

West Los Angeles College, Fall 2013

COM ST 104 [Argumentation], UC:CSU, 3 units

Section #1875, Time: 9:35a-11:00a TTh, Room: GC 470

**Course Description:** This class is a critical thinking course, which develops decision-making skills by researching, analyzing, and debating both sides of major issues.

**Instructor:** McNamara, CV **Office:** #\_\_\_\_\_ **Thursdays:** 11:15a-11:45a

**Email:** mcnamacv@wlaac.edu

**Required Text:**

Hollihan, Thomas A. and Baaske, Kevin T. *Arguments and Arguing: The Products and Process or Argumentation*. 2nd Ed. Long Grove, IL: Waveland, 2005. [This textbook can be rented through the campus bookstore]

**Course Objectives:**

1. To identify the elements in the complex interactive process of argumentation.
2. To provide the vocabulary and method for systematic observation and analysis of argumentation in society.
3. To enhance critical thinking skills through the analysis and criticism of arguments.
4. To enhance argumentative competence through the construction and presentation of oral and written arguments.

**Assignments:**

1. Oral Presentations

Impromptu Speech[es] 5 points

Parliamentary Debate 20 points

Argumentative Speech: 5-6 minutes 10 points

2. Written Assignment

Speech Outline – use standard format 10 points

Debate Brief - 10 points

3. Examinations [scantron #882]

Test #1 Take Home 25 points

Test #2 Take Home 25 points

4. Final In Class 25 points

5. Attendance/Participation 10 points

**140 points**

**Grading Criteria:** Final grades are calculated according to the following percentages:

- 90%, A=126 and up
- 80%, B= 112-125
- 70%, C =98-111
- 60%, D=84-97
- 50%, F=83 and below

2. Attendance/Participation

- Students are expected to come to class on time *having already read the assigned readings*, participate in class discussions, and show courtesy to all class participants.

To Receive maximum points for attendance/participation students must have completed all assignments in a timely manner [in addition] to missing a maximum of 2 classes.

3. Academic Honesty

- All students are responsible for understanding and following campus policies of academic honesty. West Los Angeles College is committed to the highest standards of academic excellence and ethical support. Academic Dishonesty will not be tolerated. The policies, procedures, and guidelines provided by the college will be assiduously upheld. They protect your rights, as well as those of the faculty.
- It is particularly important that you are aware of and avoid plagiarism, cheating on exams, fabricating data for a project, submitting a paper to more than one professor, or submitting a paper authored by anyone but yourself. If you have doubts about any of these practices, confer with a faculty member.
- Students violating standards of academic honesty will be penalized by a failing grade in the course and/or college disciplinary action.

4. Assignments

- All written work submitted for credit must be typed, proofread, and professional looking. Covers are not recommended. The documentation system followed in the papers must adhere to the official MLA style.
- *Late work will not be accepted without prior instructor approval.*
- All material submitted for grading must be the effort of the individual submitting the work. Joint efforts are not acceptable unless specifically directed (e.g., the group assignment).
- *All speeches must be presented to pass the class.*

## Syllabus

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Chapter in Text</u> [to be read before class]
T=Tues, R=Thurs			
T	Aug 27	Introduction to the study of Argumentation	
R	Aug 29	The Foundations of Argumentation	Chapters 1–2 [Brief Introductions]
Monday, September 2 –Labor Day- Campus is Closed			
T	Sept 3	Fields of Argument	Chapter 3 [Impromptu Debates]
R	Sept 5	The Language of Argument	Chapter 4 [Impromptu Debates]
T	Sept 10	The Language of Argument – continued	
R	Sept 12	Argumentation and Critical Thinking	Chapter 5 [Speech Groups]
T	Sept 17	Argumentation and Critical Thinking – continued	
R	Sept 19	<b>Test #1 – Chapters 1–5 [Use scantron #882]</b>	<b>Take Home [Turn in topics]</b>
T	Sept 24	Type of Arguments	Chapter 6 [Return Test 1]
R	Sept 26	Practicums in Argumentation	Preview Parliamentary Debate
T	Oct 1	Grounds of Argumentation	Chapter 7
R	Oct 3	Practicums in Argumentation	Choose topics/partner for Parliamentary Debate
T	Oct 8	Building Arguments	Chapter 8
R	Oct 10	Refuting Arguments	Chapter 9
T	Oct 15	<b>Test 2 – Chapters 6–9</b>	<b>Take Home [prepare for speeches]</b>
R	Oct 17	Argumentative Speech Presentations	<b>Group A [Return Test 2]</b>
T	Oct 22	Argumentative Speech Presentations	<b>Group B</b>
R	Oct 24	Argumentative Speech Presentations	<b>Group C</b>
T	Oct 29	Argumentative Speech Presentations	<b>Group D</b>
R	Oct 31	Introduction to Parliamentary Debate	Chapters 10–11
T	Nov 5	The Logics of Parliamentary Debate	

R Nov 7 Practicums in Parliamentary Debate \_\_\_\_\_

T Nov 12 Practicums in Parliamentary Debate \_\_\_\_\_

R Nov 14 Practicums in Parliamentary Debate \_\_\_\_\_

T Nov 19 Practicums in Parliamentary Debate \_\_\_\_\_

R Nov 21 Practicums in Parliamentary Debate \_\_\_\_\_

T Nov 26 Practicums in Parliamentary Debate \_\_\_\_\_

Nov. 28-Dec. 1 Thanksgiving Holiday – Campus is Closed

T Dec. 3 Debate Argument Practicums \_\_\_\_\_

R Dec. 5 Final Exam Review

T ***Final Examination- Tuesday, Dec. 10 @ 10:15a-12:15p***

**No alternate arrangements are permitted by the College—please don't ask. The final exam is taken in class.**

## **Assignments:**

### **Argumentative Speech Outline**

#### **Objectives**

1. To provide the student with the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to analyze a problem and present a solution for this problem
2. To enhance the student's ability to systematically research a problem
3. To enhance the student's ability to construct and present argumentation in a public speaking format
4. To refine the student's skills in the utilization of supporting materials

**Requirements [The speech outline is due on the same day-the day of the presentation]. Hand the outline to your instructor before speaking. Take note cards to the podium. No manuscripts allowed.**

**Extemporaneous speaking is the goal of the class.**

1. Each student will select a topic area and construct a policy proposition. They will use this resolution for the speech. The instructor must approve this proposition.
2. Each student will systematically research the proposition.
3. Each student will prepare a 5-6 minute formal presentation in support of the proposition. A formal outline is required. No outline, no speech. This speech must address each of the stock issues and adhere to the following outline format:

Sample Speech Outline for Proposition of Policy

Introduction

I Arouse audience interest [attention-getter]

II. Affirm proposition –a statement that outlines a specific course of action

III Preview main points

Body

- I. Present the problem [also called 'ill'] What is the problem identified in the present system
  - A. Extent of problem [establish the breadth/scope of the problem]
  - B. Magnitude of problem [establish the depth]
- II. Present the inherency [Suggest the problem will repeat itself unless there is a change in policy]

- A. Cause of problem
  - B. Inadequacy of status quo [why is keeping things the 'way they are' a problem]
    - 1. Current policy of status quo [what is the way things are]
    - 2. Deficiency of status quo [why does this 'what is' continue to bring harm]
- III. Solution to the problem
- A. Specific details of proposal—i.e., your plan [what should we do to solve the problem]
  - B. Arguments of efficacy [how effective do you anticipate the plan to be]

#### Conclusion

I Review main points

II Restate thesis

III Heighten audience's interest [leave us with a way to help you realize your plan]

**Create a Works Cited Page [use 3 sources]. Use MLA to list your research. Mention your sources during the speech.**

#### Grading

1. Meeting the requirements of the assignment [proper outline, citations]
2. Strength and sophistication of analysis
3. Thoroughness of research [research is credible]
4. Communicative competence [delivery is practiced and confident. Speaker establishes and maintains eye contact [does not read], volume is adequate for all audience to easily hear the message, speaker uses correct grammar and standard language. Speaker is able to answer questions directly related to the speech given. Lack of practice will be grounds for dismissal from the podium during the presentation.

**Parliamentary Debate:** Students will work with a partner to prepare a 2-person debate. Each pair of students will join with another pair to argue for/against an agreed upon topic. For this debate, each debater is responsible for his/herself. This means each student will turn in a brief on the day of the debate. If a student is a 'no show' we will have a stand-in from the class. Those students who were scheduled to perform will perform as scheduled. Grades will be based on the individual's performance. Students will be expected to practice with their partner outside of class. Your instructor will provide all students with the 'rules' of debate.