

Argumentation and Debate

Instructor: Dr. Tom Worthen Library 302 4:30-5:45

Office hours: After class and arranged times

Phone:435-994-0023 – Cell

Email: tom.worthen@usu.edu No Text

Overview of the class

The goal of this class is to have you learn about argumentation and to be competent in applying this knowledge. Debate can be an overwhelming activity. Instead of starting with the final product this class will be like putting a puzzle together. Each day we will find a new piece to the puzzle and within a few weeks the puzzle will be completed and you will see how each piece/assignment fits together. If you fail to show up to class you will be missing a piece of the puzzle. The class moves very quickly. Missing class would not be recommended.

- The Q after a date means a quiz will be that day.

Topic

AUG 29 Observe a sample debate

31 Intro to Argumentation

SEPT 5 Q1 Research-Defining the Resolution

7 Q2 Propositions of fact, value, policy

12 Q3 AFF and Speaker Responsibilities also Name Quiz

14 Q4 NEG Responsibilities

16 (Sat) Intersquad debate tournament 8 am-1pm for team (20 points extra credit)

19 Q5 Refutation and Rebuttal

21 Q6 Flowing, Delivery

Speech-A-Thon 7-8:30 pm (10 points extra credit)

22-23rd NORTHWEST NAZARENE (NAMPA, ID)

26 OVERVIEW schedule debates (#1 Position statement due)

28 Q7 Class Debate (non Graded)

OCT 3 Class Debate (non Graded)

5 Class Debate (non Graded)

10 Class Debate (non Graded)

12 No Class

13-14-15 Lewis and Clark College, Portland OR

17 Discuss Debates (#2 Position statement due)

19 (No class-Friday Schedule)

24 Class Debate

26 Class Debate

31 Class Debate

NOV 2 Class Debate

7 Class Debate

9 No Class

10-11-12 Linfield College, McMinnville OR

14 Discuss Graded Debates (#3 Position statement due)

16 Class Debate

21 No class
23 No Class Thanksgiving break
28 Class Debate
30 Class Debate (#4 Position statement due)
DEC 5 Class Debate
7 Class Debate

Final To be turned in via canvas

Jan 26-28 Pacific University, Forest Grove, OR

(Keep a copy on your computer when you hand an assignment in.)

Position Statements

You will have four of these due. They will be due the dates listed on the class schedule. These will provide some background information and then writing down the pro and con arguments for an issue. A sample is provided with the syllabus. They will not be accepted late. Each statement should have a title that makes a statement. This will be followed by 5 arguments for and 5 arguments against your statement. Give some facts and numbers to support your claims. Make your points unique. You will need to do research to fulfill the assignment. Each position statement must fit on one page. You choose the topic. Each person's topic must be different. If you do a topic that has already been done, you will not receive credit.

You will send the assignment through Canvas.

Before you write your statement you will need to go to the class Facebook page (USU Argumentation and Debate) and read the Wall. (I will ask you to register with Facebook if you haven't, and give me your email address so I can invite you to join the group.) If no one else has taken your topic, then you can state your name, and your topic on the board and this will reserve your topic. I did leave on topics from previous years to give you an idea of what topics are like. You can choose any topic there or create a new one. The only rule is that you cannot choose the same topic of someone in the class this semester. You can only list one topic at a time and must wait to list your next topic until after the previous deadline has passed. So you can list the first topic now, but must wait to list the next topic until after the first paper is turned in. They must be a full page and 12 pt Times font. They must have a file name that has your name and the number of position statement. Such as Tom Worthen #1- Law Suit Abuse or Tom Worthen #2 – Pornography. These will be graded on the quality of your argument, uniqueness of your arguments, spelling, and format. Have sources for the support for your points. Sources need to be within the last 2 years.

Flows from Debates

You will flow (take notes) the debates that you hear and participate in. You will need to show me your flow at the end of the class to receive credit.

Quizzes

There will be quizzes on classroom material the day after we cover the material in class. These cannot be made up. In Army basic training the recruits are told "You better learn this stuff here rather than trying to learn it when people are shooting at you in a battle." The same rational goes for why I have quizzes. I want to make sure you know this material in class instead of making a simple mistake during the heat of a debate. These will occur the first five minutes of the class. If you are late you forfeit taking the quiz. There are no make up quizzes if you are absent.

Evaluations

For each debate, each person will flow the round. For one of the final debates, each person will take a flow and write up an evaluation of the debate. Which arguments were relevant to the round? Which arguments did each side win? How effective was the Cross Examination? Did each person fulfill his or her speaker responsibilities? etc. This will be turned in for your final. The detail in applying as much as you can from class (using as many terms as possible) the better. This evaluation will need to be from the second round of debates and be 3-4 pages long. This assignment will be waived if you are able to participate in a collegiate debate tournament. Talk to me if you are interested in this option. Due to budget constraints not everyone may be able to compete in a collegiate tournament.

Points Percentage

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|------------|
| Quizzes (8 X 10) | 80 pts | 100-94 = A |
| Position Statements (4 x 25) | 100 pts | 93-90 = A |
| Flows from Debates (14 x 2.5) | 35 pts | 89-87 = B+ |
| Debate Rnd 1 | 100 pts | 86-84 = B |
| Rnd 2 | 200pts | 83-80 = B |
| Evaluation of final debate | 50 | 79-77 = C+ |
| | | 76-74 = C |
| | | 73-70 = C- |
| | | 69-67 = D+ |
| | | 63-60 = D |

Extra Credit: You will have the opportunity to help with the USU debate team to gain you extra credit. You can receive a maximum of 40pts (10 points for each 90 minutes) by debating or judging. Time and location of these meetings will be decided the first week of school.

Class IPDA Format

1AC 5min
CX 1 min
1NC 6 min
CX-1 min
1AR 3 Min
1NR 5 Min
2AR 3 Min