1. Effectiveness of organization
  - 2. Effectiveness of delivery
  - 3. Effectiveness of argumentation

#### VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Discussion** - Group discussion
- B. **Lecture** -
- C. **Guest Lecturers** -
- D. **Classroom Activity** - In-class debates
- E. **Demonstration** - Demonstration debates
- F. Communication activities
- G. **Student Presentations** -
- H. **Critique** - Critique of debates
- I. Test/quizzes

#### VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Oral Presentation:
  - 1. Create and then present orally to the class a 5 - 7 minutes argumentative speech using Monroe's Motivated Sequence. Incorporate a minimum of five source citations.
- B. Proposition Paper:
  - 1. Write and submit a typed 7 - 9 page policy proposition advocating a change in the status quo. Address all three stock issues. Include all necessary definitional explanations to support your proposition and identify a clear weighing mechanism for audience acceptance. Incorporate a minimum of 10 source citations.
- C. Debate:
  - 1. "\_\_\_\_\_ should be the next President of the United States of America." The entire class will have 45 minutes to debate this statement with speakers being allotted 3-minute speaking intervals. Come to class able to speak to either side of this statement and be prepared and able to react/respond to the debate as it develops around you.

#### VIII. EVALUATION:

##### A. **Methods**

- 1. Exams/Tests
- 2. Papers
- 3. Oral Presentation
- 4. Class Participation
- 5. Class Work
- 6. Other:
  - a. Class participation and attendance
  - b. Graded persuasive speech
  - c. Graded debate
  - d. Research paper
  - e. Midterm examination
  - f. Final examination

##### B. **Frequency**

- 1. Weekly participation in class activities
- 2. One persuasive speech
- 3. Two - four debates
- 4. One - two research papers
- 5. One midterm examination
- 6. One final examination

#### IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. Reinard, John *Foundations of Argumentation and Critical Thinking: A Modern Approach*. 1st ed., Sage Publications, 2015.
- 2. Govier, Trudy *A Practical Study of Argument*. 7th ed., Wadsworth Publishing Company, 2013.
- 3. Rottenbert, Annette *The Structure of Argument*. 8th ed., Bedford/St. Martin's, 2014.

4. Freeley, Austin *Argumentation and Debate*. 13th ed., Wadsworth Publishing Company, 2013.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: