

CMN 2040: Argumentation and Critical Thinking

Spring 2024 | Section 001 | 3 credit hours

Room: Buzzard Hall 2441 | Mon/Wed/Fri 11:00 - 11:50 a.m.

Instructor: Josh Grube | **Email:** jgrube@eiu.edu | **Office:** Buzzard Hall 2533

Office Hours: Mon/Wed 12 – 1:30 p.m.; Thurs 12:45 – 1:45 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is a study of how to build, critique, and adapt arguments within a climate of disagreement. Practice in gathering and evaluation of evidence, selection and evaluation of reasoning, and the production, criticism and refinement of both oral and written arguments.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Recognize and implement the practical and ethical elements of arguing in the public sphere
2. Recognize and critique the components of oral and written arguments
3. Execute critical thinking skills by generating effective oral and written arguments
4. Execute skills of impromptu argumentation
5. Interpret and produce quantitative arguments
6. Implement public speaking skills

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Lunsford, A. A., Ruskiewicz, J. J., & Walters, K. (2010). *Everything's an argument* (6th ed). Bedford/St. Martin's

Makau, J. M., & Marty, D. L. (2001). *Cooperative argumentation: A model for deliberative community*. Waveland Press, Inc.

GRADING

Grading Scale: A = 100-90% B = 89-80% C = 79-70% D = 69-60% F = 59-0%

There is no rounding of final scores.

Grade Distributions:

Reading Quizzes	15%
Rhetorical Analysis	20%
Standpoint Reflection	20%
Deliberation Log	15%
Roundtable Forum	10%
Final Exam Position Paper	10%
Participation	10%
TOTAL	100%

ASSIGNMENTS

Reading Quizzes: There will be 16 quizzes that will cover assigned readings. These quizzes are designed to encourage you to keep up with your reading, as well as highlight key concepts in the material. Quizzes must be completed on D2L before the class they are assigned to. **There are no make-ups for missed quizzes.**

Rhetorical Analysis: In this short paper, you will demonstrate argument analysis skills following the criteria for rhetorical analysis covered in course readings and in class.

Standpoint Reflection: In this brief paper, you will critically examine your own standpoint and how it informs your perspective of common issues.

Deliberation Log: In preparation for the Roundtable Forum, you will prepare a deliberation log following the guidelines articulated in the course readings and in class.

Roundtable Forum: The Roundtable Forum assignment offers an alternative to more traditional debate formats as you are asked to practice cooperative argumentation. You will be expected to attend to multiple layers of complexity on the selected issues. You will be expected to embrace collaboration and community building, without sacrificing deep critical reflection, and to develop your critical reading, listening, and viewing skills, research abilities, and advocacy skills.

Final Exam Position Paper: The Final Exam will be an essay asking you to take a position on an issue that is highly controversial in a specific deliberative community. **Instructions will be provided on Monday of Finals Week.**

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Class Participation and Communication: You are expected to regularly participate in class discussions/activities and attentively listen. Class participation is worth 10 percent of your overall grade. Participation grades are given at my discretion and are not subject to dispute. Discussions must be conducted courteously and with respect to your fellow classmates and myself. I have zero-tolerance for hate speech. I reserve the right to ask you to leave if you disrupt the safety of our classroom and you will be considered absent. Violations to EIU's Code of Conduct will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

Attendance: Class attendance is expected and crucial for your success in this course. Poor attendance will reflect negatively on your participation grade. Any absence due to illness, emergency, and participation in official University activities must be properly verified by providing documentation. If you have a planned or expected absence, please notify me ahead of time and keep me informed. **It is your responsibility to obtain missed materials and content from a classmate, not the instructor.** It is also important to arrive at class on time. Arriving at class late may cause you to miss important information and become a distraction for your classmates. If you arrive more than 10 minutes late, you will be considered absent.

Technology: Please silence your cellphone before class begins. Cellphone use during class is strongly discouraged. Traditional notetaking is highly encouraged. Laptops and tablets are allowed for taking

notes and participating in in-class activities as necessary as long as they do not become a distraction. I reserve the right to ask you to put any device away.

Assignment Policy: All assignments must be submitted by the due date. Late submissions (excluding major scheduled grading events) will be penalized 10%, with an additional 10% for each calendar day they are missing. After five calendar days, there will be no credit earned. There are **no makeups for missing major scheduled grading events** without proper verification of absence. As a result, you will earn a 0 on the assignment. Documentation for properly verified absences should be submitted within one week of your return to class. All make-up work is subject to my discretion. It is your responsibility to contact me to initiate plans to make up work. Typed assignments should have one-inch margins and use 12-point Times New Roman font and be thoroughly proofread. Any source citations must be done using APA style.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

This course has a zero-tolerance policy on plagiarism. EIU's Code of Conduct defines plagiarism as “the use, without adequate attribution, of another person’s words or thoughts as if they were ones’ own, failing to cite outside sources used in completion of the work, improperly citing sources, and submitting work that was previously completed for another class without prior approval from the instructor.” At minimum a student who engages in academic dishonesty/plagiarism will receive a 0 on the assignment and be reported to the Office of Student Standards. If there are multiple instances of academic dishonesty, the Office of Student Standards may sanction the student further, i.e., suspension or expulsion from the university.

Students are not allowed to use advanced automated tools (artificial intelligence or machine learning tools such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, or Dall-E 2) on assignments in this course. Each student is expected to complete each assignment without substantive assistance from others, including automated tools.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Accessibility & Accommodations (OAA). All accommodations must be approved through OAA. Please stop by McAfee Gym, Room 1272, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT CENTER

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Academic Support Center (www.eiu.edu/success) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Academic Support Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to McAfee Gym, Room 2230.

COURSE CALENDAR

*Assignment deadlines are listed in the 4th column and are DUE at the start of class on the day they are listed.
Readings are expected to be completed prior to the start of class on the day they are listed.*

WEEK	DATE	CONTENT	ASSIGNMENTS
1	M 1/8	<i>Course Syllabus and Policies</i>	
	W 1/10	<i>Understanding Arguments and Reading Them Critically</i>	Read <i>Everything's an Argument</i> Chapter 1
	F 1/12	<i>Understanding Arguments and Reading Them Critically</i>	
2	M 1/15	MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY NO CLASS	
	W 1/17	<i>Critical Thinking Understanding Critical Thinking Developing the Questioning Habit</i>	Read <i>Cooperative Argumentation</i> Chapter 1 (pp. 7-26) D2L Quiz #1
	F 1/19	<i>Critical Thinking Finding Relevant Information Drawing and Evaluating Inferences</i>	Read <i>Cooperative Argumentation</i> Chapter 1 (pp. 26-42) D2L Quiz #2
3	M 1/22	<i>Pathos Argument Based on Emotion</i>	Read <i>Everything's an Argument</i> Chapter 2 D2L Quiz #3
	W 1/24	<i>Ethos Argument Based on Character</i>	Read <i>Everything's an Argument</i> Chapter 3 D2L Quiz #4
	F 1/26	<i>Logos Arguments Based on Facts and Reason</i>	Read <i>Everything's an Argument</i> Chapter 4 D2L Quiz #5
4	M 1/29	<i>Rhetorical Analysis Assign Rhetorical Analysis</i>	Read <i>Everything's an Argument</i> Chapter 6 (pp. 97-117) D2L Quiz #6
	W 1/31	<i>Rhetorical Analysis</i>	Read <i>Everything's an Argument</i> Chapter 6 (pp. 117-130)
	F 2/2	<i>Rhetorical Analysis Workshop</i>	
5	M 2/5	<i>Finding Evidence</i>	Read <i>Everything's an Argument</i> Chapter 18
	W 2/7	<i>Evaluating Sources</i>	Read <i>Everything's an Argument</i> Chapter 19
	F 2/9	<i>Using Sources</i>	Read <i>Everything's an Argument</i> Chapter 20 D2L Quiz #7
6	M 2/12	<i>Cooperative Argumentation</i>	Read <i>Cooperative Argumentation</i> Chapter 3 (pp. 81-93) D2L Quiz #8 DUE: Rhetorical Analysis
	W 2/14	<i>Cooperative Argumentation in Deliberative Communities</i>	Read <i>Cooperative Argumentation</i> Chapter 3 (pp. 93-108)
	F 2/16	LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY NO CLASS	

WEEK	DATE	CONTENT	ASSIGNMENTS
7	M 2/19	<i>Ethical and Effective Dialogue</i> <i>Assign Standpoint Reflection</i>	Read <i>Cooperative Argumentation</i> Chapter 2 (pp. 45-59) D2L Quiz #9
	W 2/21	<i>Ethical and Effective Dialogue</i> <i>Negotiating Tensions</i>	Read <i>Cooperative Argumentation</i> Chapter 2 (pp. 59-78) D2L Quiz #10
	F 2/23	<i>Standpoint Reflection Workshop</i>	
8	M 2/26	<i>Elements of Argumentation</i>	Read <i>Cooperative Argumentation</i> Chapter 4 (pp. 111-117) D2L Quiz #11
	W 2/28	<i>Elements of Argumentation</i>	Read <i>Cooperative Argumentation</i> Chapter 4 (pp. 118-131) D2L Quiz #12
	F 3/1	<i>Elements of Argumentation</i>	Read <i>Cooperative Argumentation</i> Chapter 4 (pp. 131-157)
9	M 3/4	<i>Ethical Advocacy in Deliberative Communities</i> <i>Assign Deliberation Log</i>	Read <i>Cooperative Argumentation</i> Chapter 6 (pp. 195-221) DUE: Standpoint Reflection
	W 3/6	<i>Deliberation Log</i> <i>Ethical Advocacy</i>	Read <i>Cooperative Argumentation</i> Chapter 6 (pp. 221-235)
	F 3/8	<i>Deliberation Log Workshop</i>	
10	M 3/11	<i>Evaluating Arguments</i>	Read <i>Cooperative Argumentation</i> Chapter 7 (pp. 240-245) D2L Quiz #13
	W 3/13	<i>Evaluating Deliberative Arguments</i>	Read <i>Cooperative Argumentation</i> Chapter 7 (pp. 245-260) D2L Quiz #14
	F 3/15	<i>Evaluating Quantitative Arguments</i>	Read "Best - The Importance of Social Statistics" (available on D2L)
11	M 3/18	SPRING BREAK NO CLASS	
	W 3/20	SPRING BREAK NO CLASS	
	F 3/22	SPRING BREAK NO CLASS	
12	M 3/25	<i>Basic Fallacies</i> <i>Fallacies of Language and Evidence</i>	Read <i>Cooperative Argumentation</i> Chapter 7 (pp. 260-269) D2L Quiz #15
	W 3/27	<i>Basic Fallacies</i> <i>Fallacies of Reasoning</i>	Read <i>Cooperative Argumentation</i> Chapter 7 (pp. 269-284) D2L Quiz #16
	F 3/29	<i>Evaluating Arguments</i> <i>Application Activity</i>	
13	M 4/1	<i>Impromptu Argumentation</i>	Read "Impromptu Argumentation" (on D2L)
	W 4/3	<i>Deliberation Log Workshop</i>	
	F 4/5	<i>Presenting Arguments</i>	Read <i>Everything's an Argument</i> Chapter 15

WEEK	DATE	CONTENT	ASSIGNMENTS
14	M 4/8	<i>Presenting Arguments</i>	DUE: Deliberation Log
	W 4/10	<i>Meetings to Discuss Roundtable Forum</i>	
	F 4/12	<i>Meetings to Discuss Roundtable Forum</i>	
15	M 4/15	Roundtable Forum	
	W 4/17	Roundtable Forum	
	F 4/19	Roundtable Forum	
16	M 4/22	Roundtable Forum	
	W 4/24	Roundtable Forum	
	F 4/26	Roundtable Forum	
Finals Week 4/29 - 5/3		Final Exam Position Paper due Wednesday 5/1 at 11:59 p.m.	