

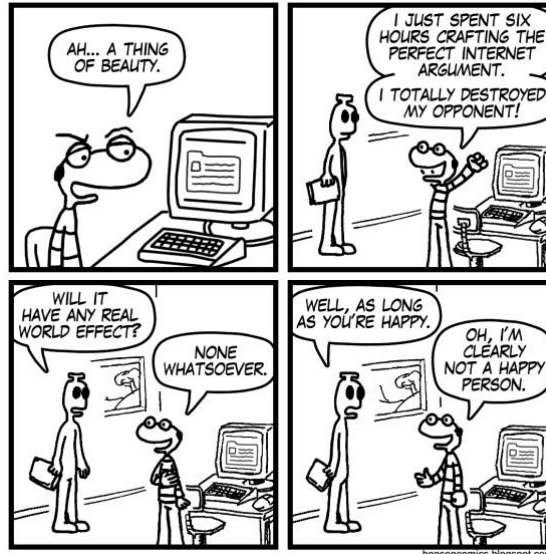
CMST 2063-01 Argumentation & Debate  
Fall 2018  
T/TH 10:30-11:50  
Allen 38

Instructor: Christopher J. Vincent

Office: Coates Hall 319

Email: [cvinc22@lsu.edu](mailto:cvinc22@lsu.edu)

Office Hours: T/Th 9:30-10:30, 1:30-2:30 or by appointment



### Required Texts/Materials

- Readings/Materials will be posted on Moodle
- One two-pocket folder for handing in assignments
- Access to and competency with online search engines and university libraries

### Course Description/Objectives

As a General Education Humanities Course, CMST 2063 enables you to demonstrate an understanding of the historical, cultural, and philosophical complexity that supports sophisticated argument, disagreement, and dialogue in democratic society.

Throughout this course, you will learn to become a more effective critical thinker and consumer of information and arguments. This will be accomplished by achieving the following:

- Understanding, identifying and evaluating the various types of arguments, reasoning processes, and logical fallacies
- Knowing what evidence is, how to use it to prove a claim, and how to evaluate the adequacy of your and opposing evidence
- Learning to organize arguments into a persuasive case
- Developing skills in refutation and cross examination
- Being able to use these skills in a variety of formats

## Communication Intensive Course

This is a certified Communication-Intensive (C-I) course which meets all of the requirements set forth by LSU's Communication across the Curriculum program, including

- instruction and assignments emphasizing informal and formal [mode 1] and [mode 2];
- teaching of discipline-specific communication techniques;
- use of feedback loops for learning;
- 40% of the course grade rooted in communication-based work; and
- practice of ethical and professional work standards.

Students interested in pursuing the LSU Distinguished Communicators certification may use this C-I course for credit. For more information about this student recognition program, visit [www.cxc.lsu.edu](http://www.cxc.lsu.edu).

## Course Policies

### Classroom Environment

The success of this course depends on the interactions generated between the instructor and the students (me and you). I do expect you to participate actively in class, share your ideas and opinions, comment on and assess those of your fellow classmates. However, I do demand that everyone treat each other with respect. Ridicule or disrespect of any sort will not be tolerated. While I use a wide variety of mediated examples to illuminate points and bring life to discussion in class, I do not use powerpoint presentations and will not post "lecture outlines" on Moodle. My hope is that we will all become more engaged members of the classroom discussions because of this commitment to an engaged and discussion-oriented environment.

### Attendance/Participation:

Your attendance and participation in each class meeting is expected. Your class participation grade will be determined based on in-class discussion, assignment/exercises, and analysis of in-class presentations throughout the semester. Students will be given two unexcused absences before losing points. **Attendance on debate days is required. This is non-negotiable. Failure to attend on these days will result in a 10point deduction from your own debate grade for each day missed.** If you are absent for more than two classes you must provide documentation of an emergency, which kept you from class. In addition, habitual tardiness or leaving class early will count as an absence. If you are participating in a university sanctioned/sponsored activity (forensics, athletics, etc.), it is your responsibility to negotiate your presentation day, and to communicate your absence in a timely manner.

### Group Work:

The success of this class hinges on your ability and willingness to be accountable to learning partners/classmates. Every debate assignment relies on a minimum of two people to show up on designated presentations days and to work together beforehand. Few things can derail this course more than the failure of even one member of the class to fulfill their responsibilities by missing a debate, dropping the class the day before they are scheduled to debate, etc. It does a disservice to your partner, classmates, and professor. Furthermore, if your debate partner is able to indicate

that you have been incommunicado during the lead-up to the debate and I cannot reach you either, I will automatically drop you from the debate and you will receive a zero.

### Debate Days:

On debate days students should arrive dressed in the appropriate attire (i.e. not pajamas) prepared to debate. All individuals must submit a folder containing materials pertinent to each specific assignment. Please see the specific assignment details for what is required. While you may use a laptop or other device to hold and reference material during your debate, you may not access the Internet while the debate is taking place.

Your role as an audience member is equally important to a successful debate. As noted in the attendance policy, attendance on debate days are mandatory. This means that working on homework, typing on a lap top, text messaging, walking in late while someone is speaking, sleeping, or simply looking like anything other than engaged in your classmates' work will result in a verbal warning from me, followed by a ONE LETTER GRADE DEDUCTION from your own debate grade.

### Technology Policies:

Laptops and other similar devices may be used only for the purpose of note taking. All other technology is strictly prohibited during class. Students caught violating this will lose participation points for the day. In case of emergencies requiring cell phone access during the class session, you should notify your instructor before class begins and attempt to sit near the entrance to the classroom.

### Academic Integrity:

Don't plagiarize. Any student found to have turned in material not his or her own (either downloaded from the internet or written by another student) in part or in whole will immediately be reported to the Dean of Students.

The Internet has made plagiarism very easy and very tempting. Hundreds of sites offer papers, research, writing, and editing. The ease with which such material is available over the Internet does not lessen the seriousness of claiming material from the Internet as your own. See the LSU policies on plagiarism here: <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/instruction/plagiarism2.html>

**Your paper would be considered as plagiarized in part or entirely if you do any of the following:**

- Submit a paper that was written by someone other than you.
- Submit a paper in which you use the ideas, metaphors or reasoning style of another, but do not cite that source and/or place that source in your list of references. Simply rewording a sentence does not make work your own.

Submit a paper in which you "cut and paste" or use the exact words of a source and you do not put the words within quotation marks, use footnotes or in-text citations, and place the source in your list of references.

### Accommodations:

The *Americans with Disabilities Act* and the *Rehabilitations Act of 1973* states: “If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see a coordinator in the Office of Disability Affairs (112 Johnston Hall) so that such accommodations can be arranged.” After you receive the accommodation letters, please meet with me to discuss the provisions of those accommodations.

*Title IX & Sexual Misconduct Policy:*

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a comprehensive federal law that prohibits discrimination based on the gender of students and employees of educational institutions that receive federal financial assistance.

In accordance with Title IX and other applicable law, Louisiana State University (“LSU”) is committed to providing a learning, working, and living environment that promotes integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free of discrimination on the basis of sex and sexual misconduct which includes sex discrimination, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and retaliation. LSU prohibits sex discrimination and sexual misconduct. This policy applies to all persons without regard to sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression.

Sex discrimination and sexual misconduct violate an individual’s fundamental rights and personal dignity. LSU considers sex discrimination and sexual misconduct in all of its forms to be serious offenses. This policy has been developed to reaffirm these principles and to provide recourse for individuals whose rights have been violated. This policy establishes a mechanism for determining when rights have been violated in employment, student life, campus support services, LSU programs and/or an academic environment.

*Grade Appeals:*

With any returned graded work, you should wait 24 hours before submitting an appeal of grade. If you feel an error has been made in the grading of an assignment and would like to have the grade reviewed, you should submit a typed statement (1page double spaced) explaining the reason for the review and the original graded assignment to me within seven days of receiving the graded assignment. No grade adjustments will be made after the seven-day period.

*Late Work:*

Major class assignments are to be turned in by the time class starts on the day that they are due. Assignments will not receive credit if turned in after the end of class on the day that they are due. Any work turned in during class will be considered late. Debates **CANNOT** be made up.

Prior arrangements must be made with the instructor if extenuating circumstances prevent you from meeting an important deadline. If prior arrangements have been made, a penalty of 10% will be assessed to any late work for each day it is late. If you miss work due to a university approved absence, you will be responsible for providing documentation to confirm the excused dates and for coordinating make-up work, making every effort to make arrangements before the absence when possible. In class activities cannot be made up.

*Standards of Work:*

It should be assumed, unless specified otherwise, that all work done outside of class should be typed, double-spaced, and in 12 font print. I will not accept handwritten assignments. All work using citations should be completed in MLA format. If you have questions, please let me know.

Moodle/Email:

Please make sure to check both Moodle and your email on a regular basis. Expect periodic updates from me about the class. Accordingly, if you e-mail me with a question about an assignment or the class in general, please allow at least 24 hours before expecting a reply.

Extra Credit

Extra credit may be offered at some point in the semester. However, there is no guarantee for extra credit opportunities.

Grading

Final grades will be determined based on scores earned in the following assignments. All work must be completed in the semester. Your point total is based on 1000points.

Assignments	Points Possible
Rhetorical Situation Assignment	100
Group Debate	100
Quizzes (5 @40 points each)	200
Refutation Speech	200
Policy Debate	200
Letter to the Editor	125
Engagement	100
<b>Total Points Possible</b>	<b>1000</b>

A+ ... 970-1000 points
A ... 930-969 points
A - ... 900-929 points
B + ... 870-899 points
B ... 830-869 points
B - ... 800-829 points
C + ... 770-799 points
C ... 730-769 points
C - ... 700-729 points
D + ... 670-699 points
D ... 630-669 points
D - ... 600-629 points
F ... 0-599 points

**Assignment Descriptions:**

**Rhetorical Situation Essay (100points)**

2-page essay analyzing rhetoric in a specific rhetorical situation. Follow instructions on assignment sheet.

**Group Debate (200points)**

As a class, we will participate in a group debate surrounding a relevant social/political issue around the community. You must attend class on the days of the group debates in order to receive credit. The assignment consists of three parts: the interview, the research brief, and the group debate itself. There will be a detailed assignment sheet posted on Moodle.

**Quizzes (200points)**

On 6 randomly selected days throughout the semester there will be a pop quiz at the beginning of class based on the readings due for that day in class, or discussion/presentations/lectures from up

until that point in class. These quizzes cannot be made up for any reason. Your lowest grade will be dropped.

**Refutation Speech (200points)**

Refute a single argument of policy or fact in a 3-minute speech to the class. Each speech will be followed by a 3-minute cross examination period where classmates are required to thoroughly examine and interrogate the speaker. 150 points will go towards each student's individual speech and ability to answer questions, and 50 points will be determined by the students active and inquisitive participation in the cross-examination periods of other students.

**Policy Debate (200points)**

Each member of the class will partner with another member of the class and debate a specific policy resolution. Must follow specific debate format and requirements, including submitting a brief prior to the debate.

**Letter to the Editor (125points)**

Draft a letter to the editor suitable for submission to The Daily Reveille, The Advocate, or Times-Picayune. An effective letter succinctly and effectively articulates a value position on a matter of social importance. They are often, but not always, in response to material published by the newspaper. Published letters will receive 5 extra points. In addition to your original letter, you must respond to TWO classmates letters on Moodle.

**Participation/Engagement (100points)**

This class is based on your thorough participation and critical engagement with text and exercise materials. I expect you to come to class having completed the readings for that day. Students are expected to attend all lectures and to complete all required reading. The engagement grade is composed of student contributions to class discussions and various engagement assignments given throughout the semester. In addition, you will be graded on in-class assignments and discussions for which you will lose credit if you are not present.

**HAVE YOU DECLARED YOUR MAJOR OR MINOR?**

Business leaders and other professionals recognize the importance of developing communication skills and analysis. Alan Greenspan, for example, stated, "To succeed, you will soon learn, as I did, the importance of a solid foundation in the basics of education – literacy, both verbal and numerical, and communication skills." We hope this course contributes to your success.

To learn more about communication, you may want to major or minor in the Department of Communication Studies. The program explores how people sustain and change, experience, and makes sense of the world through symbolic action. Students develop conceptual skills to analyze written, oral, and visual messages. Students gain practical experience in such areas such as public speaking, group decision-making, performance, and film. Such skills are elemental to careers in business, government, law, social services, and the arts.

*A major in Communication Studies requires 36 hours including 12 hours of core classes and 12 hours at the 3000 or 4000 level. A minor requires 15 hours with one core class and 6 hours at the 3000 level or above.*

*The Department of Communication Studies offers 6 Pathways of Study as guidance for students interested in taking CMST courses. These pathways include lists of courses that can be taken for students interested in the following areas within Communication Studies:*

- *Public Discourse*
- *Art and Culture*
- *Professional Communication*
- *Communication in Human Relationships*
- *Visual and Mediated Communication*
- *Create your Own Pathway*

More information is available at [www.lsu.edu/cmst](http://www.lsu.edu/cmst) or by contacting our undergraduate advisor Mr. Kent Filbel ([kfilli@lsu.edu](mailto:kfilli@lsu.edu)), whose hours are posted at his office, 135 Coates Hall.

### **Organization for Communication Studies (OCS)**

The Organization for Communication Studies (OCS) is for any undergraduate LSU student interested in Communication Studies. Whether you are a CMST major, minor, or any student interested in Communication Studies, our goal is to create a network of students and faculty united by a shared interest in communication, a desire to better one's self through interpersonal interactions, and a sense of duty to the CMST Department and local LSU Community.

Members of OCS will have opportunities to meet with representatives from various businesses and institutions to receive career search tips and learn about areas such as hospitality, customer service, recreation and tourism, sales and marketing, and various entry level trainee programs.

OCS members will also participate in department events such as hosting the OCS Fall Kickoff, the Public Speaking Competition, and the annual department Awards Banquet.

If you are interested in joining OCS, please email your request to:

Dr. Joni M. Butcher, Faculty Advisor

[jbutche@lsu.edu](mailto:jbutche@lsu.edu)

### **LSU Speech & Debate**

If you are student who may be interested in debate, public speaking, or acting/performance, then the LSU Speech and Debate Team is perfect for you! Speech and debate is an intercollegiate activity where students debate, interpret literature through oral performance, and write and perform their own persuasive and informative speeches! Membership is open to all LSU students and no prior experience is required. Our students travel to compete at other universities and colleges, produce performances and debates on campus, and curate community workshops. Students who've been affiliated with speech and debate programs find success from the courtroom to Hollywood! If interested check out our social media at:

[https://www.facebook.com/LSUSpeechDebate/?ref=br\\_rs](https://www.facebook.com/LSUSpeechDebate/?ref=br_rs).

**CMST 2063-01  
FALL 2018  
ANTICIPATED COURSE SCHEDULE**

*\*Please note that the schedule is subject to change to account for the needs of the class.*

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Major Assignment Information</b>
1	8/21	Course Introduction: Argumentation & Society	
	8/23	What is Argumentation?	
2	8/28	Structuring Arguments	
	8/30	Types of Arguments	
3	9/4	Logical Fallacies	
	9/6	Rhetorical Situation	<i>Assign Rhetorical Situation Essay</i>
4	9/11	Audience Analysis	
	9/13	Group Debate	<i>*Must attend class *Interview Assignment due in class *Research Briefs due</i>
5	9/18	Group Debate	<i>*Must attend class</i>
	9/20	Group Debate	<i>*Must attend class</i>
6	9/25	Refuting Arguments	<i>Assign Refutation Speech</i>
	9/27	Cross Examination	
7	10/2	Workshop	<i>Rhetorical Situation Essay Due</i>
	10/4	Fall Break- No Class	
8	10/9	Refutation Speeches	
	10/11	Refutation Speeches	
9	10/16	Refutation Speeches	
	10/18	Argumentation & Technology	
10	10/23	Introduction to Policy Debate	<i>Assign Policy Debate</i>
	10/25	Letter to the Editor	<i>Assign Letter to the Editor</i>
11	10/30	Ethical Advocacy	
	11/1	Workshop Day	
12	11/6	Workshop	
	11/8	NO CLASS (NCA- Instructor at Conference)	
13	11/13	Policy Debate	
	11/15	Policy Debate	
14	11/20	Policy Debate	
	11/22	Thanksgiving Break- No Class	
15	11/27	Policy Debate	Letter to the Editor Due
	11/29	Dialogue & Debate In Democracy	
<b>FINAL EXAM DATE: Friday December 7 3:00-5:00PM</b> <b>Letter to Editor Responses Due By Wednesday December 5th</b>			