

COMM-128: CRITICAL THINKING: ARGUMENTATION AND DEBATE

Effective Term

Fall 2023

BOT Approval

5/12/2022

SECTION A - Course Data Elements

CB04 Credit Status

Credit - Degree Applicable

Discipline

Minimum Qualifications	And/Or
Communication Studies (Speech Communication) (Master's Degree)	

Subject Code

COMM - Communication Studies

Course Number

128

Department

Communication Studies (COMM)

Division

Language and Developmental Studies (LADS)

Full Course Title

Critical Thinking: Argumentation and Debate

Short Title

Argumentation and Debate

CB03 TOP Code

1506.00 - Speech Communication

CB08 Basic Skills Status

NBS - Not Basic Skills

CB09 SAM Code

E - Non-Occupational

Rationale

Changing subject code and textbooks.

SECTION B - Course Description

Catalog Course Description

This course focuses on basic argumentation theory including research, methods of analysis, use and test of evidence, refutation, and the logical responsibilities of advocacy. It emphasizes the preparation and presentation of cases for and against propositions of Fact, Value and Policy through debate and public address.

SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment

Open Entry/Open Exit

No

Repeatability

Not Repeatable

Grading Options

Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass

Allow Audit

Yes

Requisites**SECTION D - Course Standards****Is this course variable unit?**

No

Units

3.00000

Lecture Hours

54.00

Outside of Class Hours

108

Total Contact Hours

54

Total Student Hours

162

Distance Education Approval**Is this course offered through Distance Education?**

Yes

Online Delivery Methods

DE Modalities	Permanent or Emergency Only?
Entirely Online	Permanent
Hybrid	Permanent

SECTION E - Course Content**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Understand and utilize multiple forms of argumentation.
2. Distinguish between valid and invalid forms of support.
3. Proficiently demonstrate use of various debate skills.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Develop an understanding of the reasoning process, and skill in utilizing various methods of reasoning.
2. Learn to critically evaluate reasoning and evidence.
3. Learn how to analyze, advocate, and criticize ideas, through the process of discussion, and debate.
4. Learn to recognize fallacies of reasoning.
5. Learn to differentiate among propositions of Fact, Value, and Policy.
6. Develop research skills, analyze, outline, compose, and present traditional and contemporary methods of argumentation.

- 7. Critically evaluate oral and written persuasive discourse.
- 8. Foster the use of critical thinking skills in oral and written communication.
- 9. Apply the principles of argumentation, debate, and advocacy.

Course Content

- 1. Critical thinking – arguments
 - a. Methods of critical inquiry, reasoning.
 - b. Advocacy and argumentation techniques
 - c. The role of value propositions and the need to address value conflicts; ethics in argumentation.
 - d. The role of Fact propositions. Distinguishing facts from inferences, and possibility from probability.
 - e. The role of policy propositions and distinguishing between inductive, and deductive arguments.
- 2. Deductive arguments:
 - a. Syllogisms
 - b. Validity and truth
 - c. Logical fallacies
- 3. Inductive arguments:
 - a. Statistical generalizations
 - b. Scientific method
 - c. Arguments from authority
 - d. Causation
- 4. Critical analysis of oral and written arguments
 - a. Analyzing required components to meet prima facie burdens.
 - b. Analyzing quality of evidence used to support claims.
 - c. Analyzing source credibility
 - d. Analyzing traditional forms of argumentation, and logic.
 - i. Support assumptions
 - ii. Premises and conclusions
 - iii. Deduction and Induction
 - iv. Informal fallacies
 - e. Considering the implication of rhetorical appeals to emotion (pathos).
 - f. Denotation and connotation
 - g. Vagueness and ambiguity
 - h. Metaphor
 - i. Style
- 5. Research skills
- 6. Critical writing
 - a. Writing briefs for propositions of fact, value, and policy applying evidence to support claims.
 - b. Analyzing and critiquing debates.
- 7. Presentation skills

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction

Types	Examples of learning activities
Discussion	
Lecture	
Observation and Demonstration	Sample Debates

Instructor-Initiated Online Contact Types

- Announcements/Bulletin Boards
- Chat Rooms
- Discussion Boards
- E-mail Communication
- Telephone Conversations
- Video or Teleconferencing

Student-Initiated Online Contact Types

- Chat Rooms

Discussions
Group Work

Course design is accessible

Yes

Methods of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation

Types	Examples of classroom assessments
Exams/Tests	Multiple choice exam covering deductive and inductive reasoning, analyzing credibility of sources and quality of evidence.
Quizzes	Quiz on the difference between value, fact or policy propositions.
Essays/Papers	Written evaluations of the oral arguments of others. Written analysis of reasoning and arguments.
Oral Presentations	Written evaluations of the oral arguments of others. Written analysis of reasoning and arguments.
Class Participation	Critique of public debate, in class activities, group work.
Homework	Reading assignments from assigned textbook.
Performances	Debate.

Assignments

Reading Assignments

Reading textbooks and variety of newspaper, periodical articles.

Writing Assignments

1. Writing of a weekly journal entry--commentary and analysis on a variety of current political, social and ethical issues which may form basis of #2.
2. Writing of four to six short essays involving analysis, evaluation, and construction, and refutation of an argument.
3. Writing critical peer evaluations and self reflection papers.
4. argument analysis with a minimum of 6000-8000 words.

Other Assignments

-Viewing and analysis of selected TV news programs, opinion, and documentary programs.

SECTION F - Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Freeley, A.J., Steinberg, D. L

Title

Argumentation and Debate

Edition/Version

13

Publisher

Wadsworth Publishing

Year

2014

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Rybacki, D. & Rybacki, K

Title

Advocacy and opposition: An introduction to argumentation.

Edition/Version

7th

Publisher

Pearson

Year

2012

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Crossman, M

Title

Burden of Proof: An Introduction to Argumentation and Guide to Parliamentary Debate

Edition/Version

5th

Publisher

Cengage

Year

2015

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Zarefsky, David

Title

The Practice of Argumentation: Effective Reasoning in Communication (Critical Reasoning and Argumentation)

Publisher

Cambridge University Press

Year

2019

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Pugh, R. H.

Title

The Debate Handbook: Winning With Parliamentary Debate

Publisher

Independently published

Year

2020

Proposed General Education/Transfer Agreement

Do you wish to propose this course for a Local General Education Area?

No

Do you wish to propose this course for a CSU General Education Area?

No

Do you wish to propose this course for a UC Transferable Course Agreement (UC-TCA)?

No

Course Codes (Admin Only)

ASSIST Update

Yes

CB00 State ID

CCC000552268

CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

CB11 Course Classification Status

Y - Credit Course

CB13 Special Class Status

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

CB23 Funding Agency Category

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

CB24 Program Course Status

Program Applicable

Allow Pass/No Pass

Yes

Only Pass/No Pass

No