



## **SPCH 20 / Argumentation and Debate**

**Professor Danny Cantrell**

Office: 26D-1220B / Office Hours: T/W/TH 9:30-10:15am & TBA

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### **COURSE TEXT**

Freeley, Austin J. & Steinberg, David L. *Argumentation and Debate*, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition. (2009) Wadsworth Publishing. ISBN: 9780495095903

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS**

For this course you will need access to a computer and printer. There will also be some copy costs.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Equips the student to engage in rational discussion and reasoned advocacy. Emphasis is given to rhetorical principles of argumentation, both theory and practice.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this course you will be able to:

1. Research and evaluate source information to be used in arguments.
2. Construct and deliver affirmation and negative arguments.
3. Analyze the elements of delivered arguments.
4. Integrate and evaluate various types of evidence in arguments.
5. Understand common theoretical frameworks for arguments.
6. Recognize the difference between propositions of fact, value and policy.
7. Apply the stock issues of policy propositions.
8. Develop strategies for identifying weaknesses in arguments and refuting them.
9. Demonstrate knowledge of the format and rules of at least one style of collegiate debate.

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

This course supports the following student learning outcomes:

- Students will critique an argument
- Students will feel more confident

### **NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

"Mt. San Antonio College provides opportunities for the pursuit of excellence for all students and through its educational services...The college will provide open access to a college education and all support services without regard to sex, race, color, religious creed, national origin, ancestry, age over 40, marital status, physical or mental disability (including HIV and AIDS), sexual orientation, or Vietnam Era Veteran Status"

### **SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS**

This campus will provide reasonable accommodations for students who face unique physical, learning, and emotional challenges. If you have special conditions as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act and need accommodations, please inform me within the first two weeks of the semester. There are eligibility requirements for some of the programs offered. Please visit Disabled Student Programs and services or call ext. 4290. It is your responsibility to work with DSP&S to make arrangements for special accommodations in this class.

## ATTENDANCE

Because speech communication involves listening, evaluating, and writing as well as speaking, you are expected to attend ALL class meetings. Attendance and class participation are necessary for success in this course. However, I realize that there may be times when an absence is unavoidable. Therefore I offer the following *Communication Department Attendance Policy*.

### **Absences without penalty:**

Students are allowed the following amount of absences from class without penalty in acknowledgment of occurrences such as personal or family emergencies, religious observances, transportation difficulties, serious illness, or other concerns at the discretion of each student:

16 week course/one class per week:	1 absence
16 week course/two classes per week:	2 absences
8 week course/two days a week:	1 absence
8 week course/one days a week:	1 absence
<b>6 week course/3-4 days a week:</b>	<b>1 absence</b>

Absences in excess of these listed above will result in the lowering of your final course grade by 5% (50 points) for each subsequent absence. For example, if you are receiving a 90% in the class and have one more unexcused absence than you are allowed, you will then receive an 85% for the course. If you have two extras, you receive and 80% and so on.

Students are expected to have all work submitted to the instructor by the assigned date regardless of absence, and should be current with the course upon their return.

In the event of an absence on the day of a scheduled speech by that student, the student is not permitted to make up that speech and will receive a score of "0" for that assignment. Students who are late **may** be allowed to give their speech if speeches are still being given when the student arrives.

### **Exceptions:**

1) Any student who is absent for a college-approved activity (such as a field trip, athletic competition, or leadership conference) **and notifies the instructor in advance** of the absence will not be penalized for the absence and will be allowed to make up graded work.

2) The only other exception will require that the student apply for exception by completing the official "department of communication extraordinary exception form for attendance." The form is to be submitted to the instructor (or the instructor with the consultation of the department chair, if desired) within one week of the absence. Valid documentation must be attached to the form, and only the following circumstances will be considered:

- Mandatory court appearance
- Military service
- Hospitalization *of the student*
- Funeral

If the form is signed as approved, the student will not be penalized for the absence and will be allowed to make up the equivalent points for graded work that was missed, including speeches, through any means determined by the instructor. Students whose exceptional circumstances require them to miss a substantial number of graded assignments may be advised to pursue a withdrawal.

### **Makeup:**

The only time a student may makeup missed work is for one of the above listed exceptions.

### **Tardies:**

In addition to attending class, you are also responsible for being to class ON TIME. Walking in late is disrespectful to the professor as well as the rest of the class. You will be considered tardy if you arrive within the first twenty (20) minutes of class. After twenty minutes, you will be considered absent. **This means you will not be allowed to give your speech, or take an exam!** You will also be marked absent if you leave class more than twenty (20) minutes before the scheduled ending. This may include extended restroom breaks. If you leave between twenty (20) minutes and the ending time, you will receive a tardy.

***BEWARE, for every three (3) tardies you will receive and unexcused absence!***

## CHEATING/PLAGIARISM

Cheating/ plagiarism (representing somebody else's words or ideas as one's own) of any kind will not be tolerated and will earn you an "F" on the assignment in question or an "F" for the entire course depending on the seriousness of the offense. Cases of plagiarism may be reported to the Department Chair and/or the Dean of Students.

The term "cheating" includes but is not limited to

- Plagiarism
- Receiving or knowingly supplying unauthorized information
- Using unauthorized material or sources
- Changing an answer after work has been graded and presenting it as improperly graded
- Illegally accessing confidential information through a computer
- Taking an examination for another student or having another student take an examination for you
- Forging or altering registration or grade documents

## CLASS CONDUCT, RULES AND POLICIES

Please keep in mind that a college classroom is a professional learning environment in which mutual respect amongst students and between students and the professor is expected. For a detailed description of Mt. San Antonio College's Code of Conduct, please see the college catalog. Here are some examples of disruptive behavior listed in your catalog: obstruction or disruption of the educational process; willful disobedience and/or the open persistent defiance of authority; verbal or physical threats to students, faculty, or staff; excessive talking in class; turned on pagers and cell phones; passing notes in class; excessive lateness; sleeping in class; and poor personal hygiene.

Remember, we all want a comfortable, respectful atmosphere for optional learning and success. In addition, here are a few more rules and policies for my class:

- Absolutely no liquor, firearms, weapons, explosives or animals.
- You must give your speech on the day that is assigned. Unless you have a documented, excused absence, **NO SPEECHES WILL BE GIVEN AFTER THE DESIGNATED SPEECH DAYS!**
- All written work must be typed in order to receive credit.
- **E-mailed work will not be accepted.**
- No late work is accepted! Plan ahead!
- Exams will be a combination of True and False, Multiple Choice, and Essay. No scantrons are required. Students may leave the room only after completion of an exam. No headphones, i-pods etc are allowed.
- Some extra credit may be offered...stay tuned.

## WARNING!

- All cell-phones, beepers, etc. must be silenced (not on vibrate) prior to the beginning of class and be put away, out of sight. If a cell phone goes off, I will ask you to leave. You will then receive an unexcused absence for that day.
- Also, please do not text-message in class. If you do, you will be asked to leave and receive an unexcused absence as well. It is best make sure phones are out of sight so that you don't even give the *appearance* that you are texting.
- This means that you could potentially miss an important speech AND receive a 5% grade reduction all because you chose to text or allow your cell phone to go off!
- Just say no.

***If this is a deal breaker, there are no hard feelings.  
But PLEASE drop this class today to allow someone else to take your seat.***

## Course Requirements:

1. **Exams:** Three exams will be given that cover the readings, class lectures, class discussion, and in-class exercises. The exams may include multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and/or essay questions. Exams are expected to be completed at scheduled dates. Arrangements should be made by students to take an alternative essay exam early if they cannot attend class the day it is assigned. **Note that the final exam is cumulative.**
2. **Communication Exercises/Skills/Journals:** Individuals cannot improve their communication skills unless they practice new skills and receive feedback on their performance. Therefore, all students must participate in skill practice sessions in class and demonstrate an attempt to master the skills being presented. Because of time restrictions, in-class skill cannot be made up. Since a large part of this class involves practicing communication skills, it is important that you attend and participate in class exercises. Participation points will be awarded on the basis of participating in a variety of in-class exercises, journals, skill builders, and discussion.
3. **Papers:** Each student is required to complete two argumentation and debate papers. Each paper should be three to five pages in length, typed, double spaced, and proof-read. Handouts will be given in class to further clarify the papers.
4. **Debates:** Each student is required to participate in three debates. These debates will be either three-on-three or two-on-two on various topics as explained in class. There will be ample opportunity to practice parts of the debate and prepare ahead of time for the topics. The debates will be discussed more in-depth later in the semester.

## **GRADING AND EVALUATION**

There are a total of 1000 points possible in the course. The point breakdown is as follows:

Assignment	Possible Points	Your Points
Class Participation	200	
Quiz #1	50	
Paper #1	50	
Debate #1	100	
Quiz #2	100	
Debate #2	100	
Paper #2	100	
Debate #3	200	
Final Exam	100	
Extra Credit	?	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000</b>	

Final Grade	Points
<b>A</b>	900-1000
<b>B</b>	800-899
<b>C</b>	700-799
<b>D</b>	600-699
<b>F</b>	Below 600

Tardies*	Absences

**\*Remember that every three tardies equals one absence. Each additional unexcused absence is 5% or 50 pts off of your final grade.**

## Note about grading:

I do not change grades unless I have made a mathematical error. I am happy to talk with you about how you can enhance your performance, but I will not argue with you about a grade I have given. Any discussion of grades will be held privately between the individual student and the instructor; class time will not be used as a forum to address these concerns.

Furthermore, the point total that you receive at the end of the semester is your final grade. I do not bump up students 1 or 2 points to the next grade. Please take advantage of extra credit opportunities.

## Office Hours

I strongly recommend visiting me during office hours to get feedback on your performance in the course:

**Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday 9:30-10:15am in my office in 26D-1220B**

## Course Schedule\*

Date	Topic:	Chapter:	Major Assignments Due
1/10	Welcome to Argumentation	2	
1/11	Critical Thinking	1	
1/12	Delivery		
1/17	Arguments & Fallacies	8,9,10	
1/18	Evidence & Research	6,7	
1/19	Refutation	14	Quiz #1
1/20	<i>Concordia Tournament</i>		
1/24	Student Congress Debating	16	
1/25	Student Congress Debates		
1/26	Intro to Parliamentary Debate	3,4,5	Paper #1
1/28	<i>Back to the Beach Tournament</i>		
1/31	Intro to Fact Debating	11	
2/1	Intro to Fact Debating, cont...		
2/2	<b>Debate #1</b>		
2/7	Intro to Value Debating	12	Quiz #2
2/8	Intro to Value Debating, cont...		
2/9	<b>Debate #2</b>		
2/14	Intro Policy Debating		Paper #2
2/15	<b>Debate #3</b>		
2/16	<b>Final Exam</b>		
2/17	<i>Cerritos College Tournament</i>		

Note: The final exam period is on **Thursday, February 16 from 10:30-1:10pm** in our normal meeting place.

\*Schedule is subject to change and additional assignments will be announced.