

Argumentation and Debate (COMM 220, Section 100)
and Debate Practicum (COMM 120, Section 100)

Instructor Information:

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The Question & Answer Discussion Forum on Canvas is the preferred method of communication for most student questions. Questions of a confidential or personal nature should be sent by email. I do not accept assignments by email. I typically check email once daily during business hours Monday to Thursday. Additional information is available below in my email policy.

Office Hours

Office hours are reserved specifically for meetings with students in my classes. Contact me by email to set up an appointment. Please include multiple times that work for you in your email to speed up scheduling. My availability this semester is:

- Mondays, from 9:30 am to 11:20 am, US Eastern Time
- Wednesdays, from 9:30 am to 11:20 am, US Eastern Time
- Thursdays from 2:00 pm to 2:50 pm, US Eastern Time

I am typically available by Zoom during office hours, but to preserve bandwidth on Campus I do not keep Zoom active when I do not have an appointment. You can still "drop in" virtually. The best way is to call my office phone line and I will log in. Use this Zoom link for office hours: <https://tusculum.zoom.us/j/95312191625>.

Course Information:

- Semester: Spring, 2022
- Lecture time: 3:30 pm to 4:50 pm, US Eastern Time
- Lecture location: Garland Library, Room 105
- Final Exam: No Final Exam

Course Descriptions:

Argumentation & Debate (COMM 220)

Students will learn about oral argumentation and debate, including case construction techniques, and case analysis and criticism. As part of this class, students will prepare for and compete in debate events as part of the Debate team. Emphasis will be given to discussion of current issues. Travel to at least two competitive events will be required, as well as a fee to offset competition entrance fees, transportation costs, and other expenses. Students may not take COMM 120 Debate Team Practicum and this course for credit in the same semester.

Debate Practicum (COMM 120)

Students will prepare for and compete in public speaking, debate, and/or dramatic interpretation events as part of the Debate team. Emphasis will be given to discussion of current issues. Students who are active in debate learn many important skills which can serve them throughout their professional lives. Travel to at least one competitive event will be required, as well as a fee to

offset competition entrance fees, transportation costs, and other expenses. Students may not take COMM 220, Argumentation and Debate and this course for credit in the same semester. May be repeated for up to 8 credits.

Required Materials:

- There is no textbook for this class. Readings may be assigned and distributed through Canvas.
- You will also need paper and a writing utensil and a device for conducting research (phone, laptop, etc.)
- You will also need a good debate timer because **most competitions will not let you use your phone as a timer!** Kitchen timers tend to work well for this. Look for the following features:
 - A large, easy-to-see, digital display
 - Count-down (timer) and count-up (stopwatch) options
 - Buttons that make it easy to set times for: 8 minutes, 7 minutes, 5 minutes, and 4 minutes.
 - A visual-only (silent) alarm option

Student Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Students will explain the importance of communication in civic life. The assessment quiz will be used to measure this learning outcome.
2. Students will identify the challenges facing communities and the role of communication in resolving those challenges. The assessment quiz will be used to measure this learning outcome.
3. Students will utilize communication to respond to issues at the local, national and/or global level. The assessment quiz will be used to measure this learning outcome.

General Education Student Learning Outcomes (COMM 220 only)

1. Writing: Students will structure evidence to convincingly support their arguments. The assessment quiz will be used to measure this learning outcome.
2. Public Speaking: Students will create messages appropriate to the audience, purpose, and context. The assessment quiz will be used to measure this learning outcome.

outcome.

3. Public Speaking: Students will evaluate personal communication strengths and weaknesses. The assessment quiz will be used to measure this learning outcome.

Course Assignments and Grade Determination:

There are two major components of your grade in this class:

- Content Knowledge (60%/60%)
 - 50%/25%, Competition Experience Reflection 1
 - (NR)/25%, Competition Experience Reflection 2
 - 10%/10%, Rules Exam (Open Rules)
- Practicing Debate (40%/40%)
 - 13.3%/10%, Practice Speeches
 - 13.3%/10%, Prep. Participation
 - 13.3%/10%, Flow Sheets
 - (NR)/10%, Judge Sheets

Items marked "(NR)" are "Not Required" for students enrolled in COMM 120, Debate Practicum

Competition Experience Reflections:

Reflecting on your competition experience contributes 50% of your grade in the class. Students enrolled in COMM 220 are required to participate in and reflect on **two** (2) debate competitions during the course of the semester. Students enrolled in COMM 120 are required to participate in and reflect on **one** (1) debate competition during the course of the semester.

Rules Exam:

The rules exam contributes 10% of your grade in the class. You are permitted to bring in a printed copy of the rules to use while taking this exam.

Practice Speeches:

Participating in practice debates contributes 10% of your final grade in this class (13.3% if you are in COMM 120). Participation in debates done on a voluntary basis, but you'll be expected to volunteer regularly. These scores will be totaled and recorded in the grade book monthly.

Prep. Participation:

Debate is a team competition. Participating in preparation contributes 10% of your final grade in this class (13.3% if you are in COMM 120). You'll be expected to

contribute to preparation, even if you do not volunteer to debate that day. These scores will be totaled and recorded in the grade book monthly.

Flow Sheets:

Creating flow sheets contributes 10% of your final grade in this class (13.3% if you are in COMM 120). You'll be expected to "flow" the debates that happen during class meetings (this means to take notes on them). I will collect or look at your flow sheets at the end of class meetings. These scores will be totaled and recorded in the grade book monthly.

Judge Sheets (COMM 220 Only):

Completing judge ballot sheets contributes 10% of your final grade in this class, if you are enrolled in COMM 220. Students in COMM 120 do not need to complete judge sheets. I will collect judge ballot sheets at the end of class meetings. These scores will be totaled and recorded in the grade book monthly.

Extra Credit:

Students can earn up to a maximum of a 4.5% bonus on their final grade. Extra credit opportunities will be announced as they become available. Please feel free to propose extra credit opportunities. Extra credit may not be turned in after the last regular class meeting.

Final Exam Policy:

There is no final exam in this course.

Grading Scale:

Final grades are allocated according to the official University grading scale for undergraduate courses:

Grading Scale		
A+	100-98	4.0
A	97-93	4.0
A-	92-90	3.7
B+	89-87	3.5
B	86-83	3.0
B-	82-80	2.7
C+	79-77	2.5
C	76-73	2.0
C-	72-70	1.7

D+ 69-67 1.5
D 66-63 1.0
F 62-0 0.0

Course Schedule:

The instructor reserves the right to modify this schedule as necessary during the course.

Debate Competitions

The Tusculum Debate Team will attend debate competitions on the following dates. **You must attend TWO (2) debate competitions and submit TWO (2) complete competition experience reflections to pass this course.** (Students in COMM 120, Debate practicum only need to attend ONE (1) competition and submit ONE (1) reflection.)

- February 19-20, TIFA State Tournament, Pellissippi State
- Others TBA (schedules are in-flux due to the Omicron variant, and some may transition to online rather than in-person)

Class Meetings

Monday, Jan. 17 (No Class Meeting)

- Martin Luther King Day

Wednesday, Jan. 19 (Meeting #1)

- Welcome, Course Overview

Monday, Jan. 24 (Meeting #2)

- Structure of Debate Competition

Wednesday, Jan. 26 (Meeting #3)

- Customs and Traditions in Debate
- Complete before class:
 - Syllabus Quiz
 - Assessment Pretest

Monday, Jan. 31 (Meeting #4)

- Flowing Debates

Wednesday, Feb. 2 (Meeting #5)

- Research and Prep.

Monday, Feb. 7 (Meeting #6)

- Rogerian Argument Structure

Wednesday, Feb. 9 (Meeting #7)

- Guest Speaker

Monday, Feb. 14 (Meeting #8)

- Fact Debates
- Rules Exam (Open Rules)

Wednesday, Feb. 16 (Meeting #9)

- Value Debates

Monday, Feb. 21 (No Class Meeting)

- Presidents' Day

Wednesday, Feb. 23 (Meeting #10)

- Policy Debates

Monday, Feb. 28 (Meeting #11)

- Delivery and Time Management

Wednesday, Mar. 2 (Meeting #12)

- Students' Choice

Monday, Mar. 7 (No Class Meeting)

- Spring Break

Wednesday, Mar. 9 (No Class Meeting)

- Spring Break

Monday, Mar. 14 (Meeting #13)

- The Constructive Speech

Wednesday, Mar. 16 (Meeting #14)

- The Rebuttal Speech

Monday, Mar. 21 (Meeting #15)

- Judging Philosophies

Wednesday, Mar. 23 (Meeting #16)

- Guest Speaker

Monday, Mar. 28 (Meeting #17)

- Using Questions

Wednesday, Mar. 30 (Meeting #18)

- Delivery

Monday, Apr. 4 (Meeting #19)

- Structure

Wednesday, Apr. 6 (Meeting #20)

- Evidence

Monday, Apr. 11 (Meeting #21)

- Transition

Wednesday, Apr. 13 (Meeting #22)

- Developing Arguments Across Speeches

Monday, Apr. 18 (Meeting #23)

- Alternative Flow Systems

Wednesday, Apr. 20 (Meeting #24)

- Judging Criteria

Monday, Apr. 25 (Meeting #25)

- Kritiks

Wednesday, Apr. 27 (Meeting #26)

- Topicality
- Complete before class:
 - Course Evaluations
 - Assessment Post-test

Wednesday, May 4 (Final Exam Week)

- Make-up (if needed), 10:00 am, US Eastern Time
- **NO Final Exam**

Course Policies (Attendance, Assignments, Assessments):

Appropriate Behavior Policy

We are a community of learners, and your classmates are entitled to the standard professional courtesies. Each student is required to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times. Show respect for every person in the class. Complete your assigned work on time. Be ready for discussion and activities. Ask

questions. Be supportive audience members. Racist, sexist, or other offensive or discriminatory language will not be tolerated.

COVID-19 Mask Wearing Policy

The university's policy regarding mask wearing is outlined in the Pioneer Pathway document that is found on the campus safety webpage. Scroll down and click on the COVID-19 tab to locate the document. Faculty are authorized to enforce all guidelines outlined in the Pioneer Pathway document.

Email Policy

The Question & Answer Discussion Forum on Canvas is the preferred method of communication for most student questions. Questions of a confidential or personal nature should be sent by email. I do not accept assignments by email. I check and respond to my email once daily during business hours, however I dedicate my Fridays to research and larger projects. I typically do not see emails sent late on Thursday or during the day Friday until Monday the next week.

Engaging in professional communication with your professors and the university staff is important. I am unlikely to respond to emails that do not contain any questions. Emails asking course-related questions of a non-confidential nature will be answered in the Question & Answer Discussion Forum on Canvas. Brief emails asking questions which are already answered in course documents (syllabus, calendar, assignment descriptions, etc.) will typically receive brief replies referring to course documents.

Grade Challenge Policy

If you believe that you have been graded unfairly, wait 24 hours after receiving the grade, review the rubric, and schedule a meeting to discuss it with me. Come to this meeting prepared to provide *evidence* supporting the need for a grade change. Grades are considered final one week after they are posted in Canvas. The privacy of student educational records is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). I will not respond to any communication about a student which does not come from an official school email address, and I will not discuss your grades publicly.

Late Work Policy

Late work is not accepted.

Technology Problems

Using technology is a basic expectation of students at this level of study. You are responsible for the functionality of any and all personal or third-party devices and

software you use. Issues with these are not an excuse for late or missing work. If you encounter a problem with technology owned or operated by the university, **report the problem to information services**. After the issue is resolved, include a copy of your messages with information services along with any requests for alternate deadlines to my email address.

Alternate Deadlines

In some cases an emergency may require you to turn in work after the assigned due date. These situations are handled on a case-by-case basis and, depending on the situation and documentation, this work may be assigned an alternate deadline. Coursework assigned an alternate deadline is graded for full credit, but will not receive feedback.

Alternate deadlines will not be assigned for events that can be planned for – this includes school-sponsored events, such as athletics.

Tusculum Syllabus Policies and Supports:

To access Tusculum Syllabus Policies and Support click **here**