College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Communication and Performance

COMM 2055-947 (TR 11:15-12:35)
COMM 2055-948 (TR 12:45-2:05)
Argumentation & Debate
Fall 2021

Syllabus

Contact Information
Instructor: Adriane Flanary
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Phone: (423) 439-6516
Office: Campus Center Building, Room 107

Instructor Availability
Email is the best way to reach me outside of class and office hours. I check emails Monday-Friday from 8:15 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Emails received after 4:30 p.m. may not receive a response until the next business day. Additionally, emails sent after 4:30 p.m. on Fridays or on university-recognized holidays will be answered the following business day.

I am also available by appointment. I will also hold weekly office meets for you to check in, ask questions about the class and material, and seek help on assignments. An Office Meet Link will be posted in the weekly news updates on D2L.

Department of Communication & Performance Information

Mission Statement
The Department of Communication and Performance advances the understanding of communication by focusing on the ways people communicate with each other personally and professionally, embracing the complexity of human diversity, and examining the ways in which identity and meaning are created through the stories we tell and are told.
Course Information

Online Synchronous Course Information
All material will be presented and turned in using the D2L platform. We will use Zoom to have virtual arguments/debates during the class.

Material for each week will be available on Monday at 8 a.m. Assignment will be due on the set due date per the course schedule by 11:59 p.m.

Class Meeting Schedule
This is a synchronous class which means our class will be held in an online meeting format on Tuesdays/Thursdays using Zoom and D2L. You will be required to virtually attend class meetings on Zoom and complete required assignments. To access the class, please login to D2L and select the Zoom link.

This course will use a flipped teaching/lecture method which means you should review the material for class BEFORE attending the class. Each class meeting, there will be a discussion and review of the material from the lecture available within the weekly folder on D2L. Attendance will be taken based on your ability to discuss the course material, answer discussion questions, participate in class activities, and demonstrate your understanding of the material.

- COMM 2055-947 will meet Tuesdays/Thursdays from 11:15-12:35
- COMM 2055-948 will meet Tuesdays/Thursdays from 12:45-2:05

Credit Hours
This course is worth 3 credit hours.

Course Description and Purpose
Argumentation and Debate is an introductory course designed to teach students the skills and fundamentals needed to research, construct, deliver, and critique both formal and informal arguments and debates.

Course Goals
This course is designed to enable you to:
1. Develop critical thinking skills in the decision-making process; as well as enhance listening skills
2. Make communication choices that are mindful to human diversity
3. Evaluate the credibility of evidence
4. Demonstrate verbal and nonverbal communication competencies in message construction and message delivery
5. Critically analyze the claims and arguments of others
6. Adapt message and delivery to the audience needs, expectations, and diversity

Course Objectives
Through course assignments and lectures, you should be able to do the following by the end of the semester:
1. Use logic and reasoning to construct and critique arguments
2. Locate, evaluate, and cite research
3. Create and critique fact, value, and policy arguments
4. Respectfully and analytically respond to other’s arguments
5. Prepare and deliver effective oral presentations

**Major Topics**
- Construction of fact, value, and policy arguments
- Delivering arguments and debates with civility and respect for all people, cultures, and points-of-view
- Claims, reasoning, and evidence
- Proper research and citation ability
- Ethics and public address
- Analyze and connect with the audience
- Present ideas in opposition to others
- Effective listening and critiquing of other's arguments

**Line of Reporting**
If you have concerns about this course or the instructor, you should take the following steps.

1. **Discuss the matter first** with the course instructor.

   Talk with your course instructor about your concern. If your concern is unsatisfactorily addressed with your instructor, you can then take your concern to Step 2 below.

2. **Discuss the matter with the Department Chair.**

   After you have attempted to work with your instructor on the matter, if a satisfactory resolution is not found, you can then contact Dr. Amber Kinser, Chair of the Department of Communication and Performance kinsera@etsu.edu. Be prepared to discuss what steps you have taken with the instructor. Except in confidential matters, the Chair will confer with the faculty member and review the course policies as stated in the syllabus to determine an appropriate response. If your concern is unsatisfactorily addressed with the Department Chair, you may then take your concern to next step, which the chair can identify for you.

**Course Requirements**

**Required Material**
This course will use Open Educational Resources (OERs) provided by the instructor. All texts and supplemental readings are free. The only cost to you is if you decide to print the material. You will be able to access the book and supplemental readings on D2L as a pdf under each corresponding weekly module.

**Technical Requirements**
You should have computer access to Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, and an Adobe PDF program to view some documents. You should have access to a webcam and microphone, as well as a video player such as Quicktime, and speakers. You will be accessing your ETSU email and D2L regularly. You will need to create a free ETSU Zoom account.
Course Policies and Expectations

Classroom and Communication Policies

Email Communication
The ETSU email policy requires all faculty communication with students regarding ETSU business be conducted via the official ETSU email account. Emails should be professional and must include: 1) a subject heading, 2) a greeting, 3) your course and section number, 4) clear message, and 5) a signature. I will not respond to emails that don’t have these things. Please check spelling and grammar prior to sending your message.

Attendance and Participation
Your attendance and participation in this class is important. You are expected to check D2L regularly and complete your assignments on time. When I complete attendance reporting for ETSU, I will mark you “as attending” if you have logged into the class and completed the course contract by the time the report is due.

You are required to attend online class Zoom meetings. Attendance will be taken in our virtual Zoom meetings. You are allowed 5 absences. Absences are not considered excused or unexcused so use your days wisely. After 5 absences, there will be a 1-point grade deduction off your final grade.

If you have any serious situations occurring that will interfere with your attendance this semester, you must let me know in advance. I will follow the Departmental Absence & Assignment Policy:

- Foreseeable absences should be arranged with me in advance. “Foreseeable” includes university-approved absences (athletic, ROTC, or scholarship obligations) or court dates. These absences must be accompanied with proper documentation (e.g. schedule of classes to be missed signed by the athletic director) and must be approved by me before the missed class.

- You will only be allowed to make-up a missed presentation if the absence was unforeseeable, unpreventable, urgent in nature which necessitated missing class. You must contact the instructor 24 hours following an unforeseeable absence. It is up to the instructors discretion whether make-up work will be allowed.

Online Course Ground Rules
Discussion groups

- Review the discussion threads thoroughly before entering the discussion.
- Try to maintain threads by using the “Reply” button rather than starting a new topic.
- Do not make insulting or inflammatory statements to other members of the discussion group. Be respectful of others’ ideas.
- Be patient and read the comments of other group members thoroughly before entering your remarks.
- Be cooperative with group leaders in completing assigned tasks.
- Be positive and constructive in group discussions.
- Respond in a thoughtful and timely manner.
Assignments and Submission Guidelines

Course Contract: 10 points
You must read, agree to, electronically sign and date, then submit the Course Contract to the Dropbox before proceeding with the course. Course enrollment will only be confirmed for those who submit the contract.

Introduction Discussion Post: 10 points
Please tell us a little about yourself by completing the discussion post questions.

Fact Argument: 160 points

• **Step 1: Fact Topic, Proposition, & Stock Issue Meeting - 5 points**

  Students will attend their scheduled one-on-one meeting to discuss their fact topic, proposition, and stock issues.

• **Step 2: Fact Topic - 5 points**

  Students will submit a fact topic written as a fact proposition to the appropriate D2L Discussion forum for approval. You must have approval before moving forward with the Fact Argument assignment. The remaining Fact Argument assignments will not open until you receive 5/5 points and approval on your topic.

• **Step 3: Fact Outline Meeting - 5 points**

  Students will attend their scheduled one-on-one meeting to present their fact outline rough draft. This rough draft must include a completed introduction, summary of each stock issue with sources, bridging transitions, a completed conclusion, and works cited page in APA format. Students should take feedback from this meeting to improve their fact outline.

• **Step 4: Fact Outline - 30 points**

  You will submit an outline with a works cited page of your sources in APA format to the appropriate D2L Dropbox. You must incorporate a minimum of three sources to support your claims in Stock Issue 3: Application. Students are required to use the template on D2L to assist your writing. Additionally, I have provided examples of Fact Outlines on D2L for review.

• **Step 5: Fact Argument - 100 points**

  - **Finalize Argument:** Using the feedback from your Fact Outline, construct a final draft and rehearse it.

  - **Time Limit:** Your argument will be 5-6 minutes long. You will receive a 1-point deduction for every 5 seconds you are under the time limit. Furthermore, I will stop watching your presentation after the 30 second grace period (6:30).

  - **Sources:** You are required to cite three credible sources to support your claims within Stock Issue 3: Application.
- **Organization**: Your argument must be delivered in a clear and concise manner. Your speech must contain an introduction, body with fact stock issues and transition statements, and conclusion.

- **Submission**: Arguments will take place during our schedule online Zoom meetings.

**• Step 6: Fact Rebuttal - 5 points**

Following your speech, your classmates will provide 2-3 cross examination points. You will formulate an impromptu rebuttal statement for each of these points.

**• Step 7: Fact Peer Review - 10 points**

Please conduct one peer evaluation using the peer evaluation form found on D2L. Your peer evaluation score will be based on your knowledge of required argument criteria and the extent to which you provided useful, constructive feedback. The Peer Review must be submitted to the appropriate Dropbox on D2L.

**Value Argument: 160 points**

**• Step 1: Value Topic, Proposition, & Stock Issue Meeting - 5 points**

Students will attend their scheduled one-on-one meeting to discuss their value topic, proposition, and stock issues.

**• Step 2: Value Topic - 5 points**

Students will submit a value topic written as a value proposition to the appropriate D2L Discussion forum for approval. You must have approval before moving forward with the Value Argument assignment. The remaining Value Argument assignments will not open until you receive 5/5 points and approval on your topic.

**• Step 3: Value Outline Meeting - 5 points**

Students will attend their scheduled one-on-one meeting to present their value outline rough draft. This rough draft must include a completed introduction, summary of each stock issue with sources, bridging transitions, a completed conclusion, and works cited page in APA format. Students should take feedback from this meeting to improve their value outline.

**• Step 4: Value Outline - 30 points**

You will submit an outline with a works cited page of your sources in APA format to the appropriate D2L Dropbox. You must incorporate a minimum of three sources to support your claims in Stock Issue 3: Application. Students are required to use the template on D2L to assist your writing. Additionally, I have provided examples of Value Outlines on D2L for review.

**• Step 5: Value Argument - 100 points**

- **Finalize Argument**: Using the feedback from your Value Outline, construct a final draft and rehearse it.
- **Time Limit:** Your argument will be 5-6 minutes long. You will receive a 1-point deduction for every 5 seconds you are under the time limit. Furthermore, I will stop watching your presentation after the 30 second grace period (6:30).

- **Sources:** You are required to cite three credible sources to support your claims within Stock Issue 3: Application.

- **Organization:** Your argument must be delivered in a clear and concise manner. Your speech must contain an introduction, body with value stock issues and transition statements, and conclusion.

- **Submission:** Arguments will take place during our schedule online Zoom meetings.

  • **Step 6: Value Rebuttal - 5 points**

    Following your speech, your classmates will provide 2-3 cross examination points. You will formulate an impromptu rebuttal statement for each of these points.

  • **Step 7: Value Peer Review - 10 points**

    Please conduct one peer evaluation using the peer evaluation form found on D2L. Your peer evaluation score will be based on your knowledge of required argument criteria and the extent to which you provided useful, constructive feedback. The Peer Review must be submitted to the appropriate Dropbox on D2L.

**Policy Team Debate: 155 points**

Two teams (each consisting of 2-4 people) will argue the advocate and opponent sides of a policy case. The team debate will be completed live using Zoom. Each team must build a policy case together, verbally citing four sources during the body of their constructive. All team members must speak during the debate. Each debate will be graded as a group (the advocate and opponent teams will receive separate grades).

  • **Step 1: Policy Topic Meeting - 5 points**

    The advocate and opposition will meet during class to select their topic and devise their propositional statements. The topic and propositions will be presented to the instructor for approval. Each team must use their approved propositional statements for the duration of the debate.

  • **Step 2: Policy Outline Meeting - 5 points**

    Each team will attend their scheduled one-on-one meeting to present their team policy outline rough draft. This rough draft must include a completed introduction, summary of each stock issue with sources, bridging transitions, a completed conclusion, and a works cited page in APA format. Teams should take feedback from this meeting to improve their policy outline and team argument.

  • **Step 3: Policy Outline - 30 points**

    One member of your team will submit the team constructive outline with a works cited page of your sources in APA format to the appropriate D2L Dropbox. The team must incorporate a minimum of four sources to support Policy Stock Issues. Students are required to use the
template on D2L to assist your writing. Additionally, I have provided examples of Policy Outlines on D2L for review.

**Step 4: Policy Debate - 100 points (70 points debate content, 20 points delivery, 10 points contribution)**

- **Finalize Argument:** Using the feedback from the team Policy Outline, construct a final draft and rehearse it.

- **Debate Format:**
  - Advocate Constructive: 5-6 minutes
  - Confer: 1 minute
  - Opponent’s Cross Examination: 3 minutes
  - Confer: 1 minute
  - Opponent’s Constructive: 5-6 minutes
  - Confer: 1 minute
  - Advocate Cross Examination: 3 minutes
  - Confer: 1 minute
  - Opponent’s Rebuttal: 3 minutes
  - Confer: 1 minute
  - Advocate Rebuttal: 3 minutes

- **Sources:** Each team is required to cite four credible sources to support their policy stock issues.

- **Organization:** Your argument must be delivered in a clear and concise manner. Your speech must contain an introduction, body with policy stock issues and transition statements, and conclusion.

- **Submission:** Team debates will take place during our schedule online Zoom meetings.

**Step 5: Policy Peer Review - 10 points**

Each student must conduct one peer evaluation of their assigned debate using the peer evaluation form found on D2L. Your peer evaluation score will be based on your knowledge of required argument criteria and the extent to which you provided useful, constructive feedback. The Peer Review must be submitted to the appropriate Dropbox on D2L.

**Step 6: Contribution Paper - 5 points**

Each student must complete a report identifying team members contribution to the debate. Students are required to use the Contribution template on D2L to assist their writing. I will take the average of contribution scores to determine each individual’s contribution grade.

**Exams: 130 points**

We will have one quiz and two tests this semester:

- **Verbal Citation Quiz: 10 points** - Review the Training Presentation PDF located on D2L under Content then take the quiz. You have unlimited attempts until the deadline to achieve a 10/12 score. 10/12 scores will be viewed as mastery of content and will be awarded 10 points. If you do not receive a minimum of 10/12, you will not receive any points (0 points).
Your highest score will automatically export to the Grade link for review and will be updated after the deadline to reflect this policy.

- **Test 1: 60 points** - Argument Propositions, Claims, Evidence, Reasoning, & Delivery
- **Test 2: 60 points** - Fact, Value, and Policy Arguments, Ethics, Responsibility, & Fallacies

**Extra Credit: 20 points**
- **Syllabus Quiz: 20 points**
  The syllabus quiz is designed to test your understanding of the syllabus content including: course policies, assignment expectations, and D2L class format. Make sure you familiarize yourself with the course, syllabus, assignments, expectations, and D2L format/layout prior to taking the quiz. You will have one attempt to complete the quiz. The Syllabus Quiz can be accessed under D2L's Assessment link. Your score will automatically export to the Grade link for review.

**Testing Policy**
All tests will be completed on D2L and will be available until the due date. You will only receive one attempt at each test (unless otherwise identified within the assignment description). Once the test is opened, students will have one hour to complete it. After the test completion deadline, it may not be re-opened, except in the case of an extreme circumstance which must be approved by the instructor.

**Late and Missing Submission Policy**
- Electronic problems do not count as an excuse for missing an assignment deadline.
- Missing work, work turned in after the deadline, or work submitted to the wrong location will receive 0-points.
- Extenuating circumstances (e.g. serious illness, family emergency, etc.) for not submitting an assignment on time will be considered by the instructor if you complete the following steps:
  - Email the instructor prior to the deadline, informing her of your emergency. If an emergency is unforeseeable, you will be given 24 hours to email the instructor following the missed deadline.
  - Provide any documentation to assist in verifying your emergency (doctor's notes, etc.)
  - If documentation cannot be provided, the instructor reserves the right to refuse offering an extension on an assignment. All extensions are at the discretion of the instructor.

**Academic Misconduct**
Plagiarism and/or cheating is not tolerated at academic institutions. This class is no exception. Any such infractions will result in an automatic 0/F on the assignment and may be reported to the
Dean’s Office. The following link outlines ETSU’s Academic Misconduct Policy: Academic Misconduct Policy

**Grading Policy**
Your points will be added at the end of the semester and divided by 625, the total amount of points you can earn. That percentage will then equate to a letter-grade. Averages that end with a decimal of .5 or higher will be rounded up to the next whole number. A grade of FN is given when a student has never attended the class.

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**Student Services and Technical Resources**

**Student Services**
The [ETSU Services webpage](https://www.etsu.edu/student-services) includes a comprehensive list of services available to all ETSU students.

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**
It is the policy of ETSU to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal law, state law and the University’s commitment to equal educational access. Any student with a disability who needs accommodations, for example arrangement for examinations or seating placement, should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Faculty accommodation forms are provided to students through Disability Services in the D.P. Culp Center, Room 326, telephone 423-439-8346. [Visit the Disability Services webpage for more information](https://www.etsu.edu/disability-services).
Technical Resources

Help Desk
The Information Technology Services (ITS) Help Desk is the best resource for most technical problems. Find answers to common questions on the Help Desk website, call, email, or stop in to see them on the first floor of the Sherrod Library. Phone: 423-439-4648  Email: itshelp@etsu.edu

Desire2Learn (D2L) Online Help
Many answers to D2L related questions can be found on the D2L Help Student Home. If you are still having trouble finding what you need, contact the Help Desk.

Microsoft Office Software
Microsoft Office productivity applications, including Word, PowerPoint, Excel, OneNote, and more, are available free for students through the University’s Office 365 campus agreement. For instructions on how to obtain the software, see the Office 365 page of the ITS Help Desk website.

Turnitin Plagiarism Detection
Turnitin is a plagiarism detection service available to students and faculty at ETSU. This tool compares student written work against a comprehensive database of other work as well as various internet sources. Faculty may employ this service for some or all written assignments, in order to help students learn to cite sources accurately and to ensure academic integrity. Learn more on the Turnitin home page.

ETSU Technical Resources
Many other technical resources can be found on the Online Help webpage.

University Information

Syllabus Attachment
The ETSU syllabus attachment includes important material such as permits and overrides, advisement, hours, dates and other ETSU information.

ETSU Catalogs
Current Undergraduate Catalog
Current Graduate Catalog

ETSU Policy on Face Coverings
The ETSU Policy on Face Coverings link includes important information on responsibilities, violations, exemptions, syllabus statement, and visual aids. Students with medical conditions that inhibit their ability to wear masks should register through disability services.