



## CMST 9 – Critical Thinking and Argumentation

T/R, 4:30-6:00 PM, Fall 2018

Professor John D. Perez,

Email: [jperez@santarosa.edu](mailto:jperez@santarosa.edu)

### Important information:

Last day to drop with a W – 11/18

**Text:** Text: Inch, E.S., Tudor, K.H. (2012). Critical thinking and communication: The use of reason in argumentation. (7th edition). Mason, OH: Pearson Publishing. ISBN: 9780205925773.

**Course Catalog Description:** Primary emphasis is on argumentation as the study of analysis, evidence, reasoning, refutation and rebuttal in oral and written communication. A significant component involves written argumentation with special attention to the essay form.

(Grade or P/NP) Prerequisites: Completion of ENGL 1A or higher Recommended: Limits on Enrollment: Transfer Credit: CSU;UC. Repeatability:00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

### Student Learning Outcomes(SLO's):

*Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:*

1. Compose argumentative essays that utilize sound reasoning, clear organization and evidentiary support.
2. Engage in debates that demonstrate knowledge of current debate guidelines and strategies.
3. Analyze and evaluate written and oral arguments in order to identify the premises for each conclusion, assess the quality of reasoning, and gauge the sufficiency of proof.

### Course Requirements:

- 1.Participation in all in-class activities.
- 2.Written assignments:
  - a. typed outlines and public observation evaluation
- 3.Midterm and Final.

**Instructional Philosophy:** This course will be highly interactive and you will be exposed to many different opinions with which you may or may not agree. We will learn from our commonalities as well as our differences. I invite you to learn together in a safe environment that respects other people's ideas, beliefs, values, and experiences. Let's expect the unexpected and enjoy the possibilities.

**Office Hours:** I am here to help you be a better speaker, and ultimately a better student. If you feel you are not capturing any part of this course, please reach out to me. **Tuesday and Thursday from 6:00 – 7:00 PM, in PC- Call 667. I am also available by appointment.**

**Methods:** We will use a variety of tools to solicit feedback and measure performance; this will include lectures, group activity/discussions, guest speakers, rehearsals, demonstrations, peer-to-peer teaching, multiple oral presentations, and communication activities. Therefore, it is important to stay current on the weekly readings as well as attend class.

**Participation:** It is important to be an active participant throughout this course. During speeches, it is expected that all students will listen to the speech and be prepared to discuss topics, areas of improvement, as well as areas that worked well. This type of behavior will help you become a refined communicator. Points are awarded based on individual feedback and participation in class and group discussions. Merely being present during class is not the same as participating in class activities, discussions, and the learning process. Whispering, studying, texting, snoring, social media/facebooking, and/or blankly staring at me (and your classmates) will certainly result in losing points for the class. I will give you a warning, publicly or privately as the situation warrants, when your behavior becomes distracting and/or disengaged. Continued behavior will result in -3 points for each/every incident.

**Class Etiquette:** Be respectful of yourself and others by being polite. This means turning off cell phones, and other distracting devices prior to entering the class. **\*\*On speech days, any cell phone/electronic device or distraction for any reason will result in an F grade\*\*.** Cell phones are not the only distractors, being disruptive includes, but not limited to: Talking during speeches, doing homework for other classes, not giving your full attention to the class speaker, etc. **IF YOU FEEL YOU CANNOT BE WITHOUT YOUR CELL PHONE FOR THE ENTIRE CLASS PERIOD, THIS IS NOT THE CLASS FOR YOU.**

**Attendance Policies:** Attendance is incredibly important as grades are based on speech delivery and audience participation, therefore, it is imperative that you are here to learn the principles, and participate as an audience member as well as a presenter. Therefore, attendance will be recorded at every class. Late arrivals and early departures will also affect your grade up to and including failure of the course. You may bring in a canned food donation item to “forgive” a tardy.

**Electronic Recording Devices:** Students are not permitted to make recordings in class or in any campus meetings without the approval of the instructors involved. Exceptions shall be made for students with disabilities who have permission from the Disabled Student Programs and Services.

**Electronic resources:** It is imperative that you have access to reliable high-speed internet access and a laptop or computer. All assignments must be submitted online and you need access for research.

**Missed/Late Assignments, Quizzes and Presentations:** I do not accept late assignments, quizzes or presentations. Be proactive, plan ahead, and **communicate** problems you foresee.

**Free Speech:** Procedures regarding time, place and manner shall govern the exercise of free speech and related activities on the campus. The responsibility for maintaining conduct within the bounds of the law and compliance with the policies of the Board of Trustees shall be assumed by individuals, organizations, and the sponsoring organization’s officers and student organizations, advisors and all organizational members. Restrictions on speech content shall extend no further than to restrain speech that is obscene, libelous, or presents a clear and present danger. To maintain a safe environment for all, some topics will not be permitted for speech delivery.

**Dropping the Class:** If you decide to discontinue this course, it is your responsibility to officially drop it. A student may be dropped from any class when that student's absences exceed ten percent (10%) of the total hours of class time. It is strongly advised that if you need to miss more than one class/homework deadline in a row that you contact the instructor to avoid being dropped from the class.

**Pass-NoPass (P/NP):** You may take this class P/NP. You must decide before the deadline, and add the option online with TLC or file the P/NP form with Admissions and Records. With a grade of C or better, you will get P.

You must file for the P/NP option by [date]. Once you decide to go for P/NP, you cannot change back to a letter grade. If you are taking this course as part of a certificate program, you can probably still take the class P/NP. Check with a counselor to be sure.

**Instructor Announcements on Canvas:** The instructor will post announcements on the “Instructor Announcements” page in Canvas throughout the semester. Canvas notifies students according to their preferred Notification Preferences. Please ask questions in class, during office hours, or on email.

**Plagiarism:** Students at Santa Rosa Junior College are working towards completion of individual courses or of course work leading to earned degrees. Grades and degrees are earned as a result of a student's work. Students are expected to complete their own course work. Cheating and plagiarism are the unethical use of another person's work as one's own.

Collaborating on or copying of tests or homework in whole or in part will be considered an act of academic dishonesty and result in a grade of 0 for that test or assignment. Students are encouraged to share information and ideas, but not their work. See these links on Plagiarism:

- SRJC Writing Center Lessons on avoiding plagiarism (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.
- SRJC's statement on Academic Integrity

**Student Code of Conduct:** Students are responsible for following the policies of the college. The Student Code of Conduct can be found on the college website at the following address: <https://student-conduct.santarosa.edu/>

**Communication:** Please contact me via email for the most efficient response. When contacting me via email, please include the basic information: Subject – Class night and section, formal greeting (Dear Mr. Perez), formal closure (Sincerely, Thank you, etc.). Do not email me minutes before class and request an immediate response. Communication no no's- Do not email me and ask "did we do anything important in class?" or ask for an exception to the attendance policy. If you do not include your name and our section number in the subject line, I will not open your email.

**Writing:** In this course there will be a substantial amount of writing involved. In order to develop a speech, an outline is required, followed by a written draft of your speech. The outline varies by speech type, and we will discuss in class when and how to use. Prior to performing any speech, you are required to submit your written outline and final draft of your speech. All submitted paper work MUST be typed, written in 12 point Arial font. In the rare case something is submitted by hand, make sure multiple pages are stapled together. Papers without staples will not be accepted. **IN ORDER TO PERFORM YOUR FORMAL CASE PRESENTATION, YOU MUST SUBMIT A FINAL DRAFT BEFORE YOU SPEAK.**

**Citations:** In this section we will use APA format for all references and citations. This will be discussed in class, along with expectations and resources. Failure to submit documents without the required references and format will yield a failing grade.

**Research:** In order to build your credibility, your speeches must be researched utilizing academic articles along with credible news sources. **I do not accept Wikipedia** as a source for speeches. Together we will examine the components of different speech types, and review how to support your thoughts and arguments through research.

**Speech Anxiety:** Many students enter this class with high levels of Speech Anxiety. We will explore the types of reactions, how to manage this anxiety, and what to look for when identifying stressors. At the end of this course, you will have learned several techniques to help manage this anxiety and make you a better speaker. The key to being successful in this area is to try, push yourself, and not give up. It may be a bit uncomfortable, but you will get through it.

**Peer Review:** To be a great speaker, you have to be able to identify areas of opportunity, and therefore, you will be required to critique a peer speech. These critiques will serve as an opportunity to offer ways to improve the speech and delivery, and should not be attacking the presenter.

## Course Assignments and Descriptions:

**All five papers must be complete of you will receive an Incomplete for this course.** Five Papers (Four Pages or 1200 words each) (500 Points Total--50% of Course Grade)

Critical thinking and my world- paper designed to summarize the discussion and course text on critical thinking. This will be completed in essay form, with full APA (Title page, abstract, in-text citations and Reference page. This paper should focused on your current and changing understanding of critical thinking and argumentation. Please Canvas guidelines for detailed instructions and grading criteria.

Persuasive paper (Formal Case Preparation)- are well-researched papers designed to influence or change the perception an audience member may have about an issue or topic. Persuasive speaking is an art, which encompasses understanding motivation, and designing appeals to persuade or influence the audience member. These types of speeches are commonly found in politics, sales, and advertising. We will discuss the different types of persuasive speeches and prepare topics based on your interest areas. This paper is the first step towards a persuasive speech. You will work on a term paper that will be dissected into multiple parts. The topic should be current, relevant, and well-researched. You will work on these projects in sections: (please see the individual assignments in Canvas for rubric and grading).

1. Introduction and conclusion
2. Affirmative arguments
3. Negative arguments
4. Conclusion
5. Final paper

FCP Presentation- formal presentation of your case to the audience. This presentation should summarize all sections of your work along with charts, graphs or a visual aid.

Discussion boards- Online and in-class writing assignments for critiques, outlines, and argument analysis. These will be posted in Canvas and occur weekly. Post will open on Tuesday evening and initial prompt replies must be completed by Friday, 11:58 PM. Peer responses are due Monday by 11:58 PM.

Total Papers/Writing 500 Points (This is a writing/composition course, and as such writing comprises 50% of your grade in the class.)

Occasionally, there will be group work involved, and groups are always randomized. There will be in class practice speeches prior to delivering your formal graded speeches. These speeches will prepare you to think quickly and organize your thoughts. While they are not graded, you are assigned credit/no credit for these speeches. Failure to participate will jeopardize your ability to pass the overall course.

**Grading:** Your final grade will be determined by using the following percentage breakdown:

Letter Grade	Point Total	Percentage Total
A	630-700	90-100%
B	560-629	80-89%
C	490-559	70-79%
D	350-489	60-69%
F	> 349	0-59%

You are responsible for your own grades and tracking, I use Canvas to track your grades and progress. You have access to these same grades, and you should be monitoring weekly to ensure accuracy. Mistakes happen, and can be corrected. However, if you approach me within the last two weeks of the semester for incorrect grades that occurred in weeks 1 – 15, no changes will be made. Email

me as soon as you notice a grade problem, I try to respond to grade concerns as they occur. Performance grades are final, if you receive a grade you do not like, review the feedback, and make adjustments for the next speech. The easiest way to prevent performance deductions is to practice your speech!

**Incompletes ("I") are only offered to students who face emergency situations during the last two weeks of the semester.**

**Point breakdown:**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Points</b>
Weekly discussion boards <b>News (75)</b> <b>Critical thinking topics (75)</b>	<b>150</b>
Formal Case Prep <b>Topic (5)</b> <b>Outline (20)</b> <b>Draft #1 (25)</b> <b>Draft #2 (25)</b> <b>Draft #3 (25)</b> <b>Final Draft (150)</b>	<b>250</b>
<b>Participation/Attendance (Includes</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Documenting Library Research</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>APA assignment</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Misc. assignments</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Abstracts</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Midterm quiz</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Final quiz</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>700</b>

**Potential extra credit:**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Points</b>
Dress (interview attire, law firm)	5 points per speech (20/semester)
Visual Aid (Informative)	2 points
Full APA	2 points per speech (max 6 points)
Binder (OI Speech)	5 points
Attend speech event/Speech night	10 points (must be pre-approved)
Speech event reflection paper	10 points (specific requirements)
On campus speech tournament participation	50 points
Google hangout session*	Equal to one missed class

**Canvas:** In this section of COMM.09 grades and participation will be tracked online. To access your information, go to <http://santarosajc.instructure.com> and enter your log-in and password. This will give you direct access to your assignments, discussion boards, as well as your cumulative grade for the semester. **ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE.**

**Extra Credit:** There will be several opportunities for extra credit in this course. Extra credit assignments are not required, but encouraged.

**Schedule:** The next page contains tentative dates for upcoming projects and assignments. The schedule is subject to change based on class needs. Check Canvas for most up to date information. If you subscribe to notifications in Canvas, you will receive an email or text with any assignment updates.

**Submission details:** Generally, each assignment will have a detailed description of the expectations; follow these points to avoid point deductions. If something isn't clear in regards to submission details, here are some tips:

- All submitted assignments **MUST** be typed
- Modified APA or Full APA (extra credit for some assignments)
- Arial font, 12-point font only
- Proofread, grammar check
- Submitted only via Canvas only (any assignment sent via email receives a 0)
- Multiple submission for the same assignment will default to a 0 grade (this will not be reversed)

**Failure to submit the final draft of a speech will yield a failing grade for the entire project.** In the rare case something is submitted by hand, make sure multiple pages are stapled together. Papers without staples will not be accepted. **Save trees, submit online!** Additional assignment details are located in Canvas and ordered by due date.

**Missing assignments:** Failure to submit an assignment will yield a negative grade (-1), if you miss a core assignment, you will receive a -5. This will help track your progress and set you up for success.

**Schedule:** The schedule is subject to change based on class needs. **Check Canvas** for the most up to date information. If you subscribe to notifications in Canvas, you will receive an email or text with any assignment updates.

**Key dates: (subject to change)**

- Semester begins – August 20
- Last day to drop a course without a “W” – September 9
- Last day to drop with a “W” – November 18
- Holiday – November 22-25
  - FCP Presentations – November 13 – 15
  - Final performance – December 11 - 13
  - Final exam – December 18, 4:00 – 6:45 PM
  - [https://classes.santarosa.edu/sites/classes.santarosa.edu/files/F18%20final%20exams\\_0.pdf](https://classes.santarosa.edu/sites/classes.santarosa.edu/files/F18%20final%20exams_0.pdf)
  - *Speech performances are subject to change based on class need*

**First Day Assignments:**

- Course understanding complete prior to next class (submission)
- Introductory video posted in Canvas by end of the week (submission) – Saturday
- Class life-line/contact for content (no submission) – due first night
- Topics for the first discussion (group project) (submission date discussed in class)
- News articles, need 5 to 10 per class (no submission)

**ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE VIA CANVAS. NO EXCEPTIONS!**