

North Hennepin Community College

COMM 1910: Argumentation and Public Advocacy

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: *.*

Lab Hours/Week: *.*

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites:

This course requires either of these prerequisites

SPCH 1010 - Fundamentals of Public Speaking

COMM 1010 - Fundamentals of Public Speaking

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 01 - Communication, Goal 02 - Critical Thinking

This course is intended to develop critical and analytical skills for creating persuasive messages to audiences in formal, oppositional settings. Students will discuss and apply various communication strategies to evaluate the effectiveness of evidence, gain experience in a more formal debate setting, and evaluate and craft arguments ethically and responsibly. These assignments will prepare students for debate in a range of contexts, from interpersonal and small group settings to larger discussions of public and social policy in American culture.

Prerequisite: COMM 1010

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 12/15/2015 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Topics covered: the basic components for arguments and how they work together, especially when adapted to certain audiences and situations. Types of evidence, how to weigh evidence appropriately for the greatest impact while adhering to ethical use and appropriate citation. Structuring of arguments and how to devise effective strategies for refuting opponents and counter-arguments. The course will also discuss how to draft and structure debate briefs so that students are adequately prepared for all major debate assignments.

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Critically evaluate competing forms of evidence. (MnTC 1a, c, d, e, 2a, b, c, d, 9a, b, c, d, ELOs 1, 2, 3)
2. Identify the different types of propositions and their structural rules. (MnTC 1a, 2c, d, ELOs 2, 3)
3. Utilize the Toulmin Model to evaluate oral arguments. (MnTC 1a, c, 2b, c, d, 4b, 9d, ELOs 2, 3)
4. Utilize the Toulmin Model to construct oral arguments. (MnTC 1a, c, d, e, f, 2a, b, c, d, 9a, b, c, d, ELOs 1, 2, 3)
5. Deliver persuasive oral arguments in a formal debate setting. (MnTC 1a, b, d, e, f, 2a, b, c, d, 6b, c, 7e, 8b, 9a, b, c, d, ELOs 1, 2, 3)
6. Evaluate and craft arguments ethically and responsibly. (MnTC 1a, d, e, f, 2a, b, c, d, 9a, b, c, d, ELOs 1, 2, 3)

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 01 - Communication

1. Understand/demonstrate the writing and speaking processes through invention, organization, drafting, revision, editing and presentation.
2. Participate effectively in groups with emphasis on listening, critical and reflective thinking, and responding.
3. Locate, evaluate, and synthesize in a responsible manner material from diverse sources and points of view.
4. Select appropriate communication choices for specific audiences.
5. Construct logical and coherent arguments.
6. Use authority, point-of-view, and individual voice and style in their writing and speaking.

Goal 02 - Critical Thinking

1. Gather factual information and apply it to a given problem in a manner that is relevant, clear, comprehensive, and conscious of possible bias in the information selected.
2. Imagine and seek out a variety of possible goals, assumptions, interpretations, or perspectives which can give alternative meanings or solutions to given situations or problems.
3. Analyze the logical connections among the facts, goals, and implicit assumptions relevant to a problem or claim; generate and evaluate implications that follow from them.
4. Recognize and articulate the value assumptions which underlie and affect decisions, interpretations, analyses, and evaluations made by ourselves and others.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

1. Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World - Through study in the sciences, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, histories, languages, the arts, technology and professions.
2. Intellectual and Practical Skills - Including: Inquiry and analysis; Critical and creative thinking; Written and oral communication; Quantitative literacy; Information literacy; Teamwork and problem solving.
3. Personal and Social Responsibility and Engagement - Including: Civic knowledge and involvement - campus, local and global; Intercultural knowledge and competence; Ethical reasoning and action; Foundations and skills for lifelong learning.