How do we speak effectively in situations of controversy? How do we maintain civil but powerful ways of speaking? How do we use oral reasoning for inquiry and mutual understanding as well as for debate and for building and defending arguments? How can we learn to listen as carefully as we speak? How can we know what is permissible in oral argument and what is out of bounds? What character and personal strengths must we develop in order to speak well? In this course, we will ground ourselves in some of the essential principles of rhetoric and reasoning with an eye toward applying them both to new and to traditional forms of oral expression and argument. You will gain knowledge of these principles and these forms, and you will gain the capability to use this knowledge effectively in oral controversies and in advocacy. Be prepared to think and speak on your feet in class, to work in groups, to participate in debate, and to learn by practicing and in part by trial and error.

**Required Texts**

Required readings for the course will be available on or linked from CANVAS. Additional reading may be selected by students as we discover that we need to do more research to support our oral presentations. Everyone enrolled in the course should regularly read a major news site. For example, *The New York Times, Washington Post,* sites like *TheAtlantic.com*—some site that will keep you informed about current controversies. Local
controversies also count. To get a spread of reporting and opinion, you might read an aggregator like RealClear politics (as well as the other RealClear pages). In my view, RealClear tilts center-right, so it is more helpful for people who tilt to the left. In any case, try to read both for and against your own positions so that you can develop the ability to think and argue from different sides.

**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 12 hours a week. That’s three in class and nine outside of class. Since we are giving speeches, the load will be heavier when you are preparing speeches, lighter when you are not.

**Assignments and Grade Breakdown**

Doxa speech P/NP  P is required for a passing grade in course
1st Speech: Persuasive – 20%  Written self-evaluation 5%
2nd Speech: Debate – 25%  Written self-evaluation 5%
3rd Speech Interview on Controversies- 25%
Written evaluative responses to speeches of others - 20%

**Participation**

Participation may raise or lower final grade. Attendance, preparedness, and participating in discussions all count as participation. For each day of class that reading is assigned, the reading should be completed before class begins. Each day you
come to class, come prepared to participate in discussions and exercises. Try to have the reading (in some form) with you.

*Attendance is required.* Show up to class in person, on time. To cover illness or other events that make it impossible for you to attend, you are allowed two absences. For each of the next absences, three percentage points will be deducted from your final average for the course. Lateness counts in considering your participation. So does perfect attendance. Having said this, if you become sick or incapacitated let me know right away. I will work with you. If you know that you will be absent on a day you are scheduled to speak or comment, please let me know as soon as possible so that I can rearrange the schedule and prevent disruptions or wasted time. If we experience another surge of Covid, then I might have to change some of this.

No late work, please. Any late work will be graded down 3% for each day late. If an emergency arises or a situation out of your control prevents you from completing work on time, contact me 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.

Finally, if anything is preventing your full participation in the course, please let me know.

**RESPECT, CONSIDERATION, AND PARTICIPATION**

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 condition or a technical situation that may affect your ability to participate fully in this class, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can make arrangements for your full access.

Please be aware also that the Tutoring and Academic Engagement Center provides support for all students. Contact is: engage.uoregon.edu  Click around to find the resource you need.

An “Incomplete” can be given 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 composed 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 acknowledged. Please see me if you have any questions about your use of sources.
General Schedule (tentative!)


W Mar 30  Doxa Speeches

F Apr 1  Doxa Speeches

M Apr 4  Doxa speeches

W Apr 6  Basic Concepts of Rhetoric

F Apr 8  Basic Concepts of Rhetoric

M Apr 11  Basic Concepts of Rhetoric/Planning speeches

W Apr 13  Planning speeches

F Apr 15  Planning Speeches

M Apr 18  Speeches

W Apr 20  Speeches

F Apr 22  Speeches
M Apr 25 Discussion of speeches so far. Basic Concepts reviewed.

W Apr 27 Speeches

F Apr 29 Speeches

M May 2 Rhetorical Theory

W May 4 Rhetorical Theory/Preparation for Debates

F May 6 Preparation for Debates

M May 9 Debates

W May 11 Debates

F May 13 Debates

M May 16 Reflection on Debates/Rhetorical Theory

W May 18 Continue Debates

F May 20 Debates

M May 23 Prepare for Interviews
W May 25 Interviews

F May 27 Interviews

M May 30 Memorial Day No Class

W Jun 1 Interviews

F Jun 3 Interviews