

Grading Policy:

10% LD Debate 1
20% LD Debate 2
10% CX opening Aff/Neg
20% CX Debate 2
60% of the grade from performances

20% Test 1: Ch 1-9 & Appendix A materials
20% Test 2: Ch 10-18 & Appendix materials
40% of the grade from text/lecture materials

Welcome to Argumentation & Debate. This course is foundational in communication studies and for citizens of a democracy. Our democracy is founded on the free and lively debate of issues to build policy. When debate is stifled, or entered into deceitfully, democracy suffers. This class intends to teach you how to research well and to create moral arguments and sound, humane policy proposals.

Required Text: Herrick, James A. (2016) *Argumentation: Understanding and Shaping Arguments* 5th Ed. State College, Penn: Strata Publishing. ISBN 978-1-891136-34-4

- o Link for Texas UIL debate materials: <http://www.uiltexas.org/speech/debate>

Course Description: Argumentation is often defined as the study of practical reasoning—the process of justifying decisions, in the presence of opposition, made under conditions of uncertainty (usually lack of complete information and conflicting values). The natural places where public argument occurs are in law courts, legislative assemblies, and committees within complex organizations. Although argumentation and persuasion are inextricably linked because one argues in order to persuade, the traditional assumption about argumentation is that it is addressed to a knowledgeable audience and tries to adhere to high standards of evidence and reasoning. Oral advocacy before the Supreme Court is perhaps our paradigm example of argumentation within the American tradition, while a political convention speech or a campaign commercial are good examples of persuasion, in that they are addressed to a very large audience with differing levels of knowledge, often oversimplify complex issues, and rely heavily on existing group prejudices and emotional associations. Debate is an academic and political tool for helping audiences understand differences between competing factual, legal, value, and policy positions. It has taken various forms but it remains an essential tool both of Western law, and of democracy. This class will prepare both the high school teacher for HS UIL debate contests and the citizen for civil dialogues in the public arena.

This course will focus on practical, productive, and ethical uses of reasoning and oral argument.

Students will be introduced to many argumentative concepts, tests for evidence, and different types of arguments. The overall goal is to help students recognize, understand and develop civil responsibility through professional and personal judgments based on the proper methods of ethical argument construction. In particular, you will learn the skills of:

- **Storytelling:** How to tell a story that is accurate to the facts, sufficient to meet the requirements of the law, and persuasive to your hearers.
- **Arguing:** How to establish your position on contested issues, in order to convince your hearers.
- **Ethical Reflection (Thinking):** How to construct and consider questions which move to the heart of an issue for the purpose of reflecting upon them and deciding the best course of action.

Student Learning Objectives (Communication & Mass Media Department):

LG2: Recognize and understand key issues related to communication theory and media/speech ethics (assessed by the ethics portion of Exam 1).

LG3: Create original communication products (speeches, campaigns, papers, videos, etc.) both individually and in collaboration with other students (assessed by LD2 assignment & the final CX presentation).

Attendance/Participation: Attendance is required in this course. You are allowed two absences without penalty on days in which you do not have to perform or work with your teams. From that point on, 2 points will be deducted from your final grade for arriving late, leaving early, or missing class. **Ten-minute Rule:** if a student misses more than 10 minutes for whatever reason, they will be counted absent. Doctor appointments, etc. should be scheduled around class in advance. Regardless of attendance, you are responsible for class notes, handouts and deadlines. **There are no make-ups.** If you are absent on your debate day, you will receive a zero for that grade. As always, official ASU student travel is excused. Academic Regulations Concerning Student Performance provides complete information regarding class attendance and reporting student illness and emergencies is provided in Angelo State University [Operating Policy 10.04](https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14212-op-1004-academic-regulations-concerning-student). (found at: <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14212-op-1004-academic-regulations-concerning-student>) you'll have to copy/paste this link into your browser

Honor Code Policy: Violations of academic integrity are very serious matters and are clearly documented in the ASU Student Handbook. The work a student submits in a class is expected to be the *student's own work and must be work*

completed for that particular class and assignment. Plagiarism means intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own. Specifics on this are classified under "Student Misconduct" in the Student Handbook. <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/>

Academic Disability Statement: Angelo State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact Student Services at 942-2191. See this webpage for more information: <https://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/disability-services-policy-statement.php>. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible so I can make those accommodations for you.

Academic Advising: The College Arts & Humanities and Department of Communication and Mass Media require that students meet with a Faculty Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Faculty Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, and the department chair. CMM majors who have questions about advising or declaring a major in the department, can call 942-2031. Freshmen and pre-declared majors are supported by ASU's Arts and Humanities advisors in CARR 203.

Grade Appeal Process. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details; additionally see the Student Handbook, at: <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/>.

Religious Holidays observance. University Policy/Procedure Re: Religious Holidays

1. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Texas Tax Code §11.20.
2. A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.
3. A student who is excused under section 2 may not be penalized for the absence; however, the instructor may respond appropriately if the student fails to complete the assignment satisfactorily.

Title IX at Angelo State University:

The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance. **For more information** about Title IX in general you may visit www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

Students are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU's Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator at:

Michelle Boone, J.D., Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator

Mayer Administration Building, Room 210 325-942-2022

michelle.boone@angelo.edu

You may also file a report online 24/7 at www.angelo.edu/incident-form.

If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence, you may contact the *University Health Clinic and Counseling Center* at 325-942-2173 or the *ASU Crisis Helpline* at 325-486-6345.