

COMM 1270

Course Syllabus

Welcome to COMM 1270 below you will find all of the syllabus information broken into easy to navigate tabs. Please read the syllabus in order to understand the expectations of this course.

Course Description & Objectives

Course Description:

Introduction to the study of argumentation theory and critical thinking. Emphasizing reasoning, issues, practice and audience analysis in diverse decision-making contexts.

Course Objectives:

Students completing COMM 1270 can:

- Apply elements of the critical decision-making process
- Using the essential elements of argument and the process of reasoning, critically examine and model arguments
- Develop arguments based on audience spheres
- Use principles of effective argumentation to plan, write, advance, practice, and rebut arguments

Required Textbook & Materials

Textbook:

Purchasing a textbook will be essential to your success in this course. Please see the textbook information and where you can purchase below.

Rieke, R.D., Sillars, M.O., Peterson, T.R. (2013) *Argumentation and Critical Decision Making*. 8th Ed. Boston: Pearson Education, Print.

ISBN #: 978-0-205-21059-6

Where to Purchase: You can purchase a hard copy of the textbook from the [SLCC Bookstore \(Links to an external site.\)](#)[Links to an external site.](#). You should only purchase the 8th edition and many online bookstores sell and/or rent this book used.

Technology Requirements:

- Access to a computer and a viable internet connection

- Ability to navigate Canvas
- Scan and upload documents for assignment submission
- Properly cite information sources
- Create documents and presentations in Microsoft Office, specifically Word and PowerPoint
- Use SLCC Library research databases
- Learn or know how to use one of the following web conferencing tools for class and online office hours: Zoom

For your information, the following privacy policies are provided:

- [Canvas privacy policy \(Links to an external site.\)](#)Links to an external site.
- [Padlet privacy policy \(Links to an external site.\)](#)Links to an external site.
- [Webex privacy policy \(Links to an external site.\)](#)Links to an external site.
- [Skype privacy policy \(Links to an external site.\)](#)Links to an external site.
- [Google Hangouts privacy policy \(Links to an external site.\)](#)Links to an external site.
- [Google Docs privacy policy \(Links to an external site.\)](#)Links to an external site.

Course Polices

Instructor Response Time:

You can expect a 24 - 48 hour response time for emails and phone calls during the workweek. You can also expect assignments to be graded within one - two weeks from the due date. Late work will not be subject to this policy.

Late Work & Due Dates:

Whether or not late assignments will be accepted is up to the discretion of your instructor. Ask before you assume it's okay to submit an assignment late. There are due dates on a weekly basis in this course. See the [Course Expectations & Deadlines](#) canvas page for specific information on deadlines and instructor policies.

Withdrawal from Class:

Any student who fails to withdraw but does not participate regularly in online discussions and exercises and/or does not submit assignments will receive an "E" grade for the course. The instructor will not award "I" grades to non-participating students.

To find when the drop deadline is, please see <http://www.slcc.edu/academiccalendar/>

How to reach me via Email:

You need to check your bruin email AND the class canvas page regularly. Emailing through the canvas inbox is the best method of email communication. Please note that you and I are held accountable for official information sent to our school issued email accounts. This means you should always be professional. How you write reflects who you are, so write with care.

Before you click send, do note the following:

1. Use a proper salutation to start your email, for example: Dear [Mr.,Ms, ____] or Hello [Mr.,Ms, ____]
 1. Incorrect usage: Hey! Sup! Or, you skip the salutation entirely.
2. Sign your name at the end of the email, especially when you are using your cell-phone.
3. Check the class canvas, the class schedule, the class syllabus or with another classmate, if what you're asking cannot be answered by these sources then send me an email.
4. Please don't email me to ask if you missed anything in class if you were absent. The answer is yes.
5. Double-check your email for any errors – it helps to read it aloud.

Things you should REALLY take advantage of:

Me-Your Instructor: I am here to help you succeed, not only in this class but as a contributing member of this world. What this means is come see me, email me, call me! Feeling uncertain? Stressed out? Have an emergency? Need help? These are all good reasons to communicate with me. I know it might be scary to meet with me or talk to me, but be your own self advocate and come talk to me if you have any concerns.

Since this is an online course, I may have online office hours and/or physical office hours. See the [About Your Instructor](#) page in canvas for instructor specific information.

Canvas Support: If you are in need of technical assistance with canvas, for instance your assignment will not submit or you cannot log in, please contact canvas support.

Call: Contact Canvas Support at: (80) 957-5125, option #1.

Chat: Use the "Help" box found in the top right corner next to your name for tutorials and live chat whenever you are logged in to Canvas.

Grading Policies:

Rubrics: Watch for the use of grading rubrics throughout the course. The rubrics will give you a clear idea of how you will be graded on each assignment. Almost all assignments & discussions have rubrics, if you are unsure how to view a rubric, see these canvas tutorials:

- Assignments: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10662>
- Discussions: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10577>

Grading Percentages:

Average 0% 60% 63% 67% 70% 73% 77% 80% 83% 87% 90% 93%

Ltr Grade F D- D D+ C- C C+ B- B B+ A- A

Course Assignments

The following list are the types of assignments you are expected to do in this course. In canvas you can find more detailed instructions:

- **Attendance/Participation:** Our class meets every week on Thursday from 2:30-3:50. You should be completing your online lecture and quiz prior to each Thursday's class to prepare for in-class work. You will given 2 excused absences for Thursday's class, online work is due on the dates in Canvas and will be deducted points based on the late work policy. There are no "excused absences" for online work.
- **Text Readings:** You are expected to study the assigned readings in the textbook and canvas prior to taking quizzes and completing assignments/coming to class. Use the guided notes available in canvas will help you navigate and understand the material better.
- **Lecture Videos:** There are lecture videos each week in this course. These videos are meant to be watched before class. This allows class to be about practicing the skills and getting questions answered. I will not be recording class lectures, discussions, questions, etc from class day. If you miss class watch the lecture video before completing your make-up assignment, although not a supplement for class it should provide enough help to do the activity. These lecture videos are also helpful study tools when taking quizzes and as references when completing assignments.

- Quizzes/Exams: Course quizzes will take place throughout the course weekly via Canvas. Quizzes are based on content from the assigned readings and lectures. Generally, you will have one quiz each week. You will be given one attempt for the quiz and unlimited time. There will be three exams in this class covering the course material. Lectures and chapter quizzes will be great resources for these larger exams.
- Narrative Argument: Using the mode of narrative you will create a short argument of your choice to be presented during class. This argument will be based in story and language to showcase your skills in developing multiple types of arguments.
- Toulmin Model Project assignments: Using diagramming methods to examine arguments provides a clearer picture of the structure of an argument. Moreover, diagrams allow students to more clearly understand and critically evaluate arguments in everyday life. For this assignment, you will be required to examine an argument from an op-ed selected by the instructor. You will annotate the argument and develop an evaluation paper using the various parts of the Toulmin Model described in chapter 4 (claim, grounds, warrant, backing, qualifier, rebuttal, reservation).
- Arguments on Issues Project: Since this class's focus is on the process of argumentation, students must write and create arguments. In order to accomplish this task, you will be choosing a current controversial issue that you are interested in researching. The project will take you through multiple steps and is worth a large portion of your overall grade in this course. This nearly semester long project will ask you to research and construct an argument in support of a proposition you created. You will also complete a short rebuttal of one of your classmate's proposed propositions. This project will be introduced and explained in further detail in the canvas course.
- ePortfolio: Like in all SLCC General Education classes you will be submitting an assignment and reflection to your ePortfolio for this course. You will be asked to submit your Final Argument.
- Extra Credit: Throughout the course there are built-in extra credit opportunities.

Detailed assignment information will be accessible through canvas

When you feel the need to, you can use canvas to predict your future grade, by using the ["What-if Grades" tool.](#)

Assignments	Percent of Grade
Attendance/Participation	150
Quizzes/Exams	200
Narrative Argument	100
Toulmin Model Project	150
Arguments on Issues Project	400
Total	1000

Communication as General Education

This course fulfills the Communication (CM) requirement for the General Education Program at Salt Lake Community College. It is designed not only to teach the information and skills required by the discipline, but also to develop vital workplace skills and to teach strategies and skills that can be used for life-long learning. General Education courses teach basic skills as well as broaden a student's knowledge of a wide range of subjects. Education is much more than the acquisition of facts; it is being able to use information in meaningful ways in order to enrich one's life.

While the subject of each course is important and useful, we become truly educated through making connections of such varied information with the different methods of organizing human experience that are practiced by different disciplines. Therefore, this course, when combined with other General Education courses, will enable you to develop broader perspectives and deeper understandings of your community and the world, as well as challenge previously held assumptions about the world and its inhabitants.

Gen Ed information: <http://www.slcc.edu/gened>Links to an external site.

E-Portfolio Assignment

Each student in General Education courses at SLCC will maintain a General Education ePortfolio. Instructors in every Gen Ed course will tell you which assignment from their course to put into your ePortfolio and what reflective writing. It is a requirement in this class for you to add to your ePortfolio and your instructor will detail the assignment and reflection you are to include. Your ePortfolio will also allow you to include your educational goals, describe your extracurricular activities and post your resume. When you finish your

time at SLCC, your ePortfolio will then be a multi-media showcase of your educational experience.

Setting up an ePortfolio is easier and more useful than you may think. Students report having a sense of accomplishment when their work is documented, moreover, some have successfully used their ePortfolio to find employment, as part of their college entrance documentation and to use as a living document that is continually showcasing their best work. If you're new to ePortfolio, use the [ePortfolio information for students](#)[Links to an external site.](#) found on the General Education page.

Specific Signature Assignment for COMM 1270

- Final Argument — Students choose a topic of their choice to compose a well-researched argument. Students use their cumulative knowledge to plan, construct, and argue a current issue paying close attention to the sphere and decisions makers at hand. They will be required to supply proper grounds and warrants as basis for their arguments. An abundance of quality research is expected throughout to back up all the various claims made on their issue.
 - Student will submit their final constructed argument as their signature assignment.
- ePortfolio Reflection—Students will post a reflection essay on the signature assignment and course overall. Students will use the questions provided to help them make connections between their learning experiences in general education, their careers, and everyday lives. Students should choose one of the following reflection questions:
 - What skills did you master in this course? How are they reflected in the signature assignment? Be specific.
 - What did you learn in this assignment that will help you in other classes and/or in your career?
 - How does this assignment connect with what you have learned in other Gen Ed courses you have taken?

Communication Major Transfer Information

University of Utah

Students that graduate from SLCC with an AA/AS in Communication Studies or Journalism & Digital Media with a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or better will be automatically accepted as a Communication major at the University of Utah.

For other transfer information please see:

<http://www.slcc.edu/communication/transfer.aspx>

Institutional Syllabus

SLCC has provided an Institutional Syllabus, which covers SLCC resources such as:

- Disability Resources
- Title IX
- Family Services
- Health & Counseling Services
- Learning Support & Tutoring Services
- And More...

Please head to the [Institutional Syllabus](#), located in the left-side global menu and read through the important college information.