

West Los Angeles College, Fall 2014

COM ST 104 [Argumentation], UC:CSU, 3 units

Section #1875, Time: 9:35a-11:00a TTh, Room: CE 205

Course Description: This class is a critical thinking course, which develops decision-making skills by researching, analyzing, and debating both sides of major issues.

Instructor: McNamara, CV **Office:** #GC 20Q **Thursdays:** 11:15a-11:45a

Email: mcnamacv@wlac.edu

Required Text: Hollihan, Thomas A. and Baaske, Kevin T. *Arguments and Arguing: The Products and Process of Argumentation*. 2nd Ed. Long Grove, IL: Waveland, 2005. [This textbook can be rented through the campus bookstore]

Institutional Student Learning Outcomes

“A. Critical Thinking: Analyze problems by differentiating fact from opinion, using evidence, and using sound reasoning to specify multiple solutions and their consequences.”

- In formal speeches and class discussions, analyze ideas.

“B. Communication: Effectively communicate thought in a well-organized manner to persuade, inform and convey ideas in academic, work, family and community settings.”

- In formal speeches and class exercises, present information and argue points of view. Example: Students will prepare and deliver a 5-8 minute persuasive speech using 2-4 credible sources.

Communication Studies Program Outcomes

- Plan speeches that have a clear purpose to inform, to debate, to persuade or to resolve conflict.
- Apply critical thinking to formulate speeches and in assisting audiences in understanding.
- Employ voice projection, enunciation, pacing, eye contact and other effective delivery strategies.
- Script a speech

SLO #1: Students are able to define and analyze the Toulmin Model of Argument

- The Toulmin Model is based on crafting an argument using sound reasoning strategies.
- The model is a useful tool for understanding the components of a sound argument.
- Assessment Tool: Short answer quiz 25 points

SLO #2: At the end of the course the successful student will be able to prepare and deliver a 5-8 minute speech in support of a stated position with appropriate eye contact and volume and 2-4 credible sources.

- Assessment Tool: a debate/argumentation speech

Graded Work

1. Oral Presentations

Quote 'Agree/Disagree'	10 points
Storytelling [Change]	10 points
Debate Pro/Con	10 points

2. Written Assignments

Storytelling – use standard format	5 points
Debate Brief - [8 reasons for each side] [MLA]	5 points

3. Examinations [scantron #882]

Quiz	25 points
Final	25 points

4. Attendance/Participation 10 points

Total Points **100 points**

Grading Criteria

Final grades are calculated according to the following percentages:

90% and up = A, 80-89%=B, 70-79%=C, 60-69%=D, below 60%=F

Attendance/Participation

Students are expected to come to class on time *having already read the assigned readings*, participate in class discussions, and show courtesy to all class participants.

To Receive maximum points for attendance/participation students must have completed all assignments in a timely manner [in addition] to missing a maximum of 2 classes.

Academic Honesty

All students are responsible for understanding and following campus policies of academic honesty. West Los Angeles College is committed to the highest standards of academic excellence and ethical support. Academic Dishonesty will not be tolerated. The policies, procedures, and guidelines provided by the college will be assiduously upheld. They protect your rights, as well as those of the faculty.

It is particularly important that you are aware of and avoid plagiarism, cheating on exams, fabricating data for a project, submitting a paper to more than one professor, or submitting a paper authored by anyone but yourself. If you have doubts about any of these practices, confer with a faculty member.

Students violating standards of academic honesty will be penalized by a failing grade in the course and/or college disciplinary action.

Assignments

All written work submitted for credit must be typed, proofread, and professional looking. Covers are not recommended. The documentation system followed in the papers must adhere to the official MLA style.

Late work will not be accepted without prior instructor approval.

All material submitted for grading must be the effort of the individual submitting the work. Joint efforts are not acceptable unless specifically directed (e.g., the group assignment).

All speeches must be presented to pass the class.

Syllabus

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Chapter in Text</u> [to be read before class]
T=Tues, R=Thurs			
T	Sept 2	Introduction to the study of Argumentation	
R	Sept 4	Defining Communication	Chapters 1–2
T	Sept 9	Class Activity	
R	Sept 11	Audience Analysis	Chapters 3, 4
T	Sept 16	The Language of Argument	
R	Sept 18	Argumentation and Critical Thinking	Chapter 5
T	Sept 23	Quote Speeches	Group A
R	Sept 25	Quote Speeches	Group B
T	Sept 30	Quote Speeches	Group C/Chapter 6
R	Oct 2	Quote Speeches	Group D
T	Oct 7	Grounds of Argumentation	Chapter 7
R	Oct 9	Practicums in Argumentation	Choose topics/Debater for Debate
T	Oct 14	Building Arguments	Chapter 8
R	Oct 16	Outlining	
T	Oct 21	In-Class quiz – Use scantron #882e	
R	Oct 23	Storytelling	Group B
T	Oct 28	Storytelling	Group C

R	Oct 30	Storytelling	Group D
T	Nov. 4	Storytelling	Group A
R	Nov 6	Lecture Refuting Arguments	Chapter 9
T	Nov 11	Veterans Day – Campus is Closed	
R	Nov 13	Lecture	Chapters 10,11
T	Nov 18	Debates _____	
R	Nov 20	Debates _____	
T	Nov 25	Debates _____	
Nov. 27-28 Thanksgiving Holiday – Campus is Closed			
T	Dec. 2	Debates _____	
R	Dec. 4	Debates _____	
T	Dec 9	Debates _____	
R	Dec 11	Review for Final	

Final Examination- Tuesday, Dec. 16 @ 10:15a-12:15p

No alternate arrangements are permitted by the College—please don't ask. The final exam is taken in class.

Additional Notes

Please note that this syllabus reflects your instructor's best judgment and projection for this course this semester. It is subject to change due to forces beyond the instructor's control. You will be advised of any changes.

"Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Disabled Students Services, or see your instructor immediately.

You will be notified should the syllabus change due to circumstances beyond your instructor's control.