

Instructor: David Romanelli

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Office hours: T/ TH 7:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m. and by appointment

Course description: This course is designed to improve students' critical thinking skills. Students will be challenged to improve their listening skills, their research abilities, and their understanding of reasoning and logic. We will discuss a wide variety of topics in class. The aim of the course is not to promote a specific idea or agenda, but to analyze controversial topics facing the world today. The instructor will often serve as "devil's advocate" to enhance the discussion of these topics. It is understood that the students' work may not express their own beliefs. **A great deal of key information will be transmitted in class - - - attendance will be important.**

The text: Herrick, James Argumentation Understanding and Shaping Arguments 5th Ed.

* The text is an aid for the students. A good deal of the information for exams/assignments will come from the lectures.

Academic dishonesty:

(This comes from the SOC)

All Faculty are expected to require students to use legal and proper source attribution on assignments—whether written or media-driven.

Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. Plagiarism in your work will result in a minimum of a failing grade for that assignment. The case may carry further sanctions from the School of Communication or the University, the most serious being permanent expulsion. Avoid turning in work that could be interpreted as plagiarism or academically dishonest (e.g., failing to properly credit a source or using someone else's ideas without clarifying that they are not yours). This is an academic community; being uninformed or naïve is not an acceptable excuse for not properly referencing your sources.

It is dishonest to:

- Turn in the same work for two classes;
- Turn in a paper you have not written yourself; or
- Copy from another student or use a “cheat sheet” during an exam.
- [This one is from me] Lie about an absence.

Late work: All work is due at the start of class on the dates listed below (HARD COPY). Late work will be accepted only at the instructor's discretion in the case of extreme circumstances with documentation. The instructor reserves the right to reject late work on face, make a significant reduction in points, or reduce one letter grade per day.

Problems: Please come see me. I can't help if I don't know there is a problem.

Important dates:

- The final exam 12/1 (70pts)
- Homework is due at the start of class. Homework will be assigned in class and on Sakai! (6 assignments worth 10 points each = 60pts)
- Midterm exam 10/15 (70pts)
- Affirmative case due 11/12 (100pts)
- Negative case due 12/12 no later than 9:05 a.m. (hard copy hand delivered to me). (100pts)

General behavior: Turn off your cell phones during class. No recordings of class are permitted. Laptops may only be used with permission from the instructor. This is not a diner so please don't bring a meal to class.

Grading Scale:

400-368 A

367-364 A-

363-356 B+

355-328 B

327-324 B-

323-316 C+

315-288 C

287-284 C-

283-276 D+

275-240 D

239-000 F

Listed below is the order in which we will tackle things. I may make changes in class so keep in touch. This also serves as a ROUGH outline for class.

Appendix A

Chapter 1

Chapter 2

Chapter 3

Chapter 6

Chapter 7

Chapter 8

Chapter 9

Chapter 12

Chapter 13

Chapter 14

Chapter 15

Chapter 18

We will fill in the substructure during class. You will be able to find information online and via the text.

Assignments:

* As noted above homework will be announced in class and posted as announcements of Sakai. **The students are required to judge one full day for the Chicago Debate League to**

earn their civic engagement credit. Failure to complete this assignment will result in a grade of incomplete for the course.

Affirmative/Negative cases

Criteria for evaluation

One letter grade will be deducted per day the assignment is late.

Students will be graded on the quantity and quality of the research they produce.

Quantity will be measured by the number of quotations/cards submitted.

Quality will be judged using the test of source credibility as detailed in class and in the text.

The affirmative case should at a minimum (C level work) contain the following:

- 1 inherency quote/card
- A fully developed plan text
- Two distinct advantages containing 5 quotes/cards
- 1 solvency quote/card per advantage

The negative case should at a minimum (C level work) contain the following:

- 1 counterplan will a fully developed plan text and 1 solvency quote/card
- 2 fully developed disadvantages
- 8 quotes/cards attacking a variety of elements of the affirmative case (i.e. advantages/solvency).

