

Argumentation TCSU COMS 120

A. Description

Methods of critical inquiry and advocacy. Identifying fallacies in reasoning and language, testing evidence and evidence sources, advancing a reasoned position, and defending and refuting arguments. Analysis, presentation, and evaluation of oral and written arguments.

B. Recommended Preparation

None Specified

C. Prerequisites

None Specified

D. Minimum Unit Requirement

3 semester units

E. Course Topics

1. Methods of critical inquiry, reasoning
2. Advocacy and argumentation techniques
3. Logical fallacies
4. Research skills, analysis and evaluation of evidence and sources
5. Critical analysis of discourse
6. Analysis, presentation, and evaluation of oral and written arguments

F. Student Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Learn to critically evaluate reasoning and evidence.
2. Develop an understanding of the reasoning process and skill in utilizing various methods of reasoning.
3. Apply principles and procedures of argumentation, orally advocate, and challenge and defend positions on socially significant controversies.
4. Learn to recognize fallacies of reasoning.
5. Develop research skills.
6. Practice ethical and civil discourse through appreciation for arguments supporting multiple perspectives on controversial topics.
7. Construct and adapt arguments for targeted audiences.
8. Foster the use of critical thinking skills in debate and written communication.

G. CAN Equivalent

CAN SPCH 6 (Equivalency ends Fall 2009)