

Inventing Arguments

English 335 Winter 2017
MWF 1200-1250, 102 PETR

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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 in 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. For example, *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, even sites like Atlantic.com—some site that will keep you informed about current controversies. And you can also choose sites like Fox News and *Washington Times*. I will occasionally draw examples from news sources 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 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.** Hard copies of papers may be submitted in class or under my door at PLC 258 by 5pm on the due date. Electronic copies should be submitted on CANVAS by 5pm on the due date.

Three Exercises. I will also provide instructions for these. Each will be an exercise in invention of about 300-700 words. **Submit both paper and electronic copies of each exercise, due by 5pm on the due date.**

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. Be prepared to be called on to speak in 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 three 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 three 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 total up to 10%.

Three absences, *for whatever reason*, count as absences, but have no penalty. Beyond three absences, for each of the next three absences, three percentage points will be deducted from your total.

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, unless there is an emergency. 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 essays 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.

Submit both a hard copy and an electronic copy of each assignment.

Submit hard copies in class or under my door at PLC 258 by 5pm on the due date.

Submit electronic copies on CANVAS by 5pm on the due date. Submit as word or pdf document. Do not submit as text in the text box.

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 access.

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

(Subject to change – check CANVAS for Updates)

1

Jan 9 Snow, Ice, and Cancelled Travel!

Jan 11 Introductions

The Aims and Bounds of Argument and the Contact of Minds

The Structure of Arguments

Jan 13 Finding the right questions in a Controversy

Read: Stasis Questions (CANVAS)

Read: Preliminary Intelligence Readings (CANVAS)

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Jan 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day No Class

Jan 18 **Read:** Readings on Intelligence II (CANVAS)

Jan 20 **Read:** Arrangement (CANVAS). **Stasis Exercise due, 5pm. Hard copy in class or under door at PLC 258. Electronic copy through CANVAS (under assignments).**

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Jan 23 Logos 1. Causes and Effects, Means and Ends

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

Jan 25 Logos 1 (cont.)

Jan 27 Read: *Reading, Reasoning, Writing* (CANVAS)

4

Jan 30 **Read:** Audiences (CANVAS)

Feb 1 Pathos: Emotions and Arguments

Read: Pathos (CANVAS)

Feb 3 **Read:** Readings on Character and Virtue (CANVAS)

First paper due. 5pm. Hard copy in class or under door at PLC 258. Electronic copy through CANVAS (under assignments).

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Feb 6 Logos 2: Person/Act Arguments

Read: Readings on Person/Act (CANVAS)

Feb 8 Logos 2. Person/Act arguments (cont).

Feb 10 Character and Virtue (cont.)

Read: Second Readings on Character and Virtue (CANVAS)

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Feb 13 **Second Exercise Due, 5pm. Hard copy in class or under door at PLC 258. Electronic copy through CANVAS (under assignments).**

Character and Virtue (cont.)

Feb 15 Thinking, Fast and Slow

Reading on CANVAS

Feb 17 Thinking, Fast and Slow (cont.)

Reading on CANVAS

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Feb 20 Logos 3: Thinking in Twos

Reading on CANVAS

Feb 22 Logos 3 (cont.)

Read: Dissociation in the Wilderness Debate

Feb 24 Ethos, Pathos, Logos – All Together

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Feb 27 Prototypes and their Effects

Reading on Canvas

Second paper due. 5pm. Hard copy in class or under door at PLC 258. Electronic copy through CANVAS (under assignments).

Mar 1 Prototypes, Stereotypes, and their Effects

Reading on CANVAS

Mar 3 Third Paper Topic: Teaching Writing, Speaking, and Reasoning

Read: Common Core Readings (CANVAS)

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Mar 6 **Third exercise due. 5pm. Hard copy in class or under door at PLC 258. Electronic copy through CANVAS (under assignments).**

Continue Discussion of Common Core Readings

Mar 8 **Read:** Symposium: On the Framework for Success in Post-secondary Writing (CANVAS)

Mar 10 Ethical Argument
Reading on CANVAS

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Mar 13 Analyzing Rhetorical Situations.
Reading on CANVAS

Mar 15 Concluding Arguments. **Re-Read:** Reading, Reasoning, Writing (CANVAS).

Mar 17 **No Class.** Special Office Hours from 12-3pm.

Final paper due anytime before and **up until 10:15am Monday, March 20. Hard copy under door at PLC 258. Electronic copy through CANVAS (under assignments).**