

Comm 8 - Argumentation and Reasoning In Oral Communication

Spring Quarter 2021 – Section 50z, 51z

Instructor: Alex Kramer

Virtual Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 8am-9am (text or e-mail and I will try to get back to you promptly)

Phone: (408) 656-6517 (you can send a text message to this number, just please announce yourself and what class you are in)

E-mail: krameralex@deanza.edu

Required Text:

Martenev, Jim. Arguing Using Critical Thinking. 2020

This is a new OER text that you can download for free on our Canvas page. Other supplemental materials will also be made available online.

Course Description:

This is a general education course that fulfills the critical thinking GE requirement. The aim of this course is to provide you with the skills necessary for participation in discussion and debate in a democratic society.

This course will enable you to investigate issues of public policy, to analyze and develop arguments and evidence related to such issues, and to employ such arguments in effective oral advocacy by delivering clear and well-structured persuasive presentations.

Student Learning Outcomes:

After successfully completing this course, you should be able to accomplish the following Student Learning Outcomes:

- Critically evaluate the reasoning and evidence of arguments.
- Use appropriate argument models appropriate to the audience and situation to analyze, advocate, and criticize positions effectively and confidently in both oral and written forms.
- Identify, evaluate and use information technologies and sources in writing and presentations using proper attribution and citation.
- Demonstrate the use of critical listening and comprehension skills in oral and written communication.

Working Online Using Canvas

This quarter will present a unique challenge for us all, as we will once again have to do everything online, while also coping with a public health crisis that fortunately looks to be going away, although not without a fight.

Given that face to face discussion is normally a key component to this course, there will be technological challenges and pedagogical hurdles that will need to be overcome. Fortunately, the Canvas software does provide quite a bit of functionality, and we have other tools like Zoom and FlipGrid to help with things.

To succeed in this course, you will need to log in to Canvas on a regular basis so that you can read instructions, access the textbook, complete assignments, participate in discussions, etc. The course is structured in a week by week modular format, which should make it easy to follow. To begin, you will need to read through the Course Orientation first, which will provide more detailed instructions on how this is all going to work.

Like many online classes, you will be able to do most of the work asynchronously, meaning on your own time at your own pace. However, the debate assignments will require us all to be able to communicate in real time, and we will use the Zoom software to make that happen.

Staying up with the work and submitting things on time is critical to your success!! Evidence of weekly attendance/participation by completing each week's module/assignments is necessary to avoid being dropped for non-attendance. Late work and missed assignments are to be avoided and generally won't earn you full credit. Exceptions will be negotiated on a case by case basis. If something comes up that prevents you from doing the work, contact me ASAP.

If you have any questions on how to use Canvas, or other questions about Campus services now that our physical campus is closed, please make sure to look at the resources on the De Anza Website:
<https://www.deanza.edu/online-summer/>

Additional Policies and Things to Keep In Mind:

The Academic Honor Code will be enforced in this class. Violations of this policy on academic dishonesty can lead to a failing grade on an assignment, having your course grade lowered, getting an "F" in the course, being placed on academic disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion. If you have any questions about what constitutes cheating, plagiarism, inadequate citation of sources, etc., please ask.

Any student with a disability requiring accommodation should make this need known to me. Every effort will be made to accommodate your needs. Please go to <http://www.deanza.edu/dsps/dss/> for more information on available support services.

I expect you to help maintain a respectful and supportive learning environment. This can become especially challenging in an online setting, where we might engage differently than in a face to face context. We're all in college and have chosen to come here to learn, so please be respectful of others!

Please don't hesitate to contact me through email or text and I will try to get back to you promptly, within 24 hours at the latest. You can also use the Canvas messaging function, but I can't promise I will respond as quickly, as it doesn't provide notifications to my phone.

Assignments:

Speaking Exercises #1	20 pts
Speaking Exercise #2	20 pts
Speaking Exercise #3	20 pts
Debate #1	40 pts
Debate #2	60 pts
Discussions	50 pts
Quizzes	60 pts
<u>Other assignments</u>	<u>40 pts</u>

Total **310 pts**

Grades:

Final grades will be assigned on the following basis:

93 - 100% = A	77 - 79% = C+	<60% = F
90 - 92% = A-	70 - 76% = C	
87 - 89% = B+	67 - 69% = D+	
83 - 86% = B	63 - 66% = D	
80 - 82% = B-	60 - 62% = D-	