

University of Florida
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Dial Center for Written and Oral Communication

Spring 2023
SPC3513 - Argumentation

Instructor: Dr. AJ Jung
 Email: Use **Canvas mail** for course related questions. For other concerns use ajung@ufl.edu
 Office Hours: 415 Rolfs Hall or on Zoom or by appointment. See Canvas Calendar for times.
 Office: 415 Rolfs Hall
 Website: <http://lss.at.ufl.edu> (Canvas)
 Tech issues: Visit the helpdesk website (<https://helpdesk.ufl.edu>) or call 352-392-4357

Note : This is a tentative syllabus—assignments and schedule may be altered as necessary.
 This syllabus and any changes will be posted on Canvas

Trigger Warning: The issues and materials that we will address in this course may contain language, images, issues, and perspectives that may be deemed offensive or difficult for some audiences. It is important in Argumentation to wrestle with the difficult issues, but we need to ensure our mental health as well. If you find yourself having trouble with any of the topics or materials covered, or with a peer’s interactions, please contact me and we discuss this in a confidential setting.

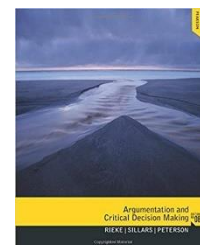
This course is both in-person and online.

In-person: Tuesdays 3:00-3:50 for discussion & activities
Online: Canvas Assignments, and Quizzes

Required Text:

Rieke, R. D., Sillars, M. O. and Peterson, T. R. (2012). *Argumentation & Critical Decision Making 8th Edition*. Pearson.

Other materials will be distributed or assigned on Canvas.



Course Description: Implementation of principles and methods advocating factual claims and policy proposals. Also discusses propositional analysis, evidence as demonstration, effecting reasoning processes to become experimental for listeners and ethics in controversy. Prereq: SPC 2608 or instructor permission.

The study of argumentation and debate theory is focused primarily on critical thinking, research skills and orally expressing arguments with rhetorical and presentational power. This class will teach you to formulate those thoughts and construct arguments in favor or against a position.

Course Goals: This course will provide you with both a theoretical understanding of and practical experience with structured argumentation. At the completion of this class, students will be able to:

Objective	Assignment(s) used to assess	Modules of focus
1. Explain how ideas are both informed by and expressed through communication.	Quizzes Toulmin Model	1, 2, 3, 5, 6
2. Demonstrate an ability to think critically in both academic and real-world situations.	Quizzes Current Event posts	1, 2, 3, 5, 6

	Debate assignments	
3. Utilize ethical principles as a communicator.	Responses to peers Current Event posts Debate	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
4. Create complete arguments through strong reasoning, researched evidence, and delivery skills.	Debate Issue Analysis Debate Research Debate Outline Debate	4, 5, 6
5. Analyze the arguments of others.	Current Event Responses Toulmin Model Debate	3, 5, 6
6. Adapt materials and delivery to specific audiences.	Current Event posts Debate Research Brief Debate	1, 3, 4, 5, 6

Assignments:

All assignments must be submitted before midnight on dates indicated in the syllabus or on Canvas. Late submissions will result in a reduction of points for that assignment.

Assignments:**Possible Points**

<i>Class meetings:</i> 15 class meetings for discussion and exercises This will not be lecture but build on the lectures/chapters that you have read & watched	
<i>Quizzes:</i> 5 quizzes with a max of 25 pts each 5-10 questions on Current Events and concepts in the text Can use notes, book, handouts, internet resources, etc.	125
<i>Current Event Discussion Posts:</i> 5 posts with a max of 50 pts each Summary & Analysis of 2 current events using concepts from assigned readings and lectures. Responses to peer's submissions.	250
<i>Debate Issue Options:</i> Written submission of possible debate topics	25
<i>Toulmin Model:</i> Diagrams of issues using the Toulmin Model. 50	
<i>Debate Issue Analysis:</i> Written research in preparation for debates Responses to peer's submissions.	100
<i>Debate Research Brief:</i> Written summary of the issues with supporting research Responses to peer's submissions.	100
<i>Debate Case Outline:</i> Written outline using template provided, incorporating research Responses to peer's submissions.	100
<i>Debate:</i> Recorded video debate-style interactions with one peer on a chosen topic 3 speeches at 75 pts each. Responses to peer's submissions.	250
Total points possible	1000

	B+ = 87-89 %	C+ = 77-79 %	D+ = 67-69 %
A = 93-100%	B = 83-86	C = 73-76	D = 60-66
A- = 90-92	B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72	F = under 60

A = Excellence and consistency. Mastery of subject matter and application.

B = Solid mastery of subject matter and application but some lack of excellence or consistency.

C = Adequate understanding of subject matter and application. Minimum requirements met.

D = Inadequate understanding or application of subject matter or application. Lack of consistency.

F = Failure to demonstrate comprehension or application of subject matter.

Zoom Practices and Policies

You will be submitting recorded videos of yourself presenting structured arguments. To be successful in these assignments, please consider the following:

- **Physical space:** this is a good time to learn about setting up a professional environment when communicating online. While you do not need a formal office, your space should be free from distractions. Avoid distracting Zoom backgrounds. On speech days, think about how you can set up your camera to be at eye level. Your space should be free from pet, peer, and/or child interruptions.
- **Dress Appropriately:** Be sure to dress appropriately for recordings. In other words, treat these videos as if they were live classes on campus.

If you have any concerns about Zoom speak with your instructor during drop/add or as soon as possible.

Accommodations:

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodations. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester in order to allow us to provide the most effective support.

Academic Integrity:

Use of someone else's ideas, words, or organization without giving them due credit is defined as plagiarism. To avoid any appearance of ethical misconduct, use follow APA style for documentation and give due credit in any written or presented work you submit. When in doubt, cite your source or ask me for clarification.

All submitted work during the course, written or oral, will be the student's personal, original work, with credit given to sources used. If a student violates this understanding, evaluations of work must be affected accordingly and if necessary, adjudication will be processed by procedures approved by the University of Florida Honor Court. Please note the full UF Honor Code and conduct policies here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/1617/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx>.

Getting help from a peer can be beneficial for learning but submitted assignments must be the student's own work.

Communication Studies Minor:

The Dial Center offers a minor in Communication Studies (CMS). Our CMS minor is consistently one of the largest minors within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Employers increasingly want to see oral communication skills, and students find the minor pairs well with any major or even fulfills their requirement for an outside concentration. The total minor is just 18 credit hours. This course counts as one of the core courses for the minor. You can find more information at https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/colleges-schools/UGLAS/CMS_UMN/.

Course Schedule

Module 1	Understanding Argumentation	Due	Points
1/10	Class: Course overview		
1/17	Class: Foundations of Argumentation		
1/24	Class: Language in Argumentation		
1/29		Current Event Post 1	50
		Quiz 1	25
		Debate Issue Options	25
Module 2	Examining Argumentation		
1/31	Class: Making Sense of Argumentation		
2/7	Class: The Nature of Argumentation		
2/14	Class: How People are Persuaded		
2/19		Current Event Post 2	50
		Quiz 2	25
		Toulmin Models	50
Module 3	Constructing Argumentation		
2/21	Class: Analysis in Argumentation		
2/28	Class: Case Building – Presentation Planning		
3/7	Class: Finding & Evaluating Sources		
3/12		Current Event Post 3	50
		Quiz 3	25
		Debate Issue Analysis	100
3/14	<i>No Class – Spring Break</i>		
Module 4	Supporting Argumentation		
3/21	Class: Using Evidence		
3/28	Class: Using Values		
4/4	Class: Using Credibility		
4/9		Current Event Post 4	50
		Quiz 4	25
		Debate Research Brief	100
Module 5	Responding to Argumentation		
4/11	Class: Refutation		
4/18	Class: Refutation by Fallacy Claims		
4/23		Current Event Post 5	50
		Quiz 5	25
		Debate Case Outline	100
Module 6	Doing Argumentation		
4/25	Class: Preparation for Debates		250
4/30	Pro Presentation 1		
5/1	Con Presentation 1		
5/2	Pro Presentation 2		
5/3	Con Presentation 2		
5/4	Pro Presentation 3		
5/5	Con Presentation 3		
Total Points			1000