

Syllabus for
COM 309—Argumentation and Persuasion: Theory and Practice
3 Credit Hours
Fall 2014

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An examination of reasoning skills with an emphasis on many of the fallacies used in argumentation today. Covers debate: parliamentary, Lincoln/Douglas and cross-examination, and expands the students' world perspective through examination of print editorials, Sunday news programs, and pundit news programs.

Prerequisite: COM 101.

II. COURSE GOALS

This course should enable students to function more effectively as a consumer of persuasion and argument. They should also be able to discuss world events and establish good habits of being informed. Because of the need to go into every person's world, this class helps the students to add logic to their arguments so that they use concise and clear thinking when establishing and explaining their beliefs.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

Terminal Objectives

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Become cognizant of current events to analyze and evaluate given examples of public argument for the following:
 - 1. Structure.
 - 2. Adequacy of proof.
 - 3. Use of fallacious reasoning.
 - 4. Strengths and weaknesses in logic.
- B. Analyze a given persuasive situation and message for motivational potential and for actual motivational appeals.
- C. Construct a persuasive message for a given situation and issue that is
 - 1. Logically defensive.
 - 2. Motivationally appealing.
 - 3. Ethically acceptable to the student.
 - 4. Culturally appropriate.
- D. Observe tactics used by pundits by using significant ideas learned about persuasion.
- E. Present evidence of an understanding of debate skills by doing the following:
 - 1. Writing and/or judging the quality of affirmation and negative case briefs.
 - 2. Utilizing effective cross-examination skills.
 - 3. Successfully summarizing a debate by writing rebuttals to arguments given in class.
 - 4. Flow the entire debate.
- F. Apply each of these areas to the Christian arena and see how argumentation and persuasion skills make him or her a better functioning Christian and citizen in a democratic society.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

Required Materials

Textbooks: Crossman, M. (2013). *Burden of proof: an introduction to argumentation and guide to parliamentary debate*. 3rd edition. Mason: Cengage Learning. ISBN-13: 978-0-36391-5, ISBN-10: 0-759-36391-5.

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
2. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
3. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
 - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
 - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
 - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
 - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.
4. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
5. Students are to be in compliance with University, school, and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the WPA handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
 - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an artifact is a zero for that assignment.
 - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

B. Department Policies and Procedures

1. **Attendance**—At Oral Roberts University, students are expected to attend all classes. Understanding that there are sometimes unavoidable circumstances that prevent perfect attendance, each student is allowed to miss class the number of times per week a class meets. This allowance is for illness, personal business, and personal emergency.

Students may consider this personal days or sick leave. If a student has absences in excess of this number, the earned grade for the course will be reduced one letter grade for each hour's absence above those allowed. A student missing class due to illness must take an unexcused absence. Extended illnesses are handled on an individual basis and require a doctor's excuse.

2. **Administratively Excused Absences**—Students who must miss class for University sponsored activities must follow these procedures:
 - a. Inform the professor before the event.
 - b. Arrange to complete missed work within one week.
 - c. Not commit to class performances (oral reports, speeches, television tapings, group presentations, etc.) on a date the student will be gone. Makeup work is not permitted if the student voluntarily commits to a performance on the date of an administratively excused absence.
 - d. Present an excuse, signed by the Dean of Arts and Cultural Studies, the day the student returns.
3. **Tardies**—Tardies are an inconvenience to the other class members and the professor, and they prevent the late student from obtaining maximum value from the class. Therefore, tardies are calculated in the attendance provision of this course. Three tardies equal one absence and are included in the absences when determining the course grade. It is to the student's advantage to make sure that the professor is informed immediately following the close of the class that the student was tardy and not absent. It is not the professor's responsibility to stop the class to mark the student late; the student is the one responsible to convey that information following that class. Students should not expect to be credible the following class session concerning a late arrival on a previous day.
4. **Late Work**—The student is responsible for obtaining class assignments and material covered during an absence. All work must be completed as scheduled. An absence is not an excuse for turning in late work or for being unprepared with assignments for the class following the absence. If late work is accepted, a substantial penalty will be assessed.
5. **Literacy**—The Communication, Arts, and Media Department does not accept for credit any written assignment that contains more than an average of three grammatical and/or typographical errors per page.
6. **Whole Person Assessment**—Refer to the Communication, Arts, and Media WPA handbook for policies at (<http://oru.edu>), click on **Academics**, then **WPA**, then **Department Resources**, then **CAM Handbook HTML**.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures

Papers	15%
Midterm	25%
Final	25%
Exams	20%
Media Reports	<u>15%</u>
	100%
2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements: students are responsible for including these portfolio items.
 - a. Affirmative case plan. Labeled "position paper"
 - b. Artifacts not submitted electronically or incorrectly submitted receive a zero for that assignment.

3. Other Policies and/or Procedures

Any examination not taken at the scheduled time due to an excused absence must be made up at a time arranged with or by the instructor. Generally, tests missed for an unexcused absence cannot be made up. The University's \$15.00 late-test fee must be paid in advance.

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

Week 1	Introduction and chapter 1, Toulmin model, editorial information
Week 2	Fallacies #1 notes, Chapter 2 1 st Editorial due - sign
Week 3	Fallacies #2 notes & preparing a position paper, 2 nd editorial due - cause
Week 4	Fallacies 1&2 exam, Chapter 3, Sunday am shows info, 3 rd editorial - analogy
Week 5	Fallacies #3, 4th editorial due - example, affirmative position paper due
Week 6	5 th Editorial due - authority. present position paper to class/response, fallacies #4
Week 7	Chapter 4 Sunday am shows due, fallacies 3&4 exam
Week 8	Fallacies #5 and MIDTERM
Week 9	Chapter 5, chapter 1-5 exam
Week 10	Pundits, value debate, Chapter 6
Week 11	Pundit paper due
Week 12	Value debate plan due, Chapters 8-9
Week 13	Policy Debate notes, Chapter 7
Week 14	Policy Debate plan due
Week 15	Debates
Week 16	finals

Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes

COM 309—Argumentation & Persuasion Fall 2014

This course contributes to the ORU student learning outcomes as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

No Contribution – Does not address the outcome.

The Student Learning Glossary at <http://ir.oru.edu/doc/glossary.pdf> defines each outcome and each of the proficiencies/capacities.

OUTCOMES & Proficiencies/Capacities		Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
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1	Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive Proficiencies/Capacities				
1A	Biblical knowledge			X	
1B	Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit			X	
1C	Evangelistic capability			X	
1D	Ethical behavior	X			

2	Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert Proficiencies/Capacities				
2A	Critical thinking	X			
2B	Information literacy	X			
2C	Global & historical perspectives		X		
2D	Aesthetic appreciation			X	
2E	Intellectual creativity	X			

3	Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined Proficiencies/Capacities				
3A	Healthy lifestyle				X
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle				X

4	Outcome #4 – Socially Adept Proficiencies/Capacities				
4A	Communication skills	X			
4B	Interpersonal skills	X			
4C	Appreciation of cultural & linguistic differences		X		
4D	Responsible citizenship	X			
4E	Leadership capacity		X		