

ARGUMENTATION & DEBATE

CMST 2063

Instructor: Liz Sills

Office: 321 Coates Hall

Mailbox: 136 Coates Hall

E-mail: esills2@lsu.edu

Office Hours: Mondays and Fridays, 11.30-12.30 and 1.30-2.30

Required Course Materials:

Lunsford, Ruskiewicz, and Walters, *Everything's an Argument*, 6th Edition

One two-pocket folder for handing in speech materials

As a General Education Humanities Course, CMST 2063 will enable students to demonstrate an understanding of historical, cultural, and philosophical complexity that supports sophisticated discourse.

Students will learn to become more effective critical thinkers and consumers of information and arguments. This will be accomplished by achieving the following:

- Understanding, identifying and evaluating the types of arguments, reasoning processes, and logical fallacies
- Knowing what evidence is, how to use it to prove a claim, and how to evaluate the adequacy of your and opposing evidence
- Learning to organize arguments into a persuasive case
- Developing skills in refutation and cross examination
- Being able to use these skills in a variety of forums

Absences/Late Work: Tell me ahead of time if you're going to miss a major speech day.

Excusable reasons for missing are, to be frank, few and far between, but include unexpected sickness **proven** by the presentation of a doctor's note, family emergency **proven** through presentation of an obituary, etc., or a university-sanctioned activity like a game or a concert **proven** by a note from an advisor or an instructor. Under these circumstances, I will work out a way for you to make up the speech (either on another day during the same round, or during my office hours in front of myself and a few other instructors). Make-up speeches are reserved for **students who are in good standing** in the course, provide me with an **outline of their speech within twenty-four hours** of missing it, and **schedule a make-up within one week**.

Missed speeches that are not accompanied by proof of excused absence and an outline may be made up within the week they are missed for the **maximum grade of a C**. (Life happens, but not without consequences.)

Other major course assignments will be due in-class. If you can't make the in-class deadline, you can turn the assignment in for **increasingly fewer points** throughout that day, up **until 5pm**. After that point, work will no longer be accepted without proof of extenuating circumstances (see above).

Debate Days: On the day of your debate, you should arrive in appropriate attire (i.e. business casual, or at least not in pajamas) prepared to give your speech. All teams must submit a folder with a copy of the professor evaluation form (which I will make available on Moodle), a bibliography, and a half to one-page narrative written by each member evaluating their experiences with their partner(s). You must also submit any notes you used during your speech once you have finished speaking. While you may use a laptop or other device to hold and reference material during your debate, you may not access the Internet while the debate is taking place.

Your role as an audience member is equally important to a successful debate. As I indicate above, attendance on debate days is mandatory for everyone. You are also responsible for being a supportive audience member. This means that working on homework, typing on a lap top, text messaging, walking in late while someone is speaking, sleeping, or simply looking like anything other than engaged in your classmates' work will result in a verbal warning from me, followed by a ONE LETTER GRADE DEDUCTION from your own debate grade.

Academic Misconduct: Don't plagiarize. Any student found to have turned in material not their own (either downloaded from the internet or written by another student) will immediately be reported to the Dean of Students. You can find the official LSU policies on plagiarism here: <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/instruction/plagiarism2.html>. Your work would be considered as plagiarism in part or entirely if it involves any of the following:

- Submitting work that was written by someone other than you (an online source, a friend, etc.).
- Submitting work in which you use the ideas, metaphors or reasoning style of another, but do not cite that source and/or place that source in your list of references. Simply rewording a sentence does not make work your own.
- Submitting work in which you "cut and paste" or use the exact words of a source and you do not put the words within quotation marks, use footnotes or in-text citations, and place the source in your list of references.
- Submitting work that you have written together with a friend as if it was solely your own intellectual property.
- Submitting work for COMM 2063 that you wrote verbatim for another class.

Students with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act and the Rehabilitations Act of 1973 states: "If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see a coordinator in the Office of Disability Affairs (112 Johnston Hall) so that such accommodations can be arranged. After you receive the accommodation letters, please meet with me to discuss the provisions of those accommodations.

Do you have a major?

Business leaders and other professionals recognize the importance of developing communication skills and analysis. Alan Greenspan, for example, stated, “To succeed, you will soon learn, as I did, the importance of a solid foundation in the basics of education – literacy, both verbal and numerical, and communication skills.” We hope this course contributes to your success.

To learn more about communication, you may want to major or minor in the Department of Communication Studies. The program explores how people sustain and change, experience, and make sense of the world through symbolic action. Students develop conceptual skills to analyze written, oral, and visual messages. Students gain practical experience in such areas such as public speaking, group decision-making, performance, and film. Such skills are elemental to careers in business, government, law, social services, and the arts.

A major in Communication Studies requires 36 hours including 12 hours of core classes and 12 hours at the 3000 or 4000 level. A minor requires 15 hours with one core class and 6 hours at the 3000 level or above.

More information is available at www.lsu.edu/cmst or by contacting our undergraduate advisor Mr. Kent Filbel (kfilli@lsu.edu), whose hours are posted at his office, 135 Coates Hall.

ASSIGNMENTS

Refutation Speech Refute a single argument of fact, definition, or value in a 3-minute speech to the class. A 3-minute cross-examination period will follow each speech where selected classmates are required to thoroughly examine and interrogate the speaker.

Value Debate You and an opponent(s) will debate on a matter of value/evaluation. This will require you to take a position in favor of a value resolution (affirmative) or against it (negative). Both teams must follow specific debate format and requirements, including submitting a written brief.

Policy Debate You and your partner(s) will debate against an opposing team on a matter of public policy. One team will represent the affirmative side while the other will debate for the negative position. Both teams must follow specific debate format and requirements, including submitting a written brief. The majority of you and your partner’s grade will be the same, so it is essential that you coordinate schedules and collaborate as you prepare.

Parliamentary Debate While different in style from the value and proposal debates, the parliamentary style will require you to draw on all the skills you have developed up to this point in the semester. You should be able to competently debate on matters of value *and* policy. You must also do so with far less individual speaking time and in cooperation with your “party.” The parliamentary debate will center around a bill that I shall draft and make available to the class on December 4. The class will be broken into two parties, one in favor of the bill (Government Party) and the other against (Opposition Party). During the “Parliamentary Caucus,” both groups will collaborate and develop their strategy for supporting their position. This should involve doing research, assigning roles, anticipating opposition arguments, and anything else that will help your side prevail.

Briefs Don’t let the name fool you. Briefs are this class’ equivalent of papers, they consist of a logical outline and a series of evidence cards that each team will research and gather in preparation for their

policy debate. Briefs will be typed and must be submitted electronically. No one will be permitted to participate in the class debates that have not turned in their briefs.

Letter to the Editor Draft a letter to the editor suitable for submission to *The Daily Reveille*, *The Advocate*, or *Times-Picayune*. An effective letter succinctly and effectively articulates a position on a matter of social importance. They are often, but not always, in response to material published by the newspaper. Published letters will receive 5 extra points.

Quizzes/Short Papers There will be four quizzes during the semester. As an alternative to quizzes, you may submit up to four short papers critiquing some form of argumentation in public discourse (i.e. presidential debates, television talk shows, media campaigns, editorial).

Short papers should be 2-3 pages long and reflect your ability to apply class concepts to argumentation in political and popular culture. An effective essay will select a specific discourse to analyze, while also clearly demonstrating an understanding of key concepts in argumentation and debate. The discourses you write about should not include your own interpersonal experiences. Rather, you should be focusing on public debates, exchanges from fictional films or literature, reality television shows, etc. You may submit one short paper on any week of the semester.

You may do any combination of quizzes and/or short essays. Regardless of what you choose, you must have completed four assignments for a total of 100 possible points. If you complete more than four assignments, I will record your highest scores.

Point Breakdown: The overall course is worth 1000 points. Different categories of assignments are worth different amounts of your overall grade, roughly as follows:

Refutation Speech: 50

Value Debate: 100

Policy Debate: 200

Value Debate Brief: 50

Policy Debate Brief: 100

Parliamentary Debate: 300

Letter to the Editor: 50

Quizzes/Short Papers: 100

Ten-Second Video: 100

Day	Material	Of Interest	Homework
M: 8.25	Course Introduction		Read Chapter 1 pgs. 3-21
W: 8.26	Argumentation Basics		Read Chapter 7
F: 8. 28	Argumentation Basics II		Read Chapters 16-19
M: 9.1	NO CLASS	Labor Day	
W: 9.3	Argumentation Basics III	Letter to the Editor Assigned	Read Chapter 6
F: 9.5	NO CLASS		
M: 9.8	Analyzing Arguments		Read Z&K Chapter 16 [Moodle]
W: 9.10	Refutation		Reach Chapters 8-10
F: 9.12	Fact, Definition, and Evaluation		Read Chapters 2-3; Letter to the Editor
M: 9.15	Emotion and Character	Letter to the Editor Due	Read Chapter 4
W: 9.17	Logic		Read Chapter 5
F: 9.19	Fallacies		Read Chapter 1 pgs. 22-29, Chapter 13, and Chapter 15 pgs. 346-58
M: 9.22	Presentation and Audience		Get ready!
W: 9.24	Refutation Speeches	Speaking Day	Get ready!
F: 9.26	Refutation Speeches	Speaking Day	Get ready!
M: 9.29	Refutation Speeches		Read Z&K Chapter 9 [Moodle]
W: 10.1	Debating Values		Read Z&K Chapters 15 & 17; Value Brief
F: 10.3	NO CLASS	Fall Break	
M: 10.6	Debate Day		
W: 10.8	Value Debate Workshop		Get ready!
F: 10.10	NO CLASS		
M: 10.13	Value Debates	Speaking Day	Get ready!
W: 10.15	Value Debates	Speaking Day	Get ready!
F: 10.17	Value Debates	Speaking Day	Get ready!
M: 10.20	Value Debates	Speaking Day	Get ready!
W: 10.22	Value Debates	Speaking Day	Get ready!
F: 10.24	Value Debates	Speaking Day	Get ready!
M: 10.27	Value Debates	Speaking Day	Read Chapter 12 and Z&K Chapters 2 & 10 [Moodle]
W: 10.29	Debating Proposals	Speech 3 Sign-Up	Read Z&K Chapter 18 [Moodle]
F: 10.31	Affirmative & Negative Strategies	Quiz 7	Read Z&K Chapter 19 [Moodle]; Policy Brief
M: 11.3	Affirmative & Negative Strategies II		

W: 11.5	Debate Workshop		Get ready!
F: 11.7	Policy Debates	Speaking Day	Get ready!
M: 11.10	Policy Debates	Speaking Day	Get ready!
W: 11.12	Policy Debates	Speaking Day	Get ready!
F: 11.14	Policy Debates	Speaking Day	Get ready!
M: 11.17	Policy Debates	Speaking Day	Get ready!
W: 11.19	Policy Debates	Speaking Day	Get ready!
F: 11.21	NO CLASS		
M: 11.24	Parliamentary Debating	Ten-Second Video Assigned	
W: 11.26	NO CLASS	Thanksgiving	
F: 11.28	NO CLASS	Thanksgiving	
M: 12.1	Parliamentary Caucus		
W: 12.3	Caucus Prep		Ten-Second Video
F: 12.5	Caucus Prep	Ten-Second Video Due	
FINAL	Parliamentary Debate		