GROSSMONT COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

Curriculum Committee Approval: 04/20/2021

GCCCD Governing Board Approval: 05/18/2021

COMMUNICATION 145 – ARGUMENTATION

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units

COMM 145 Argumentation 3

Semester Hours

3 hours lecture 48-54 total hours 96-108 outside-of-class hours 144-162 total hours

1. Course Prerequisites

None

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

None

1. Catalog Description

This course emphasizes the construction and analyses of public argument. The course covers the theory of argument, the processes and development of arguments and the application of argument to decision making. Topics include: methods of critical inquiry and advocacy; identifying fallacies in reasoning and language; testing evidence and evidence sources; advancing a reasoned position; and defending and refuting arguments. Analysis, presentation, and evaluation of oral and written arguments are emphasized.

1. Course Objectives

The student will:

* 1. Analyze the theory of argument as it relates to public decision making.
  2. Identify and classify claims.
  3. Compare and contrast argument and persuasion.
  4. Analyze the development of arguments in public discourse.
  5. Utilize the basic elements of critical thinking (e.g., the reasoning process, various methods of reasoning, recognition of logical fallacies, critical evaluation of reasoning and evidence) to evaluate an argument.
  6. Apply the dialectical methods of determining truth to an argument.
  7. Formulate an argument using research and evidencing an understanding of supporting claims.
  8. Apply the techniques of advocacy and argumentation to a specific context.
  9. Analyze, advocate, and criticize ideas, especially through the process of debate.
  10. Utilize critical thinking skills in oral and written communication.

1. Instructional Facilities

Standard Classroom

1. Special Materials Required of Student

None

1. Course Content
   1. Advocacy and argumentation techniques.
   2. Theoretical/Philosophical overview of argument, including methods of inquiry and critical analysis of discourse.
   3. Popular misconceptions regarding the meaning of argument.
   4. The relationship of claims and issues.
   5. The ethics of argument and persuasion.
   6. Research skills; analysis and evaluation of evidence and sources.
   7. Reasoning and argument fallacies.
   8. A variety of argument structures.
   9. The role of argument in public contexts.
   10. Analysis, presentation, and evaluation of oral and written arguments.

1. Method of Instruction

The theoretical material will be presented in class through

* 1. Lecture and discussion.
  2. Reading assignments.
  3. Examples from current affairs and mass media.

1. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance
   1. Written examinations.
   2. Written analysis of reasoning and arguments.
   3. Oral presentation of arguments and evaluation of the oral arguments of others.
   4. Use of appropriate evidence from research.
   5. Written final exam or final performance.
2. Outside Class Assignments
   1. Assigned readings.
   2. Research and analyses of compelling arguments.
3. Representative Texts
   1. Representative Texts:

Lunsford, Andrea A., John J. Ruszkiewicz & Keith Waiters. *Everything’s an Argument*, 8th edition. MacMillan, 2019.

* 1. Supplementary texts and workbooks:

As assigned by the instructor.

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to do the following:

Construct valid arguments, choosing appropriate supporting evidence.