

Course Outline for CMST 46
ARGUMENTATION AND DEBATE
Effective: Fall 2019

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
with a minimum grade of C

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

- Communication Studies

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

1. Critically read texts and materials from a variety of academic and cultural contexts, demonstrating in writing and discussion the ability to:
 - a. Summarize a thesis and main points;
 - b. Analyze main ideas;
 - c. Evaluate the validity and logic of the text's reasoning and support;
 - d. Relate ideas and information in the text to his/her own experience as well as other texts;
 - e. Create a coherent position or argument based on reading;

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:

Methods/Frequency

- A. Exams/Tests
 - one midterm and one final exam
- B. Papers
 - one to two
- C. Oral Presentation
 - one persuasive speech
- D. Class Participation
 - weekly class activities
- E. Other
 1. two to four debates

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Reinard, John (2015). *Foundations of Argumentation and Critical Thinking: A Modern Approach* (1st ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
2. Govier, Trudy (2013). *A Practical Study of Argument* (7th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company.

3. Rottenbert, Annette (2014). *The Structure of Argument* (8th ed.). Boston, MA: Bedford/St. Martin's.
4. Freeley, Austin (2013). *Argumentation and Debate* (13th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company.
5. White, F.D., & Billings, S.J. (2017). *The Well-Crafted Argument* (6th ed.). Boston, MA: Cengage.
6. Herrick, J.A. (2019). *Argumentation: Understanding and Shaping Arguments* (6th ed.). State College, PA: Strata Publishing Inc..

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: