

Position Paper—This assignment will ask you to take a position on a current argument and present both sides of the issue. After presenting at least 2 compelling arguments for both sides, you must take a position and defend its merits. These papers should have at least 5 legitimate source citations and be 4 pages in length MAX. Remember, brevity is important in life and in argumentation. These papers are due on September 20, October 11, November 8, and November 29.

Final Exam—The class will consist of one exam that will test your knowledge of the material presented in class. The final IS cumulative because debate is about building upon the knowledge you have learned and utilizing that stored knowledge in any given situation. The final exam will consist of short answer and essay questions.

Quizzes—These short tests will test your ability to recall what has occurred from the previous class or material assigned in the reading for that day. Quizzes are unannounced, so you must be in class to receive credit. Quizzes will be short answer.

Debates—Each person will compete in 2 academic debates. You will both govern and oppose a given resolution. Unlike traditional parliamentary debate, the topic will be announced the class period PRIOR to the debate so that you have ample time to prepare for the debate. Topics for debating will be pulled from current events in the world and at Western Kentucky University. The time limits for the in-class debate will be:

- Prime Minister Constructive 6 minutes
- Leader of Opposition Constructive 6 minutes
- Member of Government Constructive 6 minutes
- Member of Opposition Constructive 6 minutes
- Leader of Opposition Rebuttal 4 minutes
- Prime Minister Rebuttal 4 minutes

Attendance—Attendance is VITAL in this course. If you do not intend to come to class, you should drop this course now. Debate is a learned skill which you will not learn if you do not attend class. University policy allows 2 unexcused absences. For every day you are absent after those 2, I will deduct one letter grade from your final grade. If you are absent more than 6 total days, you will fail this course.

Tardiness—Be on time ESPECIALLY on debate days. If you arrive while someone is speaking, wait until they have finished speaking before walking into the room.

Plagiarism--To represent ideas or interpretations taken from another source as one's own is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offense. The academic work of a student must be their own. Students must give the author(s) credit for any source material used. To lift content directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage after having changed a few words, even if the source is cited, is also plagiarism. (p. 59)

Disposition of Offenses - Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the course work in which the act is detected or a failing grade in the course without possibility of withdrawal... (p. 59)

The above is from the WKU Faculty Handbook. Plagiarism is a serious offense. Anyone caught plagiarizing will receive an automatic F in this course. Student work may be checked using plagiarism detection software.

Disability Services-- Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services, Student Success Center, DUC A201. The OFSDS telephone number is (270)745-5004; TTY is 745-3030.

Per university policy, please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

Tentative Daily Schedule

Week 1 (August 28 & 30)

Introduction to Debate
Applied and Academic Debate
READ: Ch 1 & Ch 2

Week 2 (September 4 & 6)

Stating the Controversy
Analyzing the Controversy
READ: Ch 3 & Ch 4

Week 3 (September 10 & 13)

Proof
The Structure of Reasoning
Types of Reasoning
Fallacies

READ: Ch 6 (pp. 109-111), Ch 8, Ch 9, Ch 10

Week 4 (September 18 & 20)

Requirements of the Case
Building the Affirmative Case
NO CLASS SEPTEMBER 20

Position Paper #1 Due—September 20

READ: Ch 11 & Ch 12

Week 5 (September 25 & 27)

Being Affirmative and Being Negative

READ: Ch 11, Ch 12, & Ch 13

Week 6 (October 2 & 4)

Demonstration Debate
NO CLASS OCTOBER 4

Week 7 (October 9 & 11)

Refutation
NO CLASS OCTOBER 11

Position Paper #2 Due—October 11

READ: Ch 13

Week 8 (October 16 & 18)

Presenting the Case: Composition
NO CLASS OCTOBER 18

READ: Ch 15

Week 9 (October 23 & 25)

Evaluating the Debate
Parli Tricks: Points of Information, Points of Order, Asking Question
NO CLASS OCTOBER 25

READ: Ch. 17

Week 10 (October 30 & November 1)

Debates
NO CLASS NOVEMBER 1

Week 11 (November 6 & 8)

Debates
NO CLASS NOVEMBER 8

Position Paper #3 Due—November 8

Week 12 (November 13 & 15)

Debates
NO CLASS NOVEMBER 15

Week 13 (November 20 & 22)

Debates
NO CLASS NOVEMBER 22

Week 14 (November 27 & 29)

Debates
NO CLASS NOVEMBER 29

Position Paper #4 Due—November 29

Week 15 (December 4 & 6)

Debates

Final Exam: Thursday, December 6, 2007 at 11:10AM