

COMPREHENSIVE COURSE GUIDE

COURSE DEPARTMENT AND NUMBER: COMM 1111

TITLE: Issues in Argumentation and Advocacy

CREDIT HOURS: 3

CONTACT HOURS: 3

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course investigates the nature of argumentation in personal, social, and political processes of controversial issues in public policy, emphasizing the structures and strategies of argumentation that relevant actors employ in their advocacy. Special focus will be on oral presentations of developed argumentative discourses and practicing the practical skills of public debating. Required of all majors.

PREREQUISITE: READ 0099 and ENGL 0099

FREQUENCY OF OFFERING: On demand

REQUIRED TEXTS: Argumentation and Debate, by Freeley, 11th Edition, Wadsworth Publishing

SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS: Library reserve & major daily/weekly news item as required by the instructor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- I. Students will demonstrate an understanding of basic principles of argument and advocacy through oral presentations, class discussions, journal entries, final examination, and research assignments. Written assignments will adhere to rules of Standard English.
- II. Students will construct affirmative and negative case analyses on current issues.
- III. Students will practice several cross-examination style debates on both sides of an issue, using such formats as parliamentary, Lincoln-Douglas, and policy debate.
- IV. Students will apply skills in research, building evidence, case development, flow-charting, and evaluation techniques. Students will be required to use library resources in their research efforts.
- V. Students will practice competitive debate techniques in a variety of contexts.

MINIMAL PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS:

- I. Read all texts and required outside assignments.
- II. Students will need materials for flowcharting debates and building evidence files.
- III. Students will be responsible for examinations in written or oral format.

POLICIES:

- I. Attendance - Irregular attendance reduces students' opportunity for success in the course. Students who miss the equivalent of three 50-minute class periods will receive a letter advising them of their absences and warning them of the fact that they are jeopardizing their final grade.

If any student is absent on the day his/her speech is due or is not prepared to give the speech, the speech may not be made up unless the absence is excused in advance. If the absence is not excused, the student will receive a zero for assignments missed.

- II. GRADING

- 50% Oral presentations
- 40% Written assignments, briefs, quizzes, reading responses, class activities, exams and participation
- 10% Final exam

The following grading scale will be used:

100-90	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
59-00	F

Participation is evaluated on the basis of evidence of preparation of assignments and collection of selected exercises.

*Students must successfully accomplish all oral presentations in order to pass this course.

- III. Individual Conferences - Instructors carry many responsibilities that require them to be out of their offices, sometimes even during posted office hours. Students needing assistance or clarification regarding class work should make appointments for conferences with their instructors.

- IV. Plagiarism - Presenting someone else's phrasing and/or ideas as one's own will result in a 0 for the assignment and may result in an F for the course.
- V. Technology – Students are expected to access Web CT to participate in classroom discussions and/or retrieve additional information required by the instructor. Students having difficulty accessing their accounts should consult the instructor or computer help desk personnel.
- VI. Disability - In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Darton College will honor requests for reasonable accommodations made by individuals with disabilities. Students must self-disclose their disability to the Office of Disability Services before academic accommodations can be implemented.
- VII. Electronic Devices – It is the individual student's responsibility to silence the ringer of his or her cell phone, beeper, or any other device before entering a class (including guest lectures and performances/recitals). The production of any audible alert by these devices when a class is in session is considered disruptive classroom behavior. The instructor may take appropriate actions to curb such disruption in accordance with the College's Policies of Disruptive and Obstructive Behavior under Code of Conduct in the Student Handbook.
- VIII. Respectful learning atmosphere – Students are expected to professionally compose their demeanor at all times. This means being respectful of their peers and instructor. Disrespectful and disruptive behavior such as making fun of peers and/or instructor, talking during others' speeches or when someone else is talking, walking into or out of the classroom during speeches, and acting in a rude manner will not be tolerated. Students will be asked to stop their disrespectful behavior, and then may be asked to leave if additional problems persist. The instructor will determine appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the College's Policies of Disruptive and Obstructive Behavior under the Code of Conduct in the Student Handbook.

The instructor will announce office and telephone numbers. Office hours are posted on the office door. Students are encouraged to seek the assistance of their instructors should they have any questions or concerns about the course.

Congratulations on your completion of reading this comprehensive course guide, which will certainly give you a better chance to succeed in this course. Please log into **MyDC** and send an email message to your instructor to acknowledge that you have read the complete document and understand the objectives, requirements, and policies of this course.