



COMM 2270

Division: Humanities

Department: Communication

Course: COMM 2270

Title: Argumentation and Debate

Catalog Description:

Students learn basic principles of argumentation and their application to communication and, in particular, to debate. Analysis of issues, evidence and reasoning, refutation, ethics, strategy, and delivery are included in course work. Students will develop their research abilities, critical thinking skills, and oral communication skills.

General Education Requirements: Oral Communications

Semesters Offered: Fall, Spring

Credit/Time Requirement: Credit: 3; Lecture: 3; Lab: 0

Clock/Hour Requirements: 0

Offered for Non-Credit: No

Justification:

COMM 2270 is designed to give students opportunities to develop critical thinking skills and a greater appreciation and understanding of oral argumentation and debate theory. This class is commonly numbered course throughout the state. Other institutions in the state offer COMM 2270.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will

- learn theories of argumentation
- develop critical thinking skills with regard to logic and appropriate use of evidence
- develop writing, oral presentation and research skills
- apply all of the above in the critiquing of arguments.
- prepare, deliver, and orally defend argumentative speeches and writings on controversial topics.
- think critically about arguments encountered in everyday situations ranging from interpersonal contexts to political issues.
- believe that effective communication skills are essential in a variety of settings in their lives.

Content:

Topics to be covered are:

- Critical thinking
- Stating, analyzing and exploring controversy
- Use of evidence, testing evidence
- Types of reasoning
- Types of fallacies
- Building an affirmative case
- Building a negative case
- Refutation
- Presenting the case: composition and delivery
- Evaluating the case

General Education Outcomes:

1) Read effectively, constructively, and critically.

Students will be required to read a newspaper or other news resources on a regular basis. It is important that the students be well versed in current events in order to perform well in class discussions and in the debates. Students will be instructed on how to read newspapers (and other media), on how to be critical of what they read and on how to analyze the information.

3) Speak effectively in a variety of contexts.

Students will have multiple opportunities to orally present their ideas in the classroom. Each student will receive written and oral suggestions for improving the student's speaking, organizational, informative and contextual skills. Speaking opportunities may also be available outside of the classroom.

4) Retrieve, evaluate, interpret, and deliver information through a variety of traditional and electronic media.

With most of the oral presentations, students are required to research and document resources for their particular topics. Students are required to utilize a variety of sources to complete their research. Oral citation of resources used is also required.

Key Performance Indicators:

Research Portfolio: 20% of grade.

Quizzes: 20% of grade.

Presentations/Debates: 50% of grade.

Final Exam: 10% of grade.

Representative Text and/or Supplies:

Warnick, B. and Inch, E., *Critical Thinking and Communication: The Use of Reason in Argument*. Macmillan Publishing Company. Current Edition.

Signatures:

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

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I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Communication Department:

Elaine Compton, MS, Assistant Professor, Chair

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Humanities Division:

Sheryl James Bodrero, PhD, Associate Professor, Dean

I have discussed the need for library resources related to this class with the person submitting the syllabus:

Lynn Anderson, MLIS, Technical Services Librarian (Main Campus)

Michelle Olsen, MLS, Campus Librarian (Richfield Campus)