



EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY

COMM 2055
ARGUMENTATION AND DEBATE
FALL 2021 SYLLABUS

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 the stories we are told.

Instructor: Donna Paulsen

Email: paulsend@etsu.edu

Office Hours: I will be working from home on Tuesday and Thursday. To set up a virtual appointment, please send an e-mail to your instructor to request a meeting. Your email should include 1) your name, 2) class and section number, 3) the reason for the appointment, and 4) your availability. I will schedule a Zoom meeting and e-mail you the Zoom meeting id.

*I check my e-mail several times every day between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday – Friday.
If you e-mail me outside this time frame, please do not expect a reply until the following
weekday.*

Course Textbook:

We are using an Open Educational text for this course. This means the reading material for this course is 100% free! You will be provided with a link to access the text on D2L. The book is: *Arguing Using Critical Thinking* (Martene, J).

Required Technology

- Reliable internet access to D2L and your ETSU email account.
- Microsoft Word and Adobe Acrobat (PDF Reader)

COURSE PURPOSE

This course introduces oral argumentation and debate, including case construction techniques, case analysis, and criticism.

COURSE GOALS

- Develop critical thinking skills
- Use logic and reasoning
- Learn, hone, and apply research skills
- Create valid arguments

- Respectfully and analytically respond to others' arguments
- Prepare and deliver effective oral presentations

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course you should be able to:

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

UNIVERSITY POLICY LINKS

[ETSU Syllabus Attachment](#)

[ETSU Disability Services Syllabus Statement](#)

[ETSU Academic Misconduct Policy](#)

[ETSU Policy on Face Coverings](#)

COURSE POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Attendance

This entire course will be conducted in person, on ground at ETSU main campus. I anticipate your attendance in every class (see course agenda), although you are allowed three absences for any reason. Your final grade will be dropped by 5 points for each absence over three. You will also need to check D2L regularly (2-3 times a week), complete, and submit papers, quizzes, and other assignments on time.

Class Communication

Outside of class, your instructor will communicate with you primarily on D2L. Regularly check the news feed under Course Home for updates and reminders about upcoming assignments.

Class Content

The course material will be presented through a combination of lectures, reading assignments, and class activities. Your completion of assignments and participation in class will be critical to your success in this class. Quizzes and other assignments will be submitted on D2L.

Learning Platforms

This course will require the use of two interactive internet applications.

- D2L - Check your account regularly. You will use this platform to take lecture quizzes and submit your assignments.
- Zoom - You will use this application for individual meetings with your instructor.

E-Mailing Your Instructor

In all of your communication with me please include 1) your name, 2) class and section number, and 3) a clearly stated question or request. If I have to reply with one or more clarifying questions, it could delay you receiving an answer. Always allow one full business day for me to

reply and feel free to politely follow up if two business days have passed without hearing from me.

Technology Trouble?

It is your responsibility to insure that your assignments are submitted by the posted deadline. Technical difficulties will not serve as an excuse for late or missed assignments. Responsibly plan ahead so that if you do have any trouble navigating the technology necessary for completing assignments, you will still have time to ask for help. For quick assistance with D2L go to:

[Student D2L Resource Website](#)

Late Work Policy

Your assignments are due by the date and time listed. It is the student's responsibility to check (and double check) deadlines and plan accordingly. I do not accept late work. There will not be make-up work or extra credit assignments offered. A deadline extension can only be granted to students who are able to provide documentation for an extenuating circumstance.

Missed Presentation

You will only be allowed to make-up a missed presentation if your absence was unforeseeable, unpreventable, or urgent in nature and necessitated missing class. In any case, contacting your instructor in advance of your absence is preferred. If you are unable to contact your instructor before your absence you must document the event with your instructor within 24 hours of the missed class if you want to reschedule your presentation.

Grievance Policy

If you have a concern or complaint about this course, please follow the following instructions:

Step 1: Discuss the matter with the course instructor.

Talk with your course instructor about your concern. If your concern is unsatisfactorily addressed by your instructor, you can then move on to Step 2.

Step 2: Discuss the matter with the Department Chair.

After you have attempted to work with your instructor, and a satisfactory resolution has not occurred, you can 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 will identify for you.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Assignment	Rough % of Final Grade	Point Value
Introduction Speech	2%	10
Fact Speech Topic	3%	20
Fact Speech Outline	5%	30
Fact Speech	10%	70
Fact Peer Evaluations (2)	5%	30
Value Speech Topic	3%	20
Value Speech Outline	5%	30
Value Speech	10%	70
Value Peer Evaluations (2)	5%	30
Value Speech Self-Evaluation Paper	8%	50
Policy Debate Topic	3%	20
Policy Debate Speech Outline	5%	30
Policy Debate	12%	75
Peer Contribution Form	2%	10
Quizzes (5)	23%	150
Total Possible Points		645

Letter Grade	Percentage	Points Achieved
A	100 - 93	645-600
A-	92 - 90	599-581
B+	89 - 88	580-568
B	87 - 83	567-536
B-	82 - 80	535-516
C+	79 - 78	515-504
C	77 - 73	503-471
C-	72 - 70	470-452
D+	69 - 68	451-439
D	67 - 60	438-387
F	59 - 0	386-0

ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

Introduction Speech (10 points)
You will be asked to prepare and deliver a 1-2 minute speech introducing yourself to the class and answering the question prompts provided by your instructor.
Fact Speech Assignments (150 points)
Fact Speech Topic (20 points) You will be asked to submit two speech topics written as fact propositions for instructor approval.

Fact Speech Outline (30 points)

On the same day you deliver your speech, you will be asked to submit a final draft of your speech outline, including references in APA format.

Fact Speech (70 points)

You will develop, research, and deliver a fact speech. Prior to giving this speech, you will submit and receive instructor feedback on your topic selection and outline. This speech will be 4-5 minutes long and must include verbal citations of 3-4 reliable sources. Details of how the speech will be graded will be provided to you in advance.

Fact Speech Peer Evaluations (30 points)

You will be asked to complete an evaluation form for two of your classmate's fact speeches.

Value Speech Assignments (200 points)

Value Speech Topic (20 points)

You will be asked to submit two speech topics written as value propositions for instructor approval.

Value Speech Outline (30 points)

On the same day you deliver your speech, you will be asked to submit a final draft of your speech outline, including references in APA format.

Value Speech (70 points)

You will develop, research, and deliver a value speech. This speech should demonstrate the implementation of instructor and peer feedback following the fact speech assignment. Prior to delivering this speech, you will submit and receive instructor feedback on your topic selection and outline. This speech will be 4-5 minutes long and must include verbal citations of 4-5 reliable sources. Details of how this speech will be graded will be provided to you in advance.

Value Speech Peer Evaluation (30 points)

You will be asked to complete an evaluation form for two of your classmate's value speeches.

Value Speech Self-Evaluation (50 points)

You will be asked to write a 1-2 page reflective paper on your experience developing and delivering the value speech.

Policy Debate (135 points)

Policy Debate Topic Submission (20 points)

You will be asked to confer with your assigned debate partner and opposing team on potential debate topics. Each group member will contribute one of four potential debate topics for instructor approval.

Policy Debate Outline (30 points)

You and your debate partner team will be asked to submit one copy of the final draft of your case outline, including references in APA format.

Policy Debate (75 points)

You will participate in a live debate. You and your debate partner will present and argue your case, engage in a cross examination of the opposing team's arguments, and provide a rebuttal to the opposing team's examination of your case. Details of how this assignment will be graded will be provided to you in advance.

Peer Contribution Form (10 points)

You will be asked to complete a confidential short report that summarizes your debate partner's contribution to your debate preparation.

Lecture Quizzes (150 points)

You will be asked to complete a total of five quizzes on D2L. Quizzes will remain open until midnight on the day they are scheduled and will allow for two attempts, with the highest grade achieved being the one assigned. Failure to complete a quiz before the deadline will result in an automatic zero.

COMM 2055 Argumentation and Debate
Fall 2021
Course Schedule

Week	Date	Lecture / Class Content	Assignments Due <i>All paper and outline submissions to Dropbox on D2L unless otherwise noted.</i>
1	Aug 23	Introduction to Course Syllabus Overview	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Syllabus
	Aug 25	Argumentation and Critical Thinking	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Chapters 1, 8
	Aug 27	Introduction Speeches	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduction Speech
2	Aug 30	Communication 101	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Chapter 2
	Sept 1	Nonverbal Communication	
	Sept 3	Language and Culture	<input type="checkbox"/> Quiz #1 (D2L)
3	Sept 6	LABOR DAY	
	Sept 8	Making Claims Collecting Evidence	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Chapters 4, 6, 7
	Sept 10	Reasoning and Fallacies	<input type="checkbox"/> Quiz #2 (D2L)
4	Sept 13	Fact Speech Assignment Performance Assessment Form Review Topic Brainstorm	
	Sept 15	Speech Organization	
	Sept 17	Speech Delivery	<input type="checkbox"/> Fact Speech Topic due
5	Sept 20	Fact Speech Workshop Definitions / Threshold	<input type="checkbox"/> Bring speech outline to class
	Sept 22	Fact Speech Workshop Signposts / Transitions	<input type="checkbox"/> Bring speech outline to class
	Sept 24	Fact Speech Workshop Verbal Citations	<input type="checkbox"/> Bring speech outline to class <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz #3 (D2L)

OFFICIAL SYLLABUS WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE COURSE

6	Sept 27	Fact Speeches (1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19)	<input type="checkbox"/> Fact Speech Outline due <input type="checkbox"/> Peer Evaluations (in class)
	Sept 29	Fact Speeches (2, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20)	<input type="checkbox"/> Fact Speech Outline due <input type="checkbox"/> Peer Evaluations (in class)
	Oct 1	Fact Speeches (3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18)	<input type="checkbox"/> Fact Speech Outline due <input type="checkbox"/> Peer Evaluations (in class)
7	Oct 4	The Value Speech Assignment	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Chapters 5, 9, 10, 11
	Oct 6	Persuasive Strategies	
	Oct 8	Effective Listening	<input type="checkbox"/> Value Speech Topic due <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz #4 (D2L)
8	Oct 11	FALL BREAK	
	Oct 13	Refutation	<input type="checkbox"/> Read Chapter 3
	Oct 15	Cross Examination & Rebuttal	
9	Oct 18	Value Speech Workshop (Day 1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Bring speech outline to class (D1)
	Oct 20	Value Speech Workshop (Day 2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Bring speech outline to class (D2)
	Oct 22	Value Speech Workshop (Day 3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Bring speech outline to class (D3)
10	Oct 25	Value Speeches (3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18)	<input type="checkbox"/> Value Speech Outline due <input type="checkbox"/> Peer Evaluations (in class)
	Oct 27	Value Speeches (4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19, 1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Value Speech Outline due <input type="checkbox"/> Peer Evaluations (in class)
	Oct 29	Value Speeches (5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Value Speech Outline due <input type="checkbox"/> Peer Evaluations (in class) <input type="checkbox"/> Value Speech Self-Evaluation Paper (submit to Dropbox by 10/31)
11	Nov 1	Introduction to Policy Debate Policy Debate Groups Assigned	
	Nov 3	Debate Topic Research	
	Nov 5	Debate Protocol	<input type="checkbox"/> Debate Topic Assignment due <input type="checkbox"/> Quiz #5 (D2L)

OFFICIAL SYLLABUS WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE COURSE

12	Nov 8	Debate Writing Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/> Bring speech outline to class
	Nov 10	Debate Writing Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/> Bring speech outline to class
	Nov 12	Debate Writing Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/> Bring speech outline to class
13	Nov 15	Practice Debates	
	Nov 17	Practice Debates	
	Nov 19	Practice Debates	
14	Nov 22		
	Nov 24	THANKSGIVING BREAK	
	Nov 26	THANKSGIVING BREAK	
15	Nov 29	Policy Debates (Groups 1 & 2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy Speech Outline due (1, 2)
	Dec 1	Policy Debate (Groups 3 & 4)	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy Speech Outline due (3, 4)
	Dec 3	Policy Debate (Group 5)	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy Speech Outline due (5) <input type="checkbox"/> Peer Contribution Form due
Finals Week	TBA		