

**Com 3340: Argumentation and Debate
Spring Semester 2007**

Mondays: 6:00p -8:30p
2205 Dunbar Hall

Professor: Marilyn S. Kritzman
Office: 322 Sprau Tower
Office: (269) 387-3197
Dept Phone: 387-3130
Office Hours: Before or after class in 2205 Dunbar Hall or by appointment
E-mail: marilyn.kritzman@wmich.edu

About the course: Com 3340 is designed to introduce students to the principles, practices and concepts of argumentation and debate. This course is a performance course with a significant amount of class time spent on public presentations, small group interaction, and formal argument, persuasion, and debate exercises. This course is designed presuming that students come with proficiency in public speaking and speech preparation. This course serves multiple degree programs within the School of Communication. It will blend teaching and training methods, argumentation, and analysis and platform skills into course content.

Required text:

Freeley, *Argumentation and Debate: Critical Thinking for Reasoned Decision Making*, 10th edition, Wadsworth Publishing, 2003

Recommended text (s):

Balch, *Robert's Rules of Order in Brief*, 1st edition, De Capo Press, 2004

Miller, *Cross-X*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006

Berube, *Non-Policy Debating*, University Press of America, 1994

Instruction methods: The course will utilize the following teaching/presentation methods:

1. Lectures about debating, debating theory, constructive argumentation and the development of argumentative competence.
2. Class discussions and exercises: Class discussions and exercises will focus on argumentative and persuasive speaking methods, a variety of debate methods and practices, and platform skills.
3. Debates: Students will engage in classroom debates which will include researching topics, debating, learning how to judge and judging debates.
4. Research: Students will engage in primary research on their debate topics.

5. Differentiated instruction: Students will have options on presentation in order to accommodate interests and career goals.

Attendance: This course is highly participatory, whether you are a debater, presenter, judge or member of the audience. Attendance and participation is expected. I may not take attendance each class session; however I will do so periodically. When you evaluate classmate's presentations, lesson plans and judge debates you will earn points toward the participation segment of your grade.

Contacting me prior to an absence does not constitute an excused absence. I consider this contact a courtesy only.

You will not be allowed to make up classroom activities even for excused absences; our schedule will not permit it.

Class will begin on time, so plan accordingly. If you are late, **never** enter a room during a presentation by a class mate.

Academic Integrity: You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the policies and procedures in the Undergraduate Catalog (p 268-269) that pertain to academic integrity. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. You will be given the opportunity to review the charge(s). If you believe you are not responsible, you will have the opportunity for a hearing. You should consult with me if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test. (Western Michigan University Faculty Senate, December 4, 2002).

It is an act of **plagiarism** to copy or paraphrase someone else's words or ideas and treat them as your own. Taking a sentence and changing a few words is still plagiarism if you do not give proper credit to the originator(s) of the idea. All reference to work of others should be properly cited in your papers. Exceptions are granted only when the ideas are regarded as "common knowledge".

It is an act of **fabrication** to present and false or "made-up" information. You should not falsify research in a written report or an oral presentation or, any other information provided to an instructor (e.g. excuse for missing an exam or submitting a paper late).

It is an act of **multiple submissions** to present the same paper or presentation or substantial portions of papers or projects for credit in two courses without the faculty members' consent.

It is an act of **complicity** to attempt to help another student commit an act of academic dishonesty. Examples include knowingly allowing someone to copy your answers on an exam or completing portions of other students' work for them to submit as their own.

Student dishonesty includes but is not limited to:

- using someone else's work as your own
- removing an exam from the classroom
- looking at another student's work during testing
- unauthorized communication with another student during or about a test

*****Any violation of academic dishonesty will not only result in a grade of zero for the assignment, but and failing grade for the course*****

Exams: Failure to be present for a scheduled exam without pre-arrangement will result in a failing grade for the exam. Students must be present during the final exam period.

Assignments: Handwritten assignments will receive a grade of zero (0).

- All written assignments are due at the beginning of class or immediately after a presentation.
- The maximum for any late assignment is 50% of the original points.
- Unless specifically announced, assignments will not be accepted via email.
- **Do Not Rely on Spell Check to Proofread Your Work!** I will deduct one (1) point for each spelling and/or grammar error I detect.
- Only typewritten assignments (outlines) will be accepted.
- Staple papers and submit all papers for a presentation in a packet. Always save your work on a disk. While I hope never to lose a student's assignment, you should make and retain a copy of all work you submit.

Speech/Debate/Presentation Expectations

We will discuss these more thoroughly, however, you should be mindful of the following:

- A full-sentence, **typed** outline is required for your persuasive speech. This outline should include references used in researching your speech topic. Your outline should be turned in to me at the beginning of your speech/presentation.
- Appropriate dress is expected for each speech, debate or presentation. With the exception of a speech which might necessitate clothing as part of the topic or for visual aids, a step up from blue jeans, sweatshirts and baseball caps is expected.
- Disrespect of any classmate during a speech or presentation will result in a zero (0) for that speech. Laughing, talking, or distracting speakers is not acceptable. If I ask you to leave class because of your disruptive behavior, please do so quickly and quietly. If you are asked to leave class and you are scheduled to speak in class that day, you will receive a zero (0) for your assignment.
- Feedback is an important part of the speaking process. Constructive feedback for your classmates is expected. Personal attacks and insults of a speaker will result in a zero (0) of your speech grade for that topic.
- Time limits will be enforced on all speeches. There will be a 15 second grace period (over or under) for each speaker. After that, five (5) points will be deducted for every 15 seconds over or under. Practicing your speech will ensure you are within your time limits.

Assigned readings: It is your responsibility to keep up with the assigned readings. We will not have a great deal of time to discuss the information due to the class schedule. Plan to have the reading completed for the material being covered in class each week.

Speech, Debates, Presentations and Test Cancellation:

Speeches, presentations and debates cannot be re-scheduled or made-up, unless there are extreme extenuating circumstances. Debates and presentations will cover multiple class periods, so sign up for a presentation time that does not interfere with any pre-planned absences. If you switch speaking times with a classmate after sign-up, please inform me of the switch, in advance. In order to switch times, both parties must agree to the switch.

If I cannot make it to class, either someone will substitute for me, or someone will arrive near the beginning of class to inform you of my absence. Allow fifteen (15) minutes for me to arrive before you leave the classroom.

If class is canceled on the day of an exam, presume the exam will be given during the next class meeting. If class is canceled during the session prior to an exam, presume the exam will be given at its scheduled time.

If class is canceled on the day of assigned speeches, presume we will continue with the speeches assigned for the class session we resume, **NOT** those speeches that were scheduled for the missed class session.

If a student has an excused absence during the mid-term exam class session, they will be allowed to make up the exam. Students must take the final exam when scheduled.

Presentations/Speeches/Debates: It is important that you attend class the days you and/or your group are scheduled to present.

No presentation will be made up unless there are extenuating circumstances and there will be an automatic 30 point penalty for the student(s) who create a need for rescheduling.

Specific topics, presentations, exam dates and assignments are included in this syllabus. Any changes will be announced in class, in advance. You are responsible for knowing these changes as well as any other content presented the session if you are absent.

Technology: If you need audio visual equipment for an in-class presentation, you are required to reserve it at the Dunbar A.V., and informing me via email by Friday noon prior to class of the reservation. This notification allows me to confirm the reservation.

If you plan to use my laptop, I require the same notification. You need to let me know if you need the CD or disk drive. My computer has Windows XP, so materials you plan to use must be compatible with Windows XP. If your materials are not compatible with Windows XP, plan to provide your own lap top. Please scan your materials for viruses before bringing it to class to use on my lap top.

If, on the day of the presentation, your prepared material is not compatible with the equipment, you will decide if you proceed or request to reschedule and receive the penalty for rescheduling.

This is especially important if you are using Power Point for a presentation.

Extra credit: Extra credit will not be given to an individual in order to raise a grade. If extra credit is planned as part of a student presentation, it must be approved, in advance by me and all work done on the assignment must be individually completed. This type of extra credit will be included in class participation only.

If bonus options are offered, it will be to the entire class.

Cell Phones and Pagers: Please turn them off during class.

Learning disabilities/special needs: If you have a documented learning disability that requires special accommodations during exams, assignments or class, please let me know as soon as possible. If you believe you have a learning disability and it has not been registered with the university, please contact the Office of Disabled Student and Resource Services, located in Woodlawn Place near the Sindecuse Health Center.

Final grades will be determined as follows:

Class Participation:	10 %	100 points
Midterm	25 %	100 points
First Affirmative		
Constructive Speech	10 %	100 points
Lincoln-Douglas Debate	15%	100 points
Parliamentary Debate	15%	100 points
Cross Examination or		
Academic Debate:	25%	100 points (Final Exam)

Grading Scale (%)

A	100-94
BA	93-87
B	86-83
CB	82-77
C	76-70
DC	69-65
D	64-60
E	Less than 60

In order to protect student's privacy, no grades will be given out over the phone or via email for this class.

Tentative Schedule of Classes and Important Dates

Week	Topic
January 8	Introductions Course Overview Overview of Debating: Affirmative, Negative, Terminology Assignment: Create a 60 second commercial persuading your classmates why you would be a good team member during this class Read: Freeley, Chapter 1, 11 & 12
January 15	No class: MLK observance
January 22	Debating the Affirmative Debating the Negative Writing Propositions Overview of First Affirmative Constructive Speeches Presentation of 60 second commercials Read: Freeley, Chapter 2, 3 & 13
January 29	Mechanics of Lincoln-Douglas Debate Formation of Lincoln-Douglas Debate Teams Sign up for Lincoln-Douglas Debate Times Writing Propositions Ethical Standards Read: Freeley, Chapter 5, 6 & 7
February 5	First Affirmative Constructive Speeches
February 12	Sources of Material How to Prepare Evidence Cards and Organize Materials Sources of Evidence Types of Evidence The Probative Force of Evidence Uses of Tests of Evidence and Tests of Credible Evidence Mechanics of Parliamentary Debate
February 19	Formation of Parliamentary Debate Teams Sign up for Parliamentary Debate Times Rebuttal & Refutation Fallacies of Evidence Fallacies of Pseudo-Arguments Read: Freeley, Chapter 10 & 14

February 26	<p>Functions of the Judge & Judging Philosophies Functions of a Ballot & Completing a Lincoln-Douglas Debate Ballot How to Prepare and Use a Flow Sheet Rebuttal and Refutation Read: Freeley, Chapter 17</p>
October 24	<p>Mechanics of Cross Examination Debate Formation of Cross Examination Debate Teams Sign up for Cross Examination Debate Times Mid-term</p>
October 31	Lincoln-Douglas Debates
November 7	Lincoln-Douglas Debates
November 14	<p>Parliamentary Debates How to Run/Host a Debate Tournament How to Coach a Debate Team</p>
November 21	<p>Parliamentary Debates How to Coach a Debate Team</p>
November 28	Cross Exam Debate/Final Exam
December 5	Cross Exam Debate/Final Exam
December 12	Cross Exam Debate/Final Exam

Changes to the Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

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