

# Analysis of Argument (CM)

COMM - 1270 001

## Course Description

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

Semesters: All

## Actual Course Student Learning Outcomes

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The following course learning outcomes are correct. This course is going through a process of change and the course learning outcomes listed after this list are the old course learning outcomes and you can ignore them.

1. Apply the fundamental concepts and theories of argumentation
2. Evaluate and critically examine arguments
3. Adapt arguments to audiences and contexts by analyzing the rhetorical situation
4. Demonstrate principles of argumentation to plan, research, write, revise, and advance various arguments
5. Support claims with credible and relevant sources

## Course Student Learning Outcomes

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- Apply elements of the critical decision-making process.

- Model the essential elements of argument based on audience spheres.
- Analyze arguments using processes of reasoning.
- Develop arguments based on audience spheres.
- Demonstrate principles of effective argumentation to plan, write, and advance arguments.
- Critically examine peer arguments to rebut and provide constructive criticism.

## Accessing Your Textbook

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The textbook is being provided digitally to students through Kortext and paid for as a lower-cost course fee. You will **not** need to purchase or order the book. To get the ebook, you can use the "My Materials" tab on the left side of the page. Or, you can go directly to the Kortext link on the home tab or go to [kortext.com](https://www.kortext.com) Links to an external site. If you have never logged into Kortext, follow these instructions:

1. Select Log In in the upper right corner.
2. Select Forgot Password (even though there's no password for you to have forgotten).
3. Enter your Bruinmail email address (ex. jdoe117@bruinmail.slcc.edu) and select Request Reset.
4. Go to your email and follow the instructions given there. These will guide you to set up your Kortext account and you will then be able to access your textbook via Kortext.

If you prefer a hard copy textbook, you can opt-out of using the ebook by contacting the SLCC Bookstore. Hard copies are available for purchase or rent in the SLCC bookstore (SMC and Redwood). If you need help navigating Kortext and/or your textbook, please see Kortext Student Hub SupportLinks to an external site..

## Engagement Plan

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- Emails will be responded to within 24-48 hours.
- Your instructor will be available for office hours by appointment.

- Assignments are graded no later than one to two weeks following the due date. This policy does not pertain to late work, which is graded as soon as possible (with on-time work taking priority). If you ever have a question about your grade, please do not hesitate to contact me

## Course Prerequisites

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There are no prerequisite courses for this course. However, you will be expected to use professional writing, where you tailor your message to your audience.

- Consider your audience when you write. Your tone, formatting, and grammar should be appropriate for your audience.
- Use capital letters at the beginning of sentences and capitalize “i” when used to refer to yourself.
- Use punctuation at the end of your sentences.
- Use commas when appropriate.
- Write in full sentences.
- Correct spelling errors.
- Use proper grammar.
- Avoid informal language, slang, vulgarity, etc.

If you do not feel comfortable with these skills yet, we suggest you take advantage of campus resources such as the Writing Center. There are also free online resources available if you need to brush up on some of these skills.

## Course Content Advisory

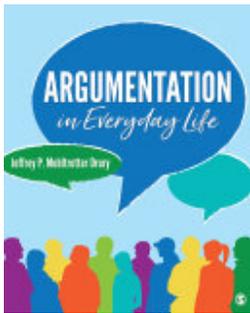
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In this course, controversial and political topics will be discussed, and you will encounter ideas that do not align with your opinions and beliefs. Discussions, readings, and assignments may address issues such as politics, religion, race, gender, violence, and other subjects that some students may find distressing. If you anticipate or experience discomfort, please feel free to step away, speak with the instructor, or access campus support resources.

Part of the process of argumentation involves considering different perspectives and debating ideas while remaining respectful of your co-arguers. You may also be asked to make an argument on a different side of an issue from your own beliefs, as this is a valuable skill in argumentation. We will work to create a safe and supportive learning environment that promotes collegial discussion of challenging topics. We debate ideas, not people.

## Required Text or Materials

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**Title:** Argumentation in Everyday Life

**ISBN:** 9781506383606

**Authors:** Jeffrey P. Mehlretter Drury

**Publisher:** SAGE Publications

**Publication Date:** 2019-01-21

For more information on textbook accessibility, contact Accessibility & Disability Services at [ads@slcc.edu](mailto:ads@slcc.edu).

## General Education Information

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CM

This course fulfills the above 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.

## Keys for Success (how to succeed in the course)

- Whatever you put into this class, you will gain from this class.
- Read the assigned chapters of the textbook and take notes each week.
- Submit work on time and be aware of what and when assignments are due.
- Take note of the instructor's announcements (in class and out) or messages – check email and Canvas regularly.
- If Face-to-Face: come to class, pay close attention, interact with the instructor and your classmates.
- Communicate with your instructor when you don't understand, need help, or need an extension.
- Follow the instructions of each assessment and review the rubrics to see how you will be graded.
- Do extra credit when it is available.
- Interact with your classmates.
- Approach the course with an open mind.

## Brief Description of Assignments/Exams

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

- Textbook readings: You are expected to study the assigned readings in the textbook and Canvas prior to taking quizzes and completing assignments/discussions.
- Lecture Videos and Optional Videos: There are some lecture videos you must watch and there are several optional videos you can watch to better understand some of the concepts in the course.
- Discussions: At certain points, you may have a discussion assignment for which original posts are due by 11:59 p.m. on Fridays and responses to classmates are

due by 11:59 p.m. on Sundays unless stated otherwise. Each discussion is a little different and will ask you to complete different tasks both in the original post and the responses. Make sure to always follow the instructions.

- Quizzes: Course quizzes will take place throughout the course via Canvas almost every week. Quizzes are based on content from the assigned readings (the textbook). You will have only one attempt but will have unlimited time. Your lowest two quiz scores will be dropped (this excludes the Orientation Quiz). Quizzes are by 11:59 p.m. on Sundays unless otherwise stated.
- Module Assignments: In some modules there are assignments designed to practice argumentation skills from the relevant learning materials. Assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. on Sundays unless otherwise stated.
- Signature Assignment - The Argument Project: Since this class's focus is on the process of argumentation, students must write and create arguments. 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.
- Reflection: You will wrap up the course by reflecting on what you have done throughout the course, including The Argument Project.
- Extra Credit: Throughout the course there are built-in extra credit opportunities.

## Assignment Schedule

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Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	<a href="#">Argument Types Discussion</a>	Discussion	15
	<a href="#">Argumentation Ethics and Stances Quiz</a>	Quiz	10

<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Assignment Name</b>	<b>Assignment Type</b>	<b>Points</b>
	<a href="#">Building Effective Cases Quiz</a>	Quiz	10
	<a href="#">Common Argument Types Quiz</a>	Quiz	10
	<a href="#">Crafting Verbal and Oral Arguments Part 1 Quiz</a>	Quiz	10
	<a href="#">Effectively Supporting Claims Quiz</a>	Quiz	10
	<a href="#">Evaluating Argument Types Assignment</a>	Assignment	20
	<a href="#">Evaluating Argument Types Quiz</a>	Quiz	10
	<a href="#">Evaluating Arguments and Cases Quiz</a>	Quiz	10
	<a href="#">Extra Credit: Fact and Value Practice</a>	Assignment	0
	<a href="#">Formats for Everyday Public Argumentation Discussion</a>	Discussion	15
	<a href="#">Formats for Everyday Public Argumentation Quiz</a>	Quiz	10
	<a href="#">GE Reflection</a>	Assignment	30

<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Assignment Name</b>	<b>Assignment Type</b>	<b>Points</b>
	<a href="#">GE Signature Assignment - The Argument Project Part 6: Final Written Argument and In Class Presentation</a>	Discussion	100
	<a href="#">Generating Productive Clash Quiz</a>	Quiz	10
	<a href="#">Introduction to Argumentation and Debate Quiz</a>	Quiz	10
	<a href="#">The Argument Project Part 1: Create a Proposition</a>	Discussion	25
	<a href="#">The Argument Project Part 2: Research Your Topic</a>	Assignment	50
	<a href="#">The Argument Project Part 3: Build a Case Outline</a>	Assignment	75
	<a href="#">The Argument Project Part 4: Generate Productive Clash</a>	Assignment	30
	<a href="#">The Argument Project Part 5: Analyze and Adapt to Your Audience</a>	Discussion	20
	<a href="#">The Toulmin Model Assignment</a>	Assignment	20

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	<a href="#">The Toulmin Model Part 1 Quiz</a>	Quiz	10
	<a href="#">The Toulmin Model Part 2 Quiz</a>	Quiz	10
	<a href="#">Understanding Argument Structures Assignment</a>	Assignment	20
	<a href="#">Understanding Argument Structures Quiz</a>	Quiz	10
8/31/25	<a href="#">Student Info Survey (Extra Credit)</a>	Quiz	0
8/31/25	<a href="#">Syllabus Quiz</a>	Quiz	10

## Grading Scale

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When you feel the need to, you can use Canvas to predict your future grade, by using the "What-if Grades" tool. See the Canvas Guide How do I approximate my assignment scores using the What-If Grades feature?Links to an external site. to learn more.

A	B	C	D	E
	B+ = 87-89.9%	C+ = 77-79.9%	D+ = 67-69.9%	59.9% or below
A = 94-100%	B = 84-86.9%	C = 74-76.9%	D = 64-66.9%	
A- = 90-93.9%	B- = 80-83.9%	C- = 70-73.9%	D- = 60-63.9%	

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### FACE to FACE Course:

Assignments	Points	Percentage

Quizzes	120	20%
Module Assignments/Discussions	90	15%
Attendance & Participation	60	10%
Signature Assignment: The Argument Project & Reflection	330	50%
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Transfer/Certification/Licensure/Employment Information

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

Please visit the transfer page on the Communication Department site to get more information. You will also want to visit and speak with an advisor at SLCC.

## Academic Integrity

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- My philosophy is that students will get out of the class whatever they put into it. I hope you choose to put in the effort to find value and learn from the class. In my opinion, plagiarizing or using AI to get a desired grade is only cheating yourself.
- Plagiarism can include:
  - Failure to acknowledge any words or ideas which are not your own
  - Submitting another student's work
  - Copying assignment instructions into ChatGPT and submitting AI content as your own work
  - Anything else that is a dishonest representation of your own effort and ideas

Know, understand, and intend on following the policies in the "[Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#)".

## How to Navigate to Canvas

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## Institutional Policies

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As members of our academic community, we would like to invite you to review the Institutional Syllabus which covers important policies and procedures. This document contains important links for students on the code of student rights and responsibilities, academic integrity, and grading policies, Title IX and other important acknowledgements. By familiarizing yourself with this information, you can help us create a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

For more information, navigate to the Institutional Policies tab on the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page.

## Learning Support and Tutoring Services

We are pleased to offer a range of tutoring and learning support services to help you achieve your academic goals. Whether you need assistance with a specific subject or want to improve your study skills, you have many options for tutoring or other support.

To learn more about the services we offer and how to access them, visit the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page under the Tutoring and Learning Support tab. We encourage you to take advantage of these resources to help you succeed in your studies. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tutoring session, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you in any way we can.

## Advising and Counseling Support Services

At our institution, we are committed to supporting your academic and personal growth. That's why we offer a range of advising and counseling services to help you navigate the challenges of college life. To learn more about the resources available to you and how to access them, visit the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page under the Advising and Counseling Support Services tab. Our advising team and the support centers across campus are here to support you in achieving your goals and overcoming any obstacles you may face.

## Additional Policies

### **Late Work Policy**

There are weekly due dates in this course to keep you on-track to finish the course within the semester timeframe.

Generally, I try to be as flexible as possible with my late work policy. I understand that life happens and that there are real obstacles that may prevent students from submitting work on-time as they intended. I also know that planning ahead and giving yourself plenty of time to complete assignments can help prevent late work.

NO assignments will be accepted after 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, December 18th (last day of finals week).

All assignments have a 2-week grace period after the deadline, during which no points will be deducted for a late submission. For instance, if an assignment was due by 11:59 on Sunday, September 14th, it could be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, September 28th and still receive up to full credit.

EXCEPTION: If an assignment was due within 2 weeks of the end of finals week, the final deadline is still 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, December 18th.

Any assignments submitted after the 2-week grace period are subject to a 20% point deduction. For instance, an assignment originally worth 50 points would now be worth a maximum of 40 points.

Exceptions to this policy may be granted on a case-by-case basis. Please reach out to your instructor if any extenuating circumstances arise!

**\*\*If you are struggling in my class and need an extension on an assignment for ANY reason, please contact me!\*\***

## **Attendance**

- Attendance/Participation: Our class meets twice a week. If you come to class both days each week and participate regularly, you will receive credit.
  - I recognize that life happens, and students are not always able to attend every class period. For this reason, each student is given 8 “free” absences, which means you can miss class up to 8 times and still have the potential to receive full credit on Attendance. This is equivalent to 4 weeks of missed class, which

should cover illnesses, travel, work, transportation issues, family emergencies, etc.

- Each absence beyond the 8 freebies will result in a 5 point drop in the Attendance Grade. Attendance is worth 60 points, or 10% off your final grade. You would drop to 55 points on your 9th absence, 50 on your 10th absence, etc.
- Of course, if major issues arise which prevent you from attending class, talk to your instructor! I am always willing to make accommodations as appropriate.

## Student Academic Calendar

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As students you should be aware of all important dates in the semester, such as the day that courses begin and end, as well as the drop date and the last day to withdraw. To learn more about those dates, navigate to the Student Academic Calendar below:

[SLCC Student Academic Calendar](#)