Contact Information
Instructor: Jamie Sproles
Email: sprolesj@etsu.edu
Phone: (423)-439-6522
Office: Campus Center Building, Room 107

Instructor Availability
Email is the best way to reach me outside of posting on the general course questions discussion thread on D2L. I check emails during the day from 8:15 AM until 4:30 PM. Late emails may not receive a response until the next day. Please give 24 hours for response.

I am also available by appointment. Per social distancing, you are welcome to set up a virtual appointment with me using Zoom. I will also hold weekly office meets for you to check in and ask questions about the class and material. An Office Meet Link will be posted in the News Bulletin on D2L.

Online Asynchronous Course Information
All material will be presented and turned in using the D2L platform. We will use video lecture format for lecture and submitting virtual debates. There may virtual class meeting workshop days throughout the semester during our scheduled class meeting time.

Material for each week will be available on Monday at 8 a.m. and all assignments will be due on the set due date per the course schedule by 11:59 PM EST.

For any on-campus activity (another class that may be live)
Please wear a mask or other appropriate face covering to class. Wearing a mask that covers your nose and mouth communicates the care and respect you have for yourself, the care and respect you have for those you live with, and the care and respect you have for other members of this classroom community. The best evidence we have, from public health professionals, is that wearing masks is one of the best ways to protect against the spread of COVID-19 and other airborne illnesses. Students with medical conditions that inhibit their ability to wear masks should register through disability services.
Course Information

Department of Communication and Performance 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.

Credit Hours
This course is worth 3 credit hours.

Course Description and Purpose
An introduction to oral argumentation and debate, including case construction techniques, and case analysis and criticism.

Course Goals
The course aims to teach you to do the following things: (1) Demonstrate verbal and nonverbal communication competencies in listening, message construction, and message presentation; (2) Make responsible communication choices that are mindful of human diversity; (3) Develop critical thinking skills in the decision-making process as well as enhance listening skills; (4) Critically analyze the claims and arguments of other speakers; (5) Evaluate the credibility of evidence; and (6) Analyze and adapt to audience needs, motivations, 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 claims; (4) Respectfully and analytically respond to others’ arguments; (5) Prepare and deliver effective oral presentations.

Major Topics
- Construction of an argument and debate formats
- Conducting debates with civility and respect for all peoples, cultures and points of view
- Claims, reasoning, and evidence
- Proper research and citation ability
- Ethics and public address
- Analyzing and connecting with the audience
- Critical thinking skills
- Debate delivery effectiveness
- Using appropriate language

Recommended Textbooks and Readings
This course will use Outside Educational Resources (OERs) provided by the instructor on D2L.

**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 also be accessing your ETSU email and D2L regularly and will need to create a YouTube account.

**Classroom and Communication Policies**

**Email Communication**
All emails should be sent from your ETSU email address, as stated in ETSU policy. Emails should be professional. *They need to include a greeting, your course and section number, and 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**
Attendance 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 class and responded to feedback after submitting your course contract by the time the reports are due. **Logging into our optional virtual office meets will give you extra credit opportunity. You may receive up to 5 extra credit points if you log into 10 out of our 15 virtual office meets.**

If you have any serious situations happening that will interfere with your attendance this semester, you need to let me know in advance. Please note the late work policy later in the syllabus.

**Departmental Presentation Day Policy**
You are expected to be virtually present on Presentation Days. This means that your presentation is uploaded on the due date and you provide peer evaluation feedback to your classmates’ presentations. The absence policy for those days is as follows:

- Foreseeable absences should be arranged with me in advance. “Foreseeable” includes university-approved absences (athletic obligations) or court dates. These absences must come with proper documentation (e.g. schedule of classes to be missed signed by pertinent 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, necessitated missing class, and for which documentation proving its occurrence can be provided by a professional relevant to the emergency (e.g. emergency room physician).
This policy applies to video submissions of speeches as well. Documentation necessitating an extension for the assignment must be provided to the instructor. See the late work policy in the syllabus.

**All assignments must be submitted to the D2L Dropbox to be checked for originality of work and timeliness. Assignments will not be accepted via email.** Assignments submitted after the due date must be approved for submission to the Dropbox after meeting the requirements of the late work policy.

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**Assignment Descriptions and Submission Guidelines**

**Fact Unit**

**Fact Case Topic: 5 points**
Submit at least three topic ideas written as a fact proposition to the appropriate Discussion Board Thread.

**Fact Case Rough Draft Outline: 10 points**
Submit a rough draft of your speech outline to the appropriate D2L Dropbox. To receive full credit, you should have at minimum an introduction, conclusion, transitions, and the basic ideas for your stock issues written. Use the template on D2L to assist your writing.

**Fact Case Final Draft Outline: 25 points**
Submit a final draft of your speech outline to the appropriate D2L Dropbox. To receive full credit, you should have at minimum an introduction, conclusion, transitions, and the complete sentences for your stock issues. You will also include four sources that you plan to cite verbally in your debate. These sources should be cited parenthetically in your outline stock issues and should include a works cited page. It should be evident that you have responded to instructor feedback on the rough draft. Use the template on D2L and the feedback provided to you in the rough draft to assist your writing.

**Fact Case Speech: 75 points**
Using the feedback from your rough draft, construct a final draft of your speech and rehearse it. Your speech will be 5-6 minutes long and will verbally cite four sources. It must be posted to YouTube and the link must be submitted to the appropriate D2L Dropbox. You will be graded on speech organization (intro, body, conclusion), stock issues for a fact debate, source citation, and professional delivery in your video. Further details will be provided on D2L. When submitting your speech, you will attach a link to a class Discussion so classmates can review your speech.

**Fact Peer Evaluations: 10 points**
Using the peer evaluation form provided on D2L, you will view and critique 5 of your classmate’s fact debates found on the discussion board. You are to write constructive criticism and helpful commentary on each item found on the peer evaluation form. To get full credit, you must write useful comments to help your classmates’ continuous improvement in debate skill while showing your ability to evaluate effective argumentation. You will post your peer evaluation form in the
discussion board under the video you have critiqued. You will get two points (to reach a total of 10 points on this assignment) for each peer evaluation you complete.

**Value Unit**

**Value Case Topic: 5 points**
Submit at least three topic ideas written as a value proposition to the appropriate D2L Dropbox.

**Value Case Rough Draft Outline: 10 points**
Submit a rough draft of your speech outline to the appropriate D2L Dropbox. To receive full credit, you should have at minimum an introduction, conclusion, transitions, and the basic ideas for your stock issues written. Use the template on D2L to assist your writing.

**Value Case Final Draft Outline: 25 points**
Submit a final draft of your speech outline to the appropriate D2L Dropbox. To receive full credit, you should have at minimum an introduction, conclusion, transitions, and the complete sentences for your stock issues. You will also include four sources that you plan to cite verbally in your debate. These sources should be cited parenthetically in your outline stock issues and should include a works cited page. It should be evident that you have responded to instructor feedback on the rough draft. Use the template on D2L and the feedback provided to you in the rough draft to assist your writing.

**Value Case Speech: 85 points**
Using the feedback from your rough draft, construct a final draft of your speech and rehearse it. Your speech will be 5-6 minutes long and will verbally cite four sources. It must be posted to YouTube and the link must be submitted to the appropriate D2L Dropbox. You will be graded on speech organization (intro, body, conclusion), stock issues for a value debate, source citation, and professional delivery in your video. Further details will be provided on D2L. When submitting your speech, you will attach a link to a class Discussion so classmates can review your speech.

**Value Peer Evaluations: 10 points**
Using the peer evaluation form provided on d2l, you will view and critique 5 of your classmate’s fact debates found on the discussion board. You are to write constructive criticism and helpful commentary on each item found on the peer evaluation form. To get full credit, you must write useful comments to help your classmates’ continuous improvement in debate skill while showing your ability to evaluate effective argumentation. You will post your peer evaluation form in the discussion board under the video you have critiqued. You will get two points (to reach a total of 10 points on this assignment) for each peer evaluation you complete.

**Policy Unit**

**Policy Debate Rough Draft Outline: 5 points**
You will submit a rough draft of your opening policy case to the appropriate D2L Dropbox. At a minimum, you should have an introduction, conclusion, transitions, and the basic ideas for your stock issues written. Use the template on D2L to assist your writing.

**Policy Debate Final Draft Outline: 30 points**

**Policy Debate: 100 points (70 points for advocate/30 points for opposition)**

There are two steps to completing this assignment:

1. Using the feedback from your rough draft, construct a final draft of your speech and rehearse it. Your speech will be 5-6 minutes long and will verbally cite five sources. It must be posted to YouTube and the link must be submitted to the appropriate D2L Dropbox. You will be graded on speech organization (intro, body, conclusion), stock issues for a policy debate, source citation, and professional delivery in your video. Further details will be provided on D2L. When submitting your speech, you will attach a link to a class Discussion so classmates can review and respond to your speech.

2. Second, you will be assigned to oppose a partner’s advocate policy debate. You will first go to the discussion board and find/view your partners advocate policy debate. You will then create and submit a debate 2 to 3 minute debate that opposes their advocate policy using refutation skill. Sources are not required for your oppositional response to your partners advocate debate. You will post your opposition response video to the dropbox and to your partner’s video on the Discussion Board. Similarly, you will have someone viewing and opposing your advocate policy debate. If your assigned partner does not submit an advocate debate, you will provide a 2-3 minute opposition of your own advocate policy debate.

**Further Graded Assignments**

**Course Reflection: 20 points**

You will write and submit to the dropbox a 1 page single spaced reflection of your debate skill at the end of our semester. Some topics you may choose to include are “what did you get out of this course,” “in what way will you use your debate skills outside of class,” “how did you grow as a debater or public speaker,” “how do you see debate skill used in other platforms in the world” (politics, media, personal relationships, news, education, etc.).

**Exams: 120 points**

There will be three exams this semester. These exams will be worth a total of 40 points each.

**Testing Policy**

All tests will be completed on D2L. They will be available for the week they are due. Once you open the exam, you will have one hour to complete it. You will only receive one attempt at each test.

The tests cover the following chapters:

- **Quiz 1:** Chapters 1, 10, 4, 5, & 6 (Argument & Claims, Persuasive, Evidence & Reasoning)
- **Quiz 2:** Chapters 7, 8 (Fact and Value Stock Issues, Propositions, Delivery, Source Citation, Organization)
• **Test 3:** Comprehensive from Tests 1 & 2 + Refutation and Policy Stock Issues

**Online Assignments: 65 points**
The following assignments are due on the designated due dates by 11:59 PM in the appropriate D2L Dropbox. They are meant to help you build your argumentation skills and are very important towards your understanding of the course material.

- **Plagiarism Module (10 points):** On D2L, there is a PDF file in the Content folder titled “How to Cite Sources.” Before your first major speech (Fact), you will need to read that file and take a Citation and Plagiarism Skills Assessment, which can be found in the Assessment folder of our D2L page. **You must score 100% on the module.** You will be allowed multiple attempts. You will not get the points for this assignment unless you earn 100% before your Fact Speech is turned in.

- **Identify Claims (10 points):** I will provide you with a list of claims. Download the document, and identify whether the claims are fact, value or policy. You must also identify what makes it one of the three. Turn it into D2L Dropbox.

- **Properly Citing Sources (10 points):** You will be provided with a link to a news article and a set of questions about three ways to cite that source. You should type in the document a citation for each as you would write in your outline and say it in your speech. Turn it into the D2L Dropbox.

- **Creating Arguments (10 points):** For each proposition, create a complete argument with a claim, reasoning, and a piece of evidence. Cite your source as you would in a speech verbally. Turn it into D2L Dropbox.

- **Discussion Board Posts (25 points):** In the “Discussion Board” on D2L will be five discussion prompts during the semester. You must post an original post to the thread and respond at least two times to your classmates to get full credit, either on their post or on their comments to your original post. Only thorough responses written with complete sentences, correct grammar, and course content applied to the discussion prompt will be eligible for full credit!

**Late and Missing Submission Policy**

1. Electronic problems do not count as an excuse for missing an assignment deadline.
2. All assignments are subject to the following policy:
   a. They must be turned in by the designated date to receive full credit if agreed upon an extension from the instructor.
   b. Anything turned in the day after it is due will receive a maximum of half-credit.
   c. Work turned in after that deadline will receive 0 points.
3. Extenuating circumstances (i.e. serious illness, family emergency, etc.) for not submitting an assignment on-time will be considered by the instructor if you complete the following procedures:
   a. Email the instructor at a **minimum of 24 hours prior** to a deadline, informing her of your emergency.
   b. Provide any documentation to assist in verifying your emergency (i.e. obituaries, doctor’s notes, etc.).
c. 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.

(4) All assignments must be submitted to the D2L Dropbox to be checked for originality of work and timeliness. Assignments will not be accepted via email. Assignments submitted after the due date must be approved for submission to the Dropbox after meeting the requirements of the late work policy.

Academic Misconduct
Plagiarism, misrepresentation, fabrication, and/or cheating are not tolerated at any academic institution. This class is no exception. Any such infraction will result in an automatic 0/F on the assignment, as well as a report to the Dean’s Office. You can read more about ETSU’s Academic Misconduct Policy here.

Grading Policy
Your points will be added at the end of the semester and divided by 600, 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.

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A grade of FN applies when zero attendance is involved.
Student Services and Technical Resources

Student Services
The ETSU Services webpage 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.

Counseling Services
If you find yourself feeling weary, anxious, overwhelmed, or depressed during the semester, I highly encourage you to contact the Counseling Center. They can provide you with a variety of helpful options. Call them at (423)-439-3333, or visit their website.

Undergraduate Student Success Specialist
The USSS office can assist you in many of the stresses of being a student. They can direct you to many of our campus resources. Call them at (423)-439-5641, or visit their website for more information.

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

Inclement Weather Policy
In the instance of inclement weather, we will follow university protocol. I will email you to let you know our class plans. You are responsible for checking your ETSU email and following through with those plans.

Course Agenda

Week 1
Lecture: Syllabus and course overview
- Assignment: Submit course contract in Dropbox on 8/24 by 11:59 pm
- Assignment: Discussion board Introductions Discussion Post #1 by 8/24
Lecture: Ch. 1 Argumentation and Critical Thought

Week 2
Lecture: Ch. 10: Persuasion
- Assignment: Discussion #2 by 11:59 pm on 8/31
Lecture: Ch. 4: Claims
- Assignment: Discussion #3 by 11:59 pm on 9/2

Week 3
Lecture: Ch. 5: Evidence
- Assignment: Plagiarism Module Assignment in Assessments due by 11:59 pm on 9/7
- Assignment: Properly Citing Sources Module Assignment due in Dropbox by 11:59 pm on 9/7
  Lecture: Ch. 6: Reasoning
  Lecture: Ch. 7: Approaching Propositions
  - Assignment: Quiz #1 in Assessments over chapters 1, 10, 4, 5, 6 on D2L due by 11:59 pm on 9/9

Week 4
- Assignment: Identify Claims Assignment due in Dropbox by 11:59 pm on 9/14
  Lecture: Ch. 8: Arguing about Facts and Case Construction/Fact Debate Activities
  - Assignment: Creating Arguments Assignment due in Dropbox by 11:59 pm on 9/16

Week 5
- Assignment: Fact Proposition on Discussion Board due on 9/21
- Assignment: Discussion #4 due on 9/21 by 11:59 pm
  Lecture: Delivery/Intro & Conclusion Organization
  - Assignment: Quiz #2 over chapters 7, 8, Delivery in Assessments due by 11:59 pm on 9/23

Week 6
- Assignment: Advocate Fact Outline Rough Draft due in Dropbox by 11:59 pm on 9/27*** this is due on a Monday to ensure plenty of time to get feedback to you before submitting the final outline draft
- Assignment: Advocate Fact Outline Final Draft due in Dropbox by 11:59 pm on 9/30

Week 7
- Assignment: Fact Debate due in Dropbox and on Discussion Board by 11:59 pm on 10/5
- Assignment: Fact Peer Evaluations due on Discussion board by 11:59 pm on 10/7

Week 8
  Ch. 8: Arguing about Values/Value Debate Activities
  - Assignment: Value Proposition on Discussion Board due on 10/14 by 11:59 pm

Week 9
- **Assignment: Advocate Value Outline Rough Draft due in Dropbox on 10/18 by 11:59 pm*** this is due on a Monday to ensure plenty of time to get feedback to you before submitting the final outline draft.

- **Assignment: Advocate Value Outline Final Draft due in Dropbox on 10/21 by 11:59 pm**

**Week 10**

- **Assignment: Value Debate due in Dropbox and on Discussion Board on 10/26 by 11:59 pm**
- **Assignment: Value Peer Evaluations due Discussion Board on 10/28 by 11:59 pm**

**Week 11**

*Lecture: Ch. 9: Refutation*

- **Assignment: Role of the Opposition Discussion #5 due by 11:59 pm on 11/4**

**Week 12**

*Lecture: Ch. 8: Arguing about Policies*

- **Assignment: Policy Rough Draft Outline Due in Dropbox on 11/8 by 11:59 pm***this is due on a Monday to ensure plenty of time to get feedback to you before submitting the debate.

- **Assignment: Policy Final Draft Outline Due in Dropbox on 11/10 by 11:59 pm**

**Week 13**

- **Assignment: Policy Advocate Debate Due in Dropbox and on Discussion Board 11/16 by 11:59 pm**

**Week 14**

- **Assignment: Policy Opposition Debate Due in Dropbox and on Discussion Board by 11/23 by 11:59 pm**

**Week 15**
- Assignment: Course Reflection due in Dropbox on 11/30 by 11:59 pm
- Assignment: Final Exam in Assessments due on 12/6 by 11:59 pm

**This schedule is tentative and subject to change at the discretion of the instructor based on the forward progression of the class and university policies and decisions based on semester scheduling.**