

Inventing Arguments

English 335 Fall 2015
T/Th 1200-120, 360 Condon

Prof. James Crosswhite, PLC 258, Hours: T-Th 2-320, jcross@uoregon.edu

COURSE OBJECTIVES

What is argumentation? What are its central elements, processes, forms, structures, techniques, goals? How does one create or imagine arguments? In this course, we will explore some of the central concepts in rhetoric and argumentation theory, but the major focus will be on practicing argumentation, especially the inventing of arguments. We will use the study of rhetoric and argumentation to support that practice. You will gain a knowledge of some important concepts in rhetoric and argumentation theory, and you will gain skill in discovering the questions that drive controversies and the arguments that can be made on all the different sides of an issue. Be prepared to be called on in class, to think and speak on your feet, to work in groups, to participate in debate, and to learn by practicing and in part by trial and error.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Everyone enrolled in the course should read a major newspaper or news website on a daily basis. I recommend the *New York Times*, but feel free to choose something different. I will occasionally draw examples of arguments and controversial issues from the NYT for use in class. You will need a good source for examples, too. Required readings for the course will be available on Canvas.

REQUIRED TIME

From UO Catalog: "In planning a term's studies, students should anticipate that each credit requires at least three hours a week for class meetings or homework." This is a 4 credit course, so plan for an average of 12 hours a week. That's three in class and nine outside of class.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADE BREAKDOWN

Writing

Three essays. I will provide instructions and grading rubrics for each of these essays. The first two will be 1000-1500 words. The third will be 1500-2000 words. Each will be an exercise in inventing arguments that also develops an arrangement and style appropriate to the argumentation. **Submit both a paper copy and an electronic copy of each essay.**

Three exercises. I will also provide instructions for these. Each will be an exercise in invention of about 300-700 words.

Participation

For each day of class that reading is assigned, the reading must be completed before class begins. Each day you come to class, come prepared to participate in discussions and exercises. If the readings are posted online, print them out and bring them to class with you—or bring your notes. **No electronic devices open during class.**

Attendance is required. I take attendance each day. Be sure that I call your name each day, and shout out if I do not. **If you are late, and miss my taking attendance, it is your responsibility to notify me, at the end of class, that you have attended.** Do not assume that I saw you arrive and recorded your attendance. *I will calculate final grades directly from my records, and I cannot fairly accommodate requests to correct my records at the time that final grades are given.* To cover illness or other events that make it impossible for you to attend, you are allowed two absences (one week of class). I recommend saving those absences for illness, athletic events, or unforeseen demands on your time. If you get sick with something contagious, do not come to class as long as you are contagious. If the illness lasts for longer than a week, or if a situation beyond your control causes you to miss more than two classes, be sure to contact me before the absences have accumulated, so that we can agree on a course of action.

Being on time is also required. Lateness counts in considering your participation.

Grades

Essay #1 – 25%

Essay #2 – 25%

Essay #3 – 35%

Exercises – 15%

No late work, please. Any late work will be graded down one full grade for each day late. Note: I cannot accept a late final paper.

Participation counts and may raise or lower your final grade.

Two absences, *for whatever reason*, count as absences, but have no penalty. Beyond two absences, for each absence 3 percentage points will be deducted from your final total average.

If an emergency arises or a situation out of your control temporarily prevents you from completing work on time, contact me immediately so that we can agree on a plan—before the work is due if that is possible. Email is the best way of reaching me for this.

COMPLETION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Please include your **name**, the **date** you are submitting the work, the **course** number or name, the **word count**, and **my name** on your written work.

Please give your written work a title.

You should staple papers that have multiple pages.

Papers should be double spaced, with one inch margins.

Please use a 12 or 14 point font. Include the word count for your essays.

Submit both an electronic copy and a paper copy of your essays.

Paper copies may be submitted in class or under my door at PLC 258 before 5pm.

Electronic copies should be submitted through Canvas .

RESPECT, CONSIDERATION, AND PARTICIPATION

The course requires your active involvement. Active and respectful participation is inconsistent with cell phone use, texting, internet activity, side conversations, arriving late, leaving early, sleeping, distracting other people, and coming to class unprepared. If you do not give your full attention, you will not receive what the course has to offer. **Please close and put away all laptops and electronic devices when class begins.** Listen to others respectfully, and expect the same of them. And feel free to speak up. What you have to say is important and unique. It will take effort and the best kind of cooperation to unlock the energies that are available to us as we pursue our work. This will require respectful attention to each other, and probably some kindness toward one another, too.

A LITTLE MORE

If you have a disability that may affect your ability to participate in this class, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can make arrangements for your full participation.

Please be aware also that the Teaching and Learning Center (68 PLC; phone: 346-3226) provides support for all students. The Center offer tutors to help you with your writing assignments and provides other kinds of academic help. Look into it. Your fees help to pay for this.

An “Incomplete” can be given only in cases when some minor but essential aspect of the course cannot be completed because of unforeseen circumstances beyond a student’s control.

All work submitted for this course must be your own and must be written exclusively for this course. If you plagiarize or cheat, the penalty may be an “F” in the course. The use of sources (for example, other people’s language or paraphrases of their language or ideas) must be properly documented. Please see me if you have any questions about your use of sources.

SCHEDULE

1

Sept 29 Introductions

The Aims and Bounds of Argument and the Contact of Minds

The Structure of Arguments

Oct 1 Finding the right questions in a Controversy

Read: Stasis Questions (Canvas)

Read: Preliminary Readings on Intelligence (Canvas)

2

Oct 6 **Read:** Readings on Intelligence II (Canvas)

Oct 8 **Stasis Exercise Due**

Read: Arrangement (Canvas)

3

Oct 13 Metaphors and Argumentation

Read: Readings on Metaphors (Canvas)

Oct 15 Metaphors and Argumentation continued

4

Oct 20 Pathos

Read: Pathos in Classical Rhetoric (Canvas)

Oct 22 **First Paper Due.** By 5pm. Paper copy in class or under door of PLC 258.

Electronic copy through Canvas (under "assignments")

Second paper topic: Virtue and Character

Read: Readings on Character and Virtue (Canvas)

5

Oct 27 Logos 1: Causes, Effects, Means, Ends

Read: Reading on Causes, Effects, Means, Ends (Canvas)

Oct 29 Character and Virtue: Continued

Read: Second Readings on Character and Virtue (Canvas)

6

Nov 3 **Second Exercise Due**

Logos 2: Thinking in Twos.

Read: Handout (Canvas) (additional optional reading also available)

Nov 5

Logos 2: Continued

Read: "Dissociation in the Wilderness Debate" (Canvas)

7

Nov 10 Logos 3 - Person/Act Arguments

Read: Readings on Person/Act (Canvas)

Nov 12 Logos 3: Person/Act Arguments continued

8

Nov 17 **Second Paper Due.** By 5pm. Paper copy in class or under door of PLC 258.

Electronic copy through Canvas (**under "assignments"**)

Prototypes and Their Effects

Read: Prototypes and Their Effects (Canvas)

Nov 19 Third Paper Topic: Teaching Writing, Speaking, and Reasoning

Read: The Common Core (Canvas)

9

Nov 24 **Third Exercise Due**

Read: Symposium: On the Framework for Success in Post-secondary Writing (Canvas)

Nov 26 Thanksgiving

10

Dec 1 Review. Special focus on questions and arguments for final paper.

Read Again: *How to Read, Reason, and Write* (Canvas)

Dec 3 NO CLASS. Special Office Hours: 12-2, 330-5.

Final Paper Due anytime before and up until 8am, Thursday, December 10. Submit the paper copy under the door at 258 PLC, the electronic copy through Canvas.