



EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY

College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Communication Studies and Storytelling

Argumentation & Debate

COMM 2055-W01: Asynchronous Online Winter 2024

Contact Information

Instructor: Adriane Flanary
Email: flanarya@etsu.edu

Instructor Availability

Email is the best way to reach me outside of class and help hours. I check emails Monday-Friday from 8:15 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Emails received after 4:30 p.m. may not receive a response until the next business day. Always allot 24 hours for a response during the work week. Additionally, emails sent after 4:30 p.m. on Fridays or on university-recognized holidays will be answered the following business day.

I will hold *optional* help sessions via Zoom for students to get individualized help prior to assignments. Help session dates are listed in the syllabus. The online help session link can be accessed via the syllabus or on D2L under the weekly announcements and Content tab. Please feel free to reach out let if you are needing help and cannot attend these help session times.

Help Sessions will be held throughout the winter session via Zoom. Please use the following link to access help sessions: [Adriane Flanary's Help/Tutoring Zoom Meeting](#)

- Meeting ID: 998 7592 9689
- Passcode: 670685

Department of Communication Studies & Storytelling

Mission Statement

The Department of Communication Studies and Storytelling advances the understanding of communication by focusing on the ways people communicate with each other personally and professionally, embracing the complexity of human diversity, and examining the ways in which identity and meaning are created through the stories we tell and are told.

Course Information

Online Asynchronous Course Information

Material for the entire class will be accessible the first day of class. Students have the ability to choose to follow the outlined schedule or work ahead of schedule based on their needs. Weekly assignment due dates will vary; however, the submission times will always be 11:59 p.m. All material will be presented and turned in using the D2L platform. We will use video format for lectures and submitting virtual arguments and debates.

Credit Hours

This course is worth 3 credit hours.

Course Description and Purpose

Argumentation and Debate is an introductory course designed to teach students the skills and fundamentals needed to research, construct, deliver, and critique both formal and informal arguments and debates.

Course Goals

This course is designed to enable you to:

1. Develop critical thinking skills in the decision-making process; as well as enhance listening skills
2. Make communication choices that are mindful to human diversity
3. Evaluate the credibility of evidence
4. Demonstrate verbal and nonverbal communication competencies in message construction and message delivery
5. Critically analyze the claims and arguments of others
6. Adapt message and delivery to the audience needs, expectations, and diversity

Course Objectives

Through course assignments and lectures, you should be able to do the following by the end of the semester:

1. Use logic and reasoning to construct and critique arguments
2. Locate, evaluate, and cite research
3. Create and critique fact, value, and policy arguments
4. Respectfully and analytically respond to other's arguments
5. Prepare and deliver effective oral presentations

Major Topics

- Construction of fact, value, and policy arguments
- Delivering arguments and debates with civility and respect for all people, cultures, and points-of-view
- Claims, reasoning, and evidence
- Proper research and citation ability
- Ethics and public address
- Analyze and connect with the audience
- Present ideas in opposition to others

- Effective listening and critiquing of other's arguments

Workforce Transferrable Skills

Through course assignments and lectures, you will acquire the following workforce transferrable skills. The Balance (2022) identifies employers are especially keen to hire and promote workers who have these abilities:

- **Communication** which includes interpersonal communication, listening, negotiation, nonverbal communication, persuasion, presentation, public speaking, reading body language, social skills, verbal communication, visual communication, and written communication
- **Critical Thinking** which includes adaptability, critical observation, desire and willingness to learn, flexibility, logical thinking, problem-solving, research skills, and resourcefulness
- **Leadership** skills include adaptability, being socially and culturally aware, interpersonal communication, giving clear feedback, listening, and persuasion
- **Social and Cultural Awareness** includes disability awareness, diversity awareness, empathy, intercultural competence, and self-awareness
- **Work Ethic** includes attentiveness, dedication, dependability, following direction, independence, meeting deadlines, motivation, multitasking, organization, perseverance persistence, planning, reliability, results-orientation, scheduling, self-directed, self-monitoring, staying on task, time management, and working well under pressure

Line of Reporting

If you have concerns about this course or the instructor, you should take the following steps:

1. *Discuss the matter first with the course instructor.*

Talk with your course instructor about your concern. If your concern is unsatisfactorily addressed with your instructor, you can then take your concern to Step 2 below.

2. *Discuss the matter with the Department Chair.*

After you have attempted to work with your instructor on the matter, if a satisfactory resolution is not found, you can then contact Dr. Wesley Buerkle, Chair of the Department of Communication and Performance at buerkle@etsu.edu. Be prepared to discuss what steps you have taken with the instructor. Except in confidential matters, the Chair will confer with the faculty member and review the course policies as stated in the syllabus to determine an appropriate response. If your concern is unsatisfactorily addressed with the Department Chair, you may then take your concern to next step, which the chair can identify for you.

Course Requirements

Required Material

This course will use Open Educational Resources (OERs) provided by the instructor. All texts and supplemental readings are free. The only cost to you is if you decide to print the material. You will be able to access the book and supplemental readings on D2L as a pdf under each corresponding weekly module.

Technical Requirements

You should have computer access to Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, and an Adobe PDF program to view some documents. **You should have access to a webcam and microphone, as well as a video player such as Quicktime, and speakers.** You will be accessing your ETSU email and D2L regularly.

Course Policies and Expectations

Classroom and Communication Policies

Email Communication

The ETSU email policy requires all faculty communication with students regarding ETSU business be conducted via the official ETSU email account. **Emails should be professional and must include: 1) a subject heading, 2) a greeting, 3) your course and section number, 4) clear message, and 5) a signature. I will not respond to emails that don't have these things.** Please check spelling and grammar prior to sending your message. Here is an example email for reference:

Subject Heading: Fact Source Question

Good morning!

I am in your winter session class. I was working on finding sources to support my fact argument over the weekend and I came across a blog from a university that could help support my case. I understand blogs are not credible sources; however, Purdue Owl's APA section indicates blogs from colleges/universities are often accepted as credible sources. Please let me know if you would deem this source credible: <https://www.port.ac.uk/news-events-and-blogs/blogs/health-and-wellbeing/are-covid-19-vaccine-passports-fair>

Thank you for your time!

Adriane Flanary (COMM 2055-W01)

Attendance and Participation

Your attendance and participation in this class is important. You are expected to check D2L regularly and complete your assignments on time. When I complete attendance reporting for ETSU, I will mark you "as attending" if you have logged into the class and completed the course contract by the time the report is due.

If you have any serious situations occurring that will interfere with your attendance this

semester, you must let me know in advance. I will follow the **Departmental Absence & Assignment Policy**:

- Foreseeable absences should be arranged with me in advance of the missed class. "Foreseeable" includes university-approved absences (athletic, ROTC, or scholarship obligations), doctor's appointments, or court dates. You may be asked to show documentation (e.g. schedule of classes to be missed signed by the athletic director or doctor's note).
- It is always preferred that arrangements are made in advance if you will not be in class or will not be able to meet the deadline for a presentation. That said, you will only be allowed to make up a missed presentation if the absence was unforeseeable, unpreventable, and urges in nature. You must contact the instructor via email within 24 hours following an unforeseeable absence. It is up to the instructor's discretion whether make-up work will be allowed. You may be required to show documentation (e.g. emergency room note, doctor's note, etc.).

Remember, this is a short, asynchronous winter session during a busy holiday season. Late work will NOT be accepted due to the short timeframe to complete required course content and allocating time for holiday celebrations. Therefore, it is important that you designate time each day to the class. Just think about a traditional class, a student would spend 1 1/2 hours daily in class during a 3-5 week session. As a result, you should plan to dedicate the same amount of time to this online course.

Online Course Ground Rules

Discussion groups

- Review the discussion threads thoroughly before entering the discussion.
- Try to maintain threads by using the "Reply" button rather than starting a new topic.
- Do not make insulting or inflammatory statements to other members of the discussion group. Be respectful of others' ideas.
- Be patient and read the comments of other group members thoroughly before entering your remarks.
- Be cooperative with group leaders in completing assigned tasks.
- Be positive and constructive in group discussions.
- Respond in a thoughtful and timely manner.

Assignments and Submission Guidelines

Course Contract: 10 points

You must read, agree to, electronically sign and date, then submit the Course Contract to the Dropbox before proceeding with the course. Course enrollment will only be confirmed for those who submit the contract.

Discussion Posts - 80 points

Students should follow each discussion prompt and ensure their response addresses all requirements for each of the following discussions located on D2L:

- **Introduction Discussion Post: 20 points**
- **Confirmation Bias: 20 points**

- **Let's Agree to Disagree: 20 points**
- **D-E-F-E-N-S-E: 20 points**

What's Your Opinion: 50 points

Students will review the topic options on D2L under the appropriate discussion post forum. After selecting your preferred topic, students will record themselves delivering a 2-4 minute impromptu argument. Students should be clearly visible in frame and will be graded on content, language, delivery, and setting/environment. I provided an example argument to view on D2L.

Argument content should include:

Introduction

- Name
- A clear propositional statement
- Preview of number of arguments in support of your proposition

Body

- 2-3 arguments that support the propositional statement
- Each main point must be supported with explanation and elaboration
- Signposts (First, Second, Finally, etc.) to roadmap and separate arguments

Conclusion

- Review proposition
- Review arguments that proved your case
- Closing statement

Video: Online presentations require speakers to be clearly visible throughout their argument. Speakers should consider their setting and environment to create a professional video with minimal noise or distractions. Students should consider: 1) background, 2) sound quality, 3) minimize noises, 4) minimum background movement, and 5) lightening. Videos without a visual of speaker will receive a zero.

Submission: You will use YouTube to record your presentation. Please make sure your video setting is either unlisted or public to ensure viewing. Students will post their YouTube link to the appropriate D2L discussion forum.

Fact, Value, or Policy Assignments - 230 points

- **Step 1: Fact, Value, or Policy: Topic & Proposition - 10 points**

Students will submit an advocate's case for either a fact, value, or policy topic using the template provided on D2L. Students should identify the argument type (fact, value, or policy), provide the general argument topic, and write the propositional statement which will be used in their outline and argument. You must have approval before moving forward with the remaining argument assignments. The remaining fact, value, or policy argument assignments will NOT open until you receive 10/10 points and feedback that says you have achieved approval.

- **Step 2: Fact, Value, or Policy Outline - 50 points**

You will submit an advocate outline with a works cited page of your sources in APA format to the appropriate D2L Dropbox. You must incorporate a minimum of three sources to support your claims for a fact or value argument within Stock Issue 3: Application or within any stock issue for a policy case. Students are required to use the outline templates on D2L that corresponds with your argument type to assist your writing. Additionally, I have provided examples of fact, value, and policy outlines on D2L for review.

- **Step 3: Fact, Value, or Policy Argument - Advocate's Case - 100 points**

- **Finalize Argument:** Using the feedback from your outline, construct a final draft and rehearse it.
- **Time Limit:** Your argument will be 4-6 minutes long. You will receive a 1-point deduction for every 5 seconds you are under the time limit. Furthermore, I will stop watching your presentation after the 30 second grace period (6:30).
- **Sources:** You are required to verbally cite three credible sources to support your claims for a fact or value argument within Stock Issue 3: Application or within any stock issue for a policy case.
- **Organization:** Your argument must be delivered in a clear and concise manner. Your presentation must contain an introduction, body with stock issues and transition statements, and conclusion.
- **Video:** Online presentations require speakers to be clearly visible throughout their argument. Speakers should consider their setting and environment to create a professional video with minimal noise or distractions. Students should consider: 1) background, 2) sound quality, 3) minimize noises, 4) minimize background movement, and 5) lightening. Videos without a visual of speaker will receive a zero.
- **Submission:** You will use YouTube to record your presentation. Please make sure your video setting is either unlisted or public to ensure viewing. Students will post their YouTube link to the appropriate D2L discussion forum.

- **Step 4: Opposition Counterpoint Argument - 50 points**

It is important to recognize arguments have flaws and varying perspectives. As a result, you will be required to identify 2-3 flaws, weaknesses, or alternative points-of-view within your advocate case. Students will present the cross examination from the opposing viewpoint (opposition's case). Please follow the template example provided on D2L to formulate your cross examination. You will use YouTube to record your 3-4 minute presentation. You will receive a 1-point deduction for every 5 seconds you are under the time limit. Furthermore, I will stop watching your presentation after the 30 second grace period (4:30). Please make

sure your video setting is either unlisted or public to ensure viewing. Students will post the cross examination YouTube link as a REPLY to their original argument thread under D2L's discussion forum.

- **Step 5: Peer Review - 20 points**

Students are required to conduct one peer evaluation which will cover the argument, counterpoint argument, and delivery. Student will watch both debate videos and complete the peer review using the peer evaluation form found on D2L. Make sure to select a classmate's argument that hasn't been peer reviewed. Your peer evaluation score will be based on your knowledge of required argument criteria and the extent to which you provided a useful and constructive feedback. The peer review must be submitted as a REPLY to the classmates argument thread you reviewed.

Exams - 130 points

We will have one quiz and two tests this semester:

- **Verbal Citation Quiz: 10 points** - Review the Training Presentation PDF located on D2L under Content then take the quiz. You have unlimited attempts until the deadline to achieve a 10/12 score. 10/12 scores will be viewed as mastery of content and will be awarded 10 points. If you do not receive a minimum of 10/12, you will not receive any points (0 points). Your highest score will automatically export to the Grade link for review and will be updated after the deadline to reflect this policy.
- **Test 1: 60 points** - Argument Propositions, Claims, Evidence, Reasoning, & Delivery
- **Test 2: 60 points** - Fact, Value, and Policy Arguments, Ethics, Responsibility, & Fallacies

Extra Credit - 20 points

- **Syllabus Quiz: 0-10 points**

The syllabus quiz is designed to test your understanding of the syllabus content including: course policies, assignment expectations, and D2L class format. Make sure you familiarize yourself with the course, syllabus, assignments, expectations, and D2L format/layout prior to taking the quiz. You will have one attempt to complete the quiz. The Syllabus Quiz can be accessed under D2L's Assessment link. Your score will automatically export to the Grade link for review.

- **End of Course Reflection: 0-10 points**

The end of course reflection allows students to reflect on their effort, the course content, and instructor. The information obtained from reflections are used to give advise for upcoming students, course revisions, online teaching practices, etc. The end of course reflection form can be accessed on D2L and completed forms should be submitted to the appropriate Dropbox.

Testing Policy

All tests will be completed on D2L and will be available until the due date. You will only receive one attempt at each test (unless otherwise identified within the assignment description). Once the test is opened, students will have one hour to complete it. After the test completion deadline, it may not be re-opened, except in the case of an extreme circumstance which must be approved by the instructor.

Late and Missing Submission Policy

- Electronic problems do not count as an excuse for missing an assignment deadline.
- Missing work, work turned in after the deadline, or work submitted to the wrong location will receive 0-points.
- Extenuating circumstances (e.g. serious illness, family emergency, etc.) for not submitting an assignment on time will be considered by the instructor if you complete the following steps:
 - Email the instructor prior to the deadline, informing her of your emergency. If an emergency is unforeseeable, you will be given 24 hours to email the instructor following the missed deadline.
 - As needed, provide any documentation to assist in verifying your emergency (doctor's notes, etc.)
 - If documentation cannot be provided, the instructor reserves the right to refuse offering an extension on an assignment. All extensions are at the discretion of the instructor.

Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism and/or cheating is not tolerated at academic institutions. This class is no exception. Any such infractions will result in an automatic 0/F on the assignment and may be reported to the Dean's Office. The following link outlines ETSU's Academic Misconduct Policy: [Academic Misconduct Policy](#)

• **Restricted use of GAI**

"Generative AI" (GAI) refers to tools that create or suggest new content (e.g. Grammarly Premium, ChatGPT, Bard, etc). You may not use GAI to draft outlines, writing, or answers to essay, exams, or other assignment questions. You may use GAI to assist you with brainstorming, feedback, or revising your work. If you use GAI, you must include a generative GAI reference page in which you state the prompts you entered in to the GAI and the outputs produced by the GAI. If you have questions about whether a tool is considered GAI, appropriate use of AI, or other academic integrity issues, contact your instructor before submitting your assignment. Violating the generative AI policy is academic dishonest and will result in failing the assignment and ETSU will be notified. Content generated by AI may be inaccurate, biased, misleading, or otherwise flawed. You

are responsible for ensuring your submitted work is accurate and up to academic standards.

- **Turnitin Plagiarism Detection**

Turnitin is a plagiarism detection service available to students and faculty at ETSU. This tool compares student written work against a comprehensive database of other work as well as various internet sources. Faculty may employ this service for some or all written assignments, in order to help students learn to cite sources accurately and to ensure academic integrity. Learn more on the [Turnitin](#) home page.

- **GPTZero: AI Plagiarism Detection**

I will be using GPTZero, an AI detector service to compare student written work against a comprehensive AI database (e.g. ChatGPT, GPT4, Bard, LLaMa, and other AI models) to ensure academic integrity.

Grading Policy

Your points will be added at the end of the semester and divided by 500, the total amount of points you can earn. That percentage will then equate to a letter-grade. Averages that end with a decimal of .5 or higher will be rounded up to the next whole number. A grade of FN is given when a student has never attended the class.

Letter Grade	Percentage	Points
A	100-93	500-463
A-	92-90	462-448
B+	89-88	447-438
B	87-83	437-413
B-	82-80	412-398
C+	79-78	397-388
C	77-73	387-363
C-	72-70	362-348
D+	69-68	347-338
D	67-60	337-298
F	59-0	297-0

Student Services and Technical Resources

Student Services

The [ETSU Services webpage](#) includes a comprehensive list of services available to all ETSU

students.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of ETSU to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal law, state law and the University's commitment to equal educational access. Any student with a disability who needs accommodations, for example arrangement for examinations or seating placement, should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Faculty accommodation forms are provided to students through Disability Services in the D.P. Culp Center, Room 390, telephone 423-439-8346.

[Visit the Disability Services webpage for more information.](#)

Where to go for help?

- **Undergraduate Student Success Specialist** (423-439-8777). Need assistance with obstacles you may be having in day to day life? The Undergraduate Student Success Specialist will work with you to help resolve problems and provide support by identifying resources on campus and in the community. Contact the USSS via email at undergradsuccess@etsu.edu, by phone at 439-8777
- The ETSU **Counseling Center** provides many counseling services to serve student needs. Walk in hours for arranging counseling sessions are M – TH, 10:00 – 11:30am & 2:00 – 3:30pm. The Counseling Center also offers Single Session Therapy M-TH, 10:00-11:30am & 2:00-3:30pm. Let's Talk consultations are held in Sherrod Library, Rm 328 (please see website for days/times). BucsPress2, a 24/7/365 telephone mental health helpline, can be reached by calling 423-439-4841 (then press "2"). All above services are free.
- Center for Academic Achievement (423-439-7111) Located on the first floor of the Sherrod Library, the Learning Services is the place to go for help with writing and speaking, library research, core math and science courses, and other subjects. the center offers tutoring on a walk- in and appointment basis and is open during library hours, including nights and weekends. Call 439-7111 or go to www.etsu.edu/students/cfaa/ for more information.

Technical Resources

Help Desk

The Information Technology Services (ITS) Help Desk is the best resource for most technical problems. Find answers to common questions on the [Help Desk website](#), call, email, or stop in to see them on the first floor of the Sherrod Library. Phone: 423-439-4648 Email: itshelp@etsu.edu

Desire2Learn (D2L) Online Help

Many answers to D2L related questions can be found on the [D2L Help Student Home](#). If you are still having trouble finding what you need, contact the Help Desk.

Microsoft Office Software

Microsoft Office productivity applications, including Word, PowerPoint, Excel, OneNote, and more, are available free for students through the University's Office 365 campus agreement. For instructions on how to obtain the software, see the [Office 365 page of the](#)

[ITS Help Desk website.](#)

ETSU Technical Resources

Many other technical resources can be found on the [Online Help](#) webpage.

University Information

Syllabus Attachment

The [ETSU syllabus attachment](#) includes important material such as permits and overrides, advisement, hours, dates and other ETSU information.

Important Dates

Please refer to the [Academic Calendar](#) for specific drop/add, refund, and withdrawal dates.

ETSU Catalogs

[Catalogs](#)