

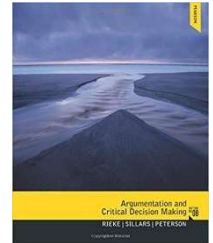
University of Florida
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Dial Center for Written and Oral Communication
9:35-10:25, MWF
Fall 2023
SPC3513 - Argumentation

Instructor: Dr. Gil Carter, Assistant Instructional Professor, Dial Center for Written and Oral Communication
 Email: tg.carter@ufl.edu (please use this email rather than the Canvas message function)
 Office Hours: MWF: 10:30-11:30; M: 1:45-2:45
 Office: 413 Rolfs Hall
 Tech issues: Visit the helpdesk website (<https://helpdesk.ufl.edu>) or call 352-392-4357

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 the course calendar or 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 Debate assignments	1, 2, 3, 5, 6
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>Overall Course Participation</i>	25
<i>Quizzes: 5 quizzes</i>	125
Subjects: Current events and concepts in the text Can use notes, book, handouts, internet resources, etc.	
<i>Current Event Discussion Posts: 5 posts with a max of 50 pts each</i>	250
Summary & Analysis of 2 current events using concepts from assigned readings and lectures. Responses to peer's submissions.	
<i>Toulmin Model: Diagrams of issues using the Toulmin Model.</i>	50
<i>Debate Issue Analysis: Written research in preparation for debates</i>	100
Responses to peer's submissions.	
<i>Debate Research Brief: Written summary of the issues with supporting research</i>	100
Responses to peer's submissions.	
<i>Debate Case Outline: Written outline using template provided, incorporating research</i>	100
Responses to peer's submissions.	
<i>Debate: In-class debate interactions with one peer on a chosen topic</i>	250
3 speeches at 75 pts each. Responses to peer's submissions.	
<hr/> Total points possible	<hr/> 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.

Absences and Participation

Participation involves attending class when it meets, frequently accessing the course online, completing all class assignments, and reviewing all assigned videos and readings. Some required readings or videos might be lengthy. Unless you experience a documented extraordinary circumstance, you will not be excused for missing class or allowed to make up missed assignments for full or partial credit. **Proper documentation is key to making up any assignment for full or partial credit.** Students will be penalized for missing more than two classes without an excused absence. Penalties could be as strong as a deduction of one letter on the final grade for every class missed beyond the two permitted class misses.

Oral Performance Course Practices and Policies

- Dress Appropriately: Be sure to dress formally for debates. More details on what this criterion means and where you can borrow clothes if necessary will be provided in class.
- Class Decorum: This course discusses political, cultural, and societal issues. You must be prepared to present your views and engage with others in a respectful manner even as you disagree among each other.
- Follow other specificities as they are announced in class.

Grading Policy: Since every class has a level of subjectivity about grading, I feel it is prudent to reflect on my approach to grading:

1) I consider students in the B+ to A- range to be doing well in my class. Earning higher than an A- is not rare, but it takes a combination of skill, comfort in the materials and methods of the class, and much hard work.

2) Students and I have the most productive conversations about their class performance when those conversations are *individual, student-initiated, and early in the semester*. I encourage you to follow this pattern. If you seek to appeal a grade, please send that appeal to me in writing via email before you talk with me about it.

3) While I provide descriptions for assignments, many assignments have a “figure it out” factor. Therefore, to be prepared on an assignment, you need to participate in all class activities. While I want you to “figure out” some things, know that I remain ready always to assist you however I can.

4) The “24/7” rule is in effect. The instructor will discuss grades 24 hours after and within one week of handing back an assignment. Appeals will be considered in writing only. Late assignments submitted through email are not acceptable and will not receive a grade. Assignments are to be submitted through Canvas.

Student Consent & Instructor Elasticity – Syllabus/Course Packet: Your receipt of this syllabus/course packet acts as a contract between me and you. Receipt of this syllabus/course packet presupposes that you have read and understand the information herein. I reserve the right to amend course assignments, assignment weights, readings, due dates, and the other aspects of the course. I will notify you appropriately (potentially including Canvas, email, and orally) of any major changes to this syllabus/course packet.

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/.