

SYLLABUS

COMM 9: Critical Thinking & Argumentation

Meets: W 12:00-1:30
Instructors: Laura Ainsworth
Phone: (707) 861-0372

Office Hours: TH 8:00-9:00pm
Location: Canvas Zoom
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Course Description:

COMM 9 is focused 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. This course fulfills the transfer credit requirement for the CSU (GE A3) and UC (IGETC 1B). The recommended preparation for this course is completion of ENGL 1A. **Student Learning Outcomes:** *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 Objectives:

1. Develop arguments that support the traditional prima facie elements for propositions of fact, value and policy.
2. Apply stock issues analysis when supporting or opposing a resolution.
3. List, explain and apply the techniques of refutation.
4. Identify and utilize the principles of effective and efficient research in preparing arguments to support or oppose a debate resolution.
5. Compare and contrast the differences between inductive and deductive reasoning.
6. Compare and contrast different patterns of reasoning including example, analogy, causal and sign reasoning.
7. Recognize and identify logical fallacies.
8. Demonstrate the use of outlining to construct cases that support or oppose a debate resolution.
9. Critique a debate providing reasons for a decision in accordance with accepted evaluation standards.

Course Materials:

- ◆ All materials are available in CANVAS
- ◆ Silva Rhetoricae by Dr. Gideon Burton <http://rhetoric.byu.edu/>
- ◆ National Speech & Debate Association <https://www.speechanddebate.org/competition-events/>

Course Expectations:

I strongly adhere to the principles of Free Speech, and this course naturally deals with dissent and controversy. By remaining enrolled in this particular course, you have agreed to co-create a hospitable learning experience, which means that you understand that no perspective will be censored, but all perspectives will be challenged. We can maintain civility in the face of disagreement, and this course will foster that practice.

Teaching Philosophy:

*Assimilation not Memorization
Integration not Regurgitation*

You are paying for my services. Please take advantage of that fact, because I truly am here to serve you. It is my responsibility to tailor the information to best fit your learning style. Therefore, if you are having any difficulty, need something explained with a different twist, or would like to discuss anything at all, please come and see me, or call, email, or text (anonymous). I am aware that some students have PTSD, and I try to remain as respectful as possible, given the constraints of our class. In the unlikely event that we end up having a conflict, I am more than willing to discuss it with you and work toward resolution; however, you can also report concerns to our Department Chair.

Grading:

Grading will be based on a point system. Your grade is an individualized assessment of the skills you will demonstrate. You may collaborate with others on all assignments, and you may access any materials to assist you for the exams and projects, but you are still responsible for your individual performance.

Points:

Although CANVAS will provide continual awareness of your grade, you should consider keeping track of your individual points and become aware of “grade math” to assist you on your academic journey. I will help with and reinforce this process.

Written Essays	500	_____
Exams [Midterm (100), Final (100)]	200	_____
Problem Solving [Fallacies (50) & Resolutions Assignments (50)]	100	_____
Debate	100	_____
Class Participation	100	_____
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<u>Total Points</u>	1,000	=My grade

<u>Grading Scale:</u>	90-100% = A	900-1,000 points
	80- 89% = B	800-899 points
	70- 79% = C	700-799 points
	60- 69% = D	600-699 points
	Anything Below is Failing	

No one should fail this course. This is supposed to be an enjoyable course for individuals who want to learn more about Communication Studies. The goal is to provide you with the tools you need for incorporating the principles and skills of this discipline into your daily lives. As a result, you can always contact me with any concern via email, text, phone, CANVAS, and by appointment: **anytime**. I am here to make this a worthwhile endeavor. **The Drop period is available until February 7th. You have until April 25th to Withdraw (W on transcript). I will not drop you from the course. I will also follow the attendance policy of SRJC. OUR FINAL is on Wednesday, May 26th from 10:00-12:45 p.m.**

Important College Policies:

This course adheres to Santa Rosa Junior College's **Health & Safety Regulations**:

<https://police.santarosa.edu/health-safety-regulations> By remaining enrolled in the course, you agree to the Campus' **Drug and Alcohol Policy**, and the **Student Standards of Conduct**, including the provision that applies to **Sexual Harassment & Unlawful Discrimination**. Harassment includes, but is not limited to, conduct that is motivated on the basis of a person's race, color, national or ethnic origin, citizenship, sex, religion, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, marital status, ancestry, service in the uniformed services, physical or mental disability, medical condition, or perceived membership in any of the classifications. You also understand that SRJC does not tolerate Academic Dishonesty, most notably, plagiarism.

Students with Disabilities:

This course abides by the principles of Universal Design and allows for the completion of student-generated projects that are consistent with supporting diverse learning styles and needs. If you need an accommodation, I am more than happy to make any necessary arrangements for you. Additionally, you can contact Disability Resources at <https://drd.santarosa.edu/> (707) 527-4278, or disabilityinfo@santarosa.edu.