Syllabus

Contact Information
Instructor: Dallas Honeycutt
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Office: Campus Center Building, Room 104

Instructor Availability
As with almost all things, COVID-19 has altered how we conduct ourselves in professional settings. Some of my work will be from home and some will be in my office in the Campus Center Building, room 104. In order to accommodate your time and comfort level with COVID, I will be asking that all office hours be on request through Zoom. Anyone that wishes to meet will need to make a request through my official ETSU email. I will reply and coordinate a date and time to meet on zoom. As an alternative, you are also welcome to email me with any issues you may be having and we can discuss it that way as well.

Meetings and Location
Location: Virtual, via Zoom. A link will be posted to D2L for each meeting.
Class Meeting Schedule: See schedule for dates/times of meetings.

Online Course Information
All material will be presented and turned in using the D2L platform. You will need to use Zoom to complete synchronous class meetings and speaking assignments. You should have a Zoom account through ETSU and can access it on D2L.

All material will be available on a week-to-week basis. The course is not self-paced, and assignments will be due on designated dates.

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.

**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 Information**

**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**
This course will focus on basic argument building, crafting formal argumentation speeches, presenting ideas in opposition to others, and effective listening and critiquing of others’ arguments.
Course Requirements

Textbooks and Readings
The textbook for this class is **FREE**! It is an Open Educational Resource (OER), called “Arguing Using Critical Thinking” by Jim Marteney. It can be accessed at [this link](#).

We will also be using supplemental readings and videos during the semester. All materials will be provided to you 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 know how to work your Zoom account.

Course Policies and Expectations

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. Please check spelling and grammar prior to sending your message. Give me 24 hours to respond to your original email. If I have not responded after that time frame, please email me again. I check email from 8:15 AM-4:30 PM during the work week and periodically on the weekends. Emails sent outside of that time frame will be tended to the next business day.

Diversity in the Classroom
I and this class environment recognize and affirm the importance of diversity. You will be interacting with people who have different thoughts, beliefs, and backgrounds than you. It is expected that you be respectful of these differences and that you truly listen to your classmates. Discrimination based on race, ethnicity, sex, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and other identities will not be tolerated.

If you experience any discrimination in this class at the hands of a classmate, please let me know. I am here to listen to and support you.

Attendance and Participation
Attendance in this class is important. You are expected to check D2L regularly and complete your assignments on-time. You are also expected to attend our virtual class meetings to further your learning and communication/connection with me and your classmates. If you have any serious situations happening that will interfere with your attendance this semester, let me know in advance.

If you miss more than three classes, we will set up an appointment to discuss your course progress to help ensure your success in the class.
Departmental Presentation Day Policy
It is always preferred that arrangements are made in advance if you will not be in class for a presentation. That said, you will only be allowed to make up a missed presentation if the absence was unforeseeable, unpreventable, and urgent in nature. You must document the absence with the instructor within 24 hours of the absence.

This includes virtual attendance. You will be assigned a day to attend a Zoom meeting and perform your speech. If you aren’t able to attend that meeting due to the above unforeseen circumstances, you will need to follow the above policy.

Group Work Policy
When working with a group for the group project, it is critical that you participate so you and the group can be successful. If you are experiencing difficulties with a member of your group (i.e. not hearing back from them, no effort in helping create the speeches/projects, etc.), *your team may choose to fire the problematic team member at least 4 full days before your assignment is due.*

Telling me about difficulties later than that or after the assignment has been done is not helpful and will not result in any action being taken.

If you decide to fire a team member, the following action must be taken:

1. You must provide me with evidence of the team member’s lack of participation (i.e. unanswered emails, text messages, group chats, etc.). Evidence should come from a series of events (i.e. missing one meeting, not responding to one message, having a circumstance that limits participation such as illness/death in the family/etc. is not sufficient enough for firing someone). You must document what events have happened leading to the group’s decision to fire the team member (i.e. meetings unattended, unanswered emails and other communications, etc.) and turn that into me.

2. If I deem the evidence to be sufficient for firing, you will contact the team member (copy me on the email), present the evidence to them, and let them know the group has chosen to fire them.

Any fired team members will have to coordinate with me with how they intend to complete the assignment. It is the fired team member’s responsibility to set up this alternative. I will not reach out/contact them to set it up. Long story short, be a good team member and work well together.

Testing Policy
All tests will be taken on D2L. They will be open for the duration of the week (Monday-Sunday) and will close at 11:59 PM on the Sunday they are due. Once opened, you will have one hour to complete the test. You will have one attempt to complete the test. Being that the tests will be open for such a long period of time, there will be no excuses accepted for not completing them in the time given. If you wait until the last minute to perform the test and run into issues, there will be nothing I can do for you. My suggestion is to take the tests early enough that you can respond to any issues that could come up.

Late and Missing Submission Policy
As a student, one of your primary responsibilities is to make sure you are handing your work in on time. As an online class, this responsibility is amplified, meaning that it will be even more important to stay aware of due dates and getting your work submitted on time. As a result, no late work is accepted in this class.
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.

Assignments and Submission Guidelines

Fact Case Topic: 5 points
You and your partner will be assigned a group D2L Dropbox. Together, you should brainstorm and determine at least three topic ideas written as a fact proposition. One person from the group should submit them to the appropriate D2L Dropbox. You will both receive the same points for this assignment.

Fact Case Rough Draft Outline: 15 points
Individually, 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 Speech: 100 points
Using the feedback from your rough draft, construct a final draft of your speech and rehearse it. You and your partner will coordinate a time to host a Zoom meeting and do your fact debate. The format of the debate will be posted to D2L. Your individual speech in the debate will be 5-6 minutes long and will verbally cite four sources. Once the Zoom debate is over, the host of the meeting must submit the link of the meeting to the D2L Dropbox. One submission for both members will work. A prepared outline of your individual speech and a works cited page of your sources in APA format should also be submitted to the appropriate D2L Dropbox. Further details will be provided on D2L.

- Speech: 70 points
- Outline: 20 points
- Works Cited: 10 points

Value Case Topic: 5 points
You and your partner will be assigned a group D2L Dropbox. Together, you should brainstorm and determine at least three topic ideas written as a value proposition. One person from the group should submit them to the appropriate D2L Dropbox. You will both receive the same points for this assignment.

Value Case Rough Draft Outline: 15 points
Individually, 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 Speech: 100 points
Using the feedback from your rough draft, construct a final draft of your speech and rehearse it. You and your partner will coordinate a time to host a Zoom meeting and do your value debate. The format of the debate will be posted to D2L. Your individual speech in the debate will be 5-6 minutes long and will verbally cite four sources. Once the Zoom debate is over, the host of the meeting must submit the link of the meeting to the D2L Dropbox. One submission for both members will work. A
prepared outline of your individual speech and a works cited page of your sources in APA format should also be submitted to the appropriate D2L Dropbox. Further details will be provided on D2L.

- Speech: 70 points
- Outline: 20 points
- Works Cited: 10 points

**Team Debate Topic: 5 points**
You and your debate group will be assigned a group D2L Dropbox. Together, you should brainstorm and determine at least three topic ideas written as a value proposition. One person from the group should submit them to the appropriate D2L Dropbox. You will all receive the same points for this assignment.

**Team Debate Rough Draft Outline: 15 points**
One member of your team will submit a rough draft of your team’s 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. Your group will receive the same points for this assignment.

**Team Debate: 150 points**
Two teams (each consisting of 2-3 people) will argue the advocate and opponent sides of a policy case. The team debate will be completed using Zoom. Both teams will coordinate a time and date to have the debate. Each team must build a case together, verbally citing 3 sources. The debate will follow the format of NPDA (Parliamentary Debate). Each debate will be graded as a group (the advocate and opponent teams will receive separate grades). Once the debate is completed, the host of the meeting will submit the link to the meeting to the appropriate D2L Dropbox.

Each team will submit to me an outline and works cited page in APA format. Detailed information will be given in class and posted on D2L.

- Debate: 100 points
- Outline: 40 points
- Works Cited: 10 points

**Peer Ballots: 30 points**
You will complete a debate ballot of a classmate’s speech using the form provided on D2L. Debate ballots are used to assess and judge a debate, providing feedback to the debaters. When submitting your debate, you will also attach the link to a class Discussion Board so classmates can review your speech.

You will watch a debate in our virtual meeting, complete the peer ballot, and then submit it to the Discussion Board. All parts of the form must be completed and thoroughly answered to receive full credit.

All peer ballots are worth 15 points each.

**Tests: 150 points**
There will be three tests this semester. These exams will be worth a total of 50 points each.

The tests cover the following chapters:
• **Test 1**: Chapters 1, 4, 5, & 6 (Argument & Claims, Evidence & Reasoning)
• **Test 2**: Chapters 3, 7, 8, 10, & 11 (Fact and Value, Responsibility and Fallacies)
• **Test 3**: Chapters 2, 3, 11, 8, 9, & 7 (Culture and Ethics, Co-Orientation, & Policy)

**Online Assignments: 10 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 template in the Content folder listed “Citations and Plagiarism”. There is a PDF file in that template titled, “Training Presentation-PDF”. 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 80% or higher on the module.** You will be allowed multiple attempts. You will not get the points for this assignment unless you earn 80% or higher before your Fact Speech is turned in.
• **Syllabus Contract (5 points extra credit)**: Virtually sign (or sign by-hand and scan to the computer) the syllabus contract after reviewing the syllabus and course materials on the first day of class. Submit to the D2L Dropbox.

**Extra Credit**
Extra credit may or may not be offered over the course of the semester. Any extra credit opportunities will have deadlines and will add points to your final point total, not your final average.

**Grading Policy**
A = 93-100; A- = 90-92; B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82; C+ = 77-79; C = 73-76; C- = 70-72; D+ = 67-69; D = 65-66; F = 0-64

**Student Services and Technical Resources**

**Student Services**
The [ETSU Services webpage](http://example.com) 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](http://example.com).

**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. In the case of snow days, I may upload an audio/video lecture to D2L to avoid changing our class schedule. You are responsible for listening to the content of that lecture.