

ENG 330 Oral Controversy and Advocacy

MWF 9:00-9:50
248 Gerlinger
CRN: 22245

Professor John Gage
205 PLC
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Office Hours:
MWF 10:30-11:30
And by appointment

In this class we will study and practice oral modes of persuasion as they apply to issues in the public sphere. Students will apply their knowledge of effective and ethical argumentation to analyze and to make speeches that advocate for particular positions on arguable issues of public concern.

Graded activities:

Attendance, Preparation, and In-class Participation	20%
2 Analyses of speeches (one paper, one group presentation)	20%
2 Speeches Including Self-Assessments	40%
2 Peer-Assessments	10%
Fact-Checking Exercise	10%

There will be no final exam.

Readings will provided on Canvas. Be prepared to discuss the readings on the day they are assigned for discussion according the class schedule.

Canvas information will be posted in the following **Modules**:

Syllabus
Schedule
Readings
Assignments

Policies:

- Be in class and ready to pay attention at 9:00 sharp. Late arrivals disrupt others' performances, interfere with lessons, and are disrespectful. Repeated lateness will have consequences for your final grade.
- Speeches in this class will be done with minimal notes. Over-reliance on notes will count against the grade. Speeches should be delivered in a natural, conversational (i.e. not obviously memorized) way. Soundness of argument is the main criterion.

- Speeches will be video-taped, and made available only to members of this class for purposes of assigned fact-checking and self-assessments. They may not be shared with others in any way without the permission of the speaker. The role of these videos in self-assessments will be discussed in class as part of the speaking protocols.
- The order of speaking performances will be chosen in class at random. Therefore, always be prepared on days scheduled for speeches and presentations.
- Protocols for each speech will be handed out and discussed in advance, including the level of research appropriate to each. All sources of any kind, must be documented appropriately on a “Works Cited or Consulted” page handed in after each speech.
- If you miss an in-class activity, it cannot be made up.
- During class, the use of phones or any other electronic devices, including laptops, is not allowed, unless you have provided me with documentation of a disability that requires such use. I reserve the right to count you absent if you text, check messages, go on-line, or otherwise use electronics during class, or leave the room to do so. Out of respect to others in the class, you are expected to remain in the classroom during the scheduled time.
- All work you do for credit in this class must be exclusively your own work and done exclusively for this class. Plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any kind will result in a failing grade in the course and a report to the Officer of Student Conduct. Your continued enrollment in this class signifies that you are familiar with the provisions of the code of student conduct, which are published at:
<http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/AcademicMisconduct/tabid/248/Default.aspx>
- This class is a “like” free zone.

Learning Objectives:

Students will

- Understand the role of oral argument in public affairs
- Understand the differences in the modalities of speaking and writing, in intellectual and historical context
- Understand and use basic rhetorical concepts
- Gain and strengthen the ability to evaluate and respond critically to oral arguments
- Become self-aware of speaking strengths and weaknesses
- Thoughtfully address issues that lead to more critically engaged citizenship