

Argumentation and Advocacy

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Office hours: T 7:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. T 1:00-2:00 and by appointment

Course description: This course is designed to improve students' critical thinking skills. Students will be challenged to improve their listening skills, their research abilities, and their understanding of reasoning and logic. We will discuss a wide variety of topics in class. The aim of the course is not to promote a specific idea or agenda, but to analyze controversial topics facing the world today. The instructor will often serve as "devil's advocate" to enhance the discussion of these topics. It is understood that the students' work may not express their own beliefs. **A great deal of key information will be transmitted in class - - - attendance will be important.**

The text: Herrick, James Argumentation Understanding and Shaping Arguments 5th Ed.

* The text is an aid for the students. A good deal of the information for exams/assignments will come from the lectures.

Academic dishonesty:

Academic Dishonesty:

School of Communication Statement on Academic Integrity A basic mission of a university is to search for and to communicate truth as it is honestly perceived. A genuine learning community cannot exist unless this demanding standard is a fundamental tenet of the intellectual life of the community. Students of Loyola University Chicago are expected to know, to respect, and to practice this standard of personal honesty. Academic dishonesty can take several forms, including, but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, copying another student's work, and submitting false documents. Academic cheating is a serious act that violates academic integrity. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, such acts as: • Obtaining, distributing, or communicating examination materials prior to the scheduled examination without the consent of the teacher; • Providing information to another student during an examination; • Obtaining information from another student or any other person during an examination; • Using any material or equipment during an examination without consent of the instructor, or in a manner which is not authorized by the instructor; • Attempting to change answers after the examination has been submitted; • Unauthorized collaboration, or the use in whole or part of another student's work, on homework, lab reports, programming assignments, and any other course work which is completed outside of the classroom; • Falsifying medical or other documents to petition for excused absences or extensions of deadlines; or • Any other action that, by omission or commission, compromises the integrity of the academic evaluation process. Plagiarism is a serious violation of the standards of academic honesty. Plagiarism is the appropriation of ideas, language, work, or intellectual property of another, either by intent or by negligence, without sufficient public acknowledgement and appropriate citation that the material is not one's own. It is true that every thought probably has been influenced to some degree by the thoughts and actions of others. Such influences can be thought of as affecting the ways we see things and express all thoughts. Plagiarism, however, involves the taking and use of specific words and ideas of others without proper acknowledgement of the sources, and includes, but is not limited to, the following: • Submitting as one's own material copied from a published source, such as Internet, print, CD-ROM, audio, video, etc.;

Submitting as one's own another person's unpublished work or examination material; • Allowing another or paying another to write or research a paper for one's own benefit; or • Purchasing, acquiring, and using for course credit a pre-written paper. The above list is in no way intended to be exhaustive. Students should be guided by the principle that it is of utmost importance to give proper recognition to all sources. To do so is both an act of personal, professional courtesy and of intellectual honesty. Any failure to do so, whether by intent or by neglect, whether by omission or commission, is an act of plagiarism. A more detailed description of this issue can be found at <http://luc.edu/english/writing.shtml#source> . In addition, a student may not submit the same paper or other work for credit in two or more classes. A student who submits the same work for credit in two or more classes will be judged guilty of academic dishonesty, and will be subject to sanctions described below. This applies even if the student is enrolled in the classes during different semesters. If a student plans to submit work with similar or overlapping content for credit in two or more classes, the student should consult with all instructors prior to submission of the work to make certain that such submission will not violate this standard.

Plagiarism or any other act of academic dishonesty will result minimally in the instructor's assigning the grade of "F" for the assignment or examination. The instructor may impose a more severe sanction, including a grade of "F" in the course. All instances of academic dishonesty must be reported by the instructor to the appropriate area head and to the office of the Dean of the School of Communication. The office of the Dean of the School of Communication may constitute a hearing board to consider the imposition of sanctions in addition to those imposed by the instructor, including a recommendation of expulsion, depending on the seriousness of the misconduct. In the case of multiple instances of academic dishonesty, the Dean's office may convene a separate hearing board to review these instances. The student has the right to appeal the decision of the hearing board to the Dean of SOC. If the student is not a member of the SOC, the dean of the college in which the student is enrolled shall be part of the process. Students have the right to appeal the decision of any hearing board and the deans of the two schools will review the appeal together. Their decision is final in all cases except expulsion. The sanction of expulsion for academic dishonesty may be imposed only by the Provost upon recommendation of the dean or deans.

Students have a right to appeal any finding of academic dishonesty against them. The procedure for such an appeal can be found at:

http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicgrievance.shtml . The School of Communication maintains a permanent record of all instances of academic dishonesty. The information in that record is confidential. However, students may be asked to sign a waiver which releases that student's record of dishonesty as a part of the student's application to a graduate or professional school, to a potential employer, to a bar association, or to similar organizations. (The School of Communication policy is based entirely on and is consistent with the Academic Integrity Policy of the College of Arts & Sciences.)

Additional possible causes of a failing grade:

- [This one is from me] Lie about an absence.
- [This one is from me] Having a cell phone or other electronic devices accessible during a quiz/exam.

Students with Disabilities: Students who need special accommodations for exams or class meetings because of a learning disability will provide you with a letter documenting the type of accommodations needed. If they claim to have a physical or psychological condition that hinders their ability to perform in class, medical documentation must be provided to the Office for Students with Disabilities and that office will assess whether or not your collaboration is required. These matters are confidential.

Late work: All work is due at the start of class on the dates listed below. Late work will be accepted only at the instructor's discretion in the case of extreme circumstances with documentation. The instructor reserves the right to reject late work on face, make a significant reduction in points, or reduce one letter grade per day.

Problems: Please come see me. I can't help if I don't know there is a problem.

Important dates:

- The final exam 11/29 (70pts)
- Homework is due at the start of class. Homework will be assigned in class and on Sakai! (60pts)
- Midterm exam 10/11 (70pts)
- Affirmative case due 11/13 by 3:00 p.m. (100pts) Sakai word doc
- Negative case due 12/11 no later than 1:05 p.m.. (You must supply hard copy hand delivered to me in advance or a word document deposited on Sakai. You are responsible if the file can not be accessed.) (100pts)

General behavior: Turn off your cell phones during class. No recordings of class are permitted. Laptops may not be used. This is not a diner so please don't bring a meal to class.

Grading Scale:

See Gradebook section.

Grade Minimum %

A	<input type="text" value="92"/>
A-	<input type="text" value="90"/>
B+	<input type="text" value="88"/>
B	<input type="text" value="82"/>
B-	<input type="text" value="80"/>
C+	<input type="text" value="78"/>
C	<input type="text" value="72"/>
C-	<input type="text" value="70"/>
D+	<input type="text" value="68"/>
D	<input type="text" value="60"/>

Grade Minimum %

F

Listed below is the order in which we will tackle things. I may make changes in class so keep in touch. This also serves as a ROUGH outline for class.

Chapter 1

Chapter 2

Chapter 3

Chapter 6

Chapter 7

Apendix A

Chapter 8

Chapter 9

Chapter 12

Chapter 13

Chapter 14

Chapter 15

Chapter 18

I will add material and assignments during class. You will be able to find information online and via the text.

Assignments:

Affirmative/Negative cases (**The lectures and first exam help clarify the guidelines for grading these assignments.**)

Criteria for evaluation

One letter grade will be deducted per day the assignment is late.

Students will be graded on the quantity and quality of the research they produce.

Quantity will be measured by the number of quotations/cards submitted.

Quality will be judged using the test of source credibility as detailed in class and in the text.