

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

COMMUNICATION 145 – ARGUMENTATION

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

Study of the construction and analysis of public argument. Covers the theory of argument, the processes and development of arguments, and the application of argument to decision making.

Prerequisite

None

Course Content

- 1) Common notions regarding the meaning of argument
- 2) Theoretical/philosophical overview of argument
- 3) Logical essentials of argument
- 4) Relationship of claims and issues
- 5) Ethics of argument and persuasion
- 6) Forms of evidence
- 7) Reasoning and argument fallacies
- 8) A variety of argument structures
- 9) The role of argument in public contexts

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Describe the theory of argument as it relates to public decision making
- 2) Identify and classify claims
- 3) Compare and contrast argument and persuasion
- 4) Analyze and describe the development of arguments in public discourse
- 5) Apply the basic elements of critical thinking (e.g., methods of reasoning, recognition of logical fallacies, critical evaluation of reasoning and evidence) to evaluating an argument
- 6) Formulate an argument using research and evidence that demonstrates an understanding of supporting claims
- 7) Apply the techniques of advocacy and argument to a specific context
- 8) Analyze, advocate and criticize ideas, especially through the process of debate
- 9) Utilize critical thinking skills in oral and written communication

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Exams and final exam (written) that require students to describe the theory of argument, identify and classify claims, and utilize the basic elements of critical thinking to evaluate an argument.
- 2) Written work and research (e.g., briefs of arguments) that requires students to formulate an argument that demonstrates an understanding of supporting claims and apply the techniques of argument analysis and development to a specific context.

- 3) Written/oral analyses of sample arguments that require students to identify and classify claims, compare and contrast argument and persuasion, analyze and describe the development of arguments, and utilize the basic elements of critical thinking to evaluate an argument.
- 4) Oral presentation of arguments which requires students to identify and classify claims, apply the basic elements of critical thinking to evaluate an argument, and analyze, advocate and criticize ideas.

Special Materials Required of Student

None

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Smart classroom with moveable seating

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture and discussion
- 2) Reading assignments
- 3) Examples from current affairs and mass media

Out-of-Class Assignments

- 1) Reading assignments
- 2) Written exercises
- 3) Conduct research for assigned projects
- 4) Prepare presentations for in-class activities and simulations

Texts and References

- 1) Required (representative examples):
 - a. Herrick, James. *Argumentation: Understanding and Shaping Arguments*. 6th edition. Strata, 2019.
 - b. Troyer, Harmon and Bailey. *Argumentation and Debate: A Strategic Perspective*. BookRipple, 2017.
- 2) Supplemental: As assigned

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Identify and classify claims.
- 2) Apply the basic elements of critical thinking to evaluating an argument in both written and oral communication.
- 3) Formulate an original argument and support the argument with relevant evidence.