

COMMUNICATION 1270: ONLINE COURSE- 40 CRN: 45756

ARGUMENTATION AND CRITICAL THINKING

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Course Description

An overarching goal of this course is to develop good, cogent reasoning among students; and good reasoning that is cogent is an essential ingredient in problem solving. This course is about how to think critically and reason well in everyday life, whether dealing with personal problems or those of a social or political nature. Argumentation and Critical Thinking (COMM 1270) is a required course of all Communication majors, and is open to other interested students. This course focuses on the relationship of language to logic, rhetoric and good reasoning. Successful participants increase their analytic and critical thinking abilities while they learn to effectively connect, propose, and support ideas using both inductive and deductive reasoning. They learn to differentiate between inferences and fact, and to avoid ambiguous statements of knowledge or belief.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Recognize the basic elements of an argument
2. Describe the difference between cogent reasoning and bad (fallacious) reasoning
3. Identify fallacies in arguments
4. Demonstrate knowledge of argumentation and how it relates to decision making, reflective thinking, and advocacy.
5. Demonstrate understanding of how people use logic, reason, and evidence to make decisions in law, politics, scholarship, and business.
6. Explain and demonstrate how one engages in the reflective thinking process that must precede advocacy and argumentation.
7. Discuss ethical considerations that relate to argumentation and debate.
8. Analyze the role of language in powerful argumentation.
9. Create complete, sound and reasonable arguments.

Required Textbook

Argumentation: Understanding and Shaping Arguments by James A. Herrick, 4th Edition. (State College, Pa.: Strata, 2011). All reading assignments are from this textbook, supplemental material will be available online. However, class discussion will address the concepts and material from this text. All exam questions are based on this textbook material as well.

Course Format and Method of Delivery

This section of COMM 1270-40 CRN 45756 is delivered online in asynchronous mode. We are using Blackboard Vista < <http://www.dixie.edu/lmsonline/>> it can be taken at a distance at any time that fits within the schedule of the participant. In preparation to take this course please go to the following link <http://new.dixie.edu/academicoutreach/index.php> if anyone has forgotten their login information or their courses aren't displaying, please contact the Helpdesk and/or the website www.dixie.edu/helpdesk/. The Helpdesk is located in the Smith Computer Centers main computer lab.

After the course opens on August 22, 2011 your active participation is expected and essential to your success. Your creativity to initiate discussions and your consistent focus on the material during the semester will make a difference in your learning. **PLEASE USE ONLY MOZILLA FIREFOX BROWSER. OTHER BROWSERS CAUSE VARIOUS GLITCHES IN THIS SYSTEM.**