Department of Communication Studies  
Role and Mission Statement

The role and mission of the faculty and students of the Department of Communication Studies are to examine human symbolic activity as it shapes and is shaped by relationships, institutions, and societies. This work concerns the creation, analysis, and critique of messages. The department’s research, teaching and service devote particular attention to understanding the ways in which communication erodes and sustains collaboration within and among local, national, and global communities.

Course Policies

EVALUATION OF STUDENT WORK: If you disagree with my evaluation of your work or your debate team's work, feel free to come and speak with me. Please do this within a day or two of the time you receive your evaluation. I am not defensive about my grading and you should feel no apprehension about discussing the evaluation of your work. On occasion I have been persuaded to change a grade.

COMPLETION OF ASSIGNMENTS: All major assignments must be completed in order to pass the course. If a student fails to participate in completing debate team assignments or misses an examination, the student will receive an F for the final course grade regardless of the quality of other work.

LATE WORK AND EXCUSED ABSENCES: Extensions will be granted only where the student is able to document special circumstances and provide the instructor with prior notification. All other work will be penalized one letter grade for every 24 hours past the due date.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY.

Required Texts

There is no required text for the course, there will be a packet of course material that I will have xeroxed for purchase.
Course Supplies

1. You will be responsible for providing a copy of your work to each debate team in class. This will involve you typing all material on a computer and transmitting it to me via an e-mail attachment. I will then place the material on our course webpage and students will have access to it.

2. You will also need 4x6 index cards, file dividers, and a file box.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to introduce students to argumentation theory and provide them with practical debate experience. Toward that end, you will:

1. master such skills as analysis, research, evidence-searching, reasoning, refutation, cross-examination, and delivery;

2. develop, support, present, and defend a constructive position;

3. evaluate and criticize argumentation strategies used by others;

4. develop an understanding of debate judging/coaching.

Course Requirements

Test I – 100 pts  
Test II – 100 pts  
Affirmative case–75 pts  
Neg. Brief – 60 pts  
Short Assignments–45 pts  
(evidence etc.)  
Practice Debates-120 pts  
Tournament Debates-180 pts  

Total Pts – 680

Grading Scale

633-680 A  
612-632 A-  
592-611 B+  
565-591 B  
544-564 B-
Warning

1. This course requires a great deal of work, especially in September and October. Make sure you keep up with the work.

2. The class also requires some out-of-class time commitments. You will be required to debate on two afternoon into evening times that will be determined later.

3. Grades of incomplete will not be given. Each in-class and out-of-class debate for which you are scheduled that you miss will result in a zero for the assignment. Missing an out-of-class tournament to which you have committed yourself will result in a lowering of your final course grade by TWO letters.

4. During the semester, debate performances will be evaluated by critic judges other than the instructor. This, of course, reflects the way academic debate operates.

Tournament Debating

1. You are required to participate in six out-of-class debates.

2. There will be three afternoon tournaments of three rounds each. If you participate in two of these tournaments, you will complete your six out-of-class debates. These will take place in the afternoon (roughly 3:30 to 8pm) or on a weekend.

Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T 8/25</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH 8/27</td>
<td>A Perspective on Argumentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
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<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>T 9/01</td>
<td>Propositions</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH 9/03</td>
<td>Basic Concepts – Topic Discussion</td>
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<td>T 9/08</td>
<td>Topic and Research</td>
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<td>TH 9/10</td>
<td>Reasoning</td>
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<tr>
<td>T 9/15</td>
<td>Organizing and Briefing Arguments (BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH 9/17</td>
<td>Review for Examination; Work Day (15 PIECES OF EVIDENCE DUE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>T 9/22</td>
<td>EXAMINATION ONE</td>
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<td>TH 9/24</td>
<td>Keeping a Flow Chart; Demonstration Debate</td>
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<tr>
<td>T 09/29</td>
<td>Affirmative Case Construction (15 PIECES OF EVIDENCE DUE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH 10/01</td>
<td>Cross Examination</td>
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<tr>
<td>T 10/06</td>
<td>Negative Strategies and Tactics (AFFIRMATIVE CASE OUTLINE DUE)</td>
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<td>TH 10/08</td>
<td>Refutation</td>
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<td>T 10/13</td>
<td>Refutation and Style and Delivery (AFFIRMATIVE CASE DUE)</td>
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<td>TH 10/15</td>
<td>Getting Ready to Debate (NEGATIVE BRIEF DUE)</td>
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<td>T 10/20</td>
<td>Fall Break</td>
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<td>TH 10/22</td>
<td>Practice Debates                                                   (15 PIECES OF EVIDENCE DUE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>T 10/27</td>
<td>Practice Debates</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH 10/29</td>
<td>Practice Debates                                                   (15 PIECES OF EVIDENCE DUE)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| T 11/03| Practice Debates}
TH 11/05  Practice Debates
T 11/10  Practice Debates
TH 11/12  Practice Debates
T 11/17  Judging Debates
TH 11/19  Examination II
T 11/24  Work Day
T 12/01  Practice Debates
Tournament #1 (3 rounds – 3:30 pm to 8:00pm)
W 12/02  Tournament #2 (3 rounds – 3:30 pm to 8:00 pm)
TH 12/03  Practice Debates
Sat 12/05  Tournament #3 (3 rounds – 10:00 am to 3:00 pm)
Sun 12/06  Tournament #4 (3 rounds – 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm)
T 12/08  Practice Debates
TH 12/10  Wrap Up
(Debate Ballot Due)