

Communication 114

Argument and Critical Discourse

Course Syllabus

Summer 2020

CRN: 16599

Instructor Information

Mark Urista, M.A.

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Office Hours: Tue/Thu from 10:30-11am via Zoom

*Also available by appointment

Course Description

This course examines argumentation as a part of human interaction and investigation. Emphasis is placed on the processes by which people give reasons to gain adherence and justify beliefs and actions. Students will develop, deliver, and critically analyze persuasive arguments through written assignments and in-class presentations.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

- Engage in ethical communication processes that accomplish goals
- Respond to the needs of diverse audiences and contexts
- Build and manage relationships
- Analyze, evaluate, and rationally respond to the arguments of others
- Present effective arguments and rebuttals

Online Learning with Canvas

There is no required textbook for this course; all course content will be posted on our Canvas class site.

If you have any problems with Canvas, or other technology we use for this class, please contact Trevor Lane at: trevor.lane.9249@mail.linnbenton.edu

Because online learning requires a high level of independence and self-motivation, students who lack time management skills and self-motivation typically don't fare well in courses like this. You give yourself the best chance to do well in the course by being proactive: logging-in to our course site frequently, reading online instructions carefully, paying close attention to the course calendar, and contacting me well ahead of time when you have questions, not a few hours before an assignment is due.

Course content is organized into weekly sections. Each week's material and assignments will be finalized and made available by Monday at 9am. Our class was originally scheduled to meet for about three hours each week. The amount of content and work you are given each week will be comparable. This does not include major assignments that would be worked on "outside of class."

Communicating with Me

My main communication tool with you will be email, so it's essential that you check your LBCC student email daily. In addition to having useful reminders for upcoming tasks, my emails will also provide important info related to what you are working on. Checking email frequently and reading my messages carefully is your best way to stay current in the class! I have a 24-hour turnaround when replying to emails Monday through Friday, although I typically reply much sooner than that. On weekends, I observe a 48-hour turnaround. When you have questions about an assignment, do not wait until a few hours before it is due to email me. Instead, be working on the course content early, and allow yourself time for questions--and time for me to answer those questions. I also encourage you to schedule a Zoom appointment with me during my office hours to discuss any questions or concerns.

Participation, Assignments, and Quizzes

Participation	Points	Quizzes	Points
Discussion Posts	20 points	OpenMind	10 points

Written Assignments	Points
Best of Enemies Paper	20 points
Toulmin Model	10 points
Fallacies	10 points

Grade	Points
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 or less

Speaking Assignments	Points
Panel Presentation	15 points
Braver Angels Debate	15 points

Classroom Policies

Success is your choice! If you choose to be successful, I will be happy to help you. If you do not choose to be successful, I will honor your choice. *Every student has the potential to succeed in this class.*

**Please note that college-level reading and writing skills (WR 121) are strongly recommended for success in this course.*

Attendance & Participation: Your involvement with the course impacts the quality of each student's learning experience. Participation with your classmates will primarily occur through discussion posts and speaking assignments.

**Students who do not complete all of the first week's assignments on time will be dropped from class.*

Tolerance: In this class there may be times when you disagree with opinions being expressed. It is important that you respond to these opinions in an appropriate, respectful and professional manner. Healthy disagreement and discussion are a central component of this class and is encouraged, but must be done so on a professional and constructive basis.

Special Needs: Individuals requiring accommodation due to a documented disability and/or personal hardship should meet with me during the first week of class. I will do my best to assist you, provided that it does not compromise the academic integrity of LBCC. Students with disabilities should contact the Center for Accessibility Resources at 541-917-4789.

Honor Code

LBCC is dedicated to maintaining an optimal learning environment and insists upon academic honesty. To uphold the academic integrity of the institution, all members of the academic community, faculty, staff and students alike, must assume responsibility for providing an educational environment of the highest standards characterized by a spirit of academic honesty. Accordingly, if you exchange information with another student during a quiz, use unauthorized sources, and/or submit someone else's work or ideas as your own in any of your assignments, you will receive an "F" and may be subject to further discipline.

Nondiscrimination Policy

LBCC prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, veteran status, age, or any other status protected under applicable federal, state, or local laws.

Tentative Course Schedule

DATE	TOPICS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND DUE DATES <i>(Posts and written assignments due by 11:59 PM)</i>	WEEKLY CONTENT <i>(Available by Mon at 9am)</i>
WEEK 1 <i>June 29th - July 3rd</i>	Course Introduction and OpenMind <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Complete OpenMind Steps 1 and 2 ● Submit assigned discussion posts Both due on Thursday	<i>Check Canvas for required readings, videos, and discussion posts</i>
WEEK 2 <i>July 6th - 10th</i>	OpenMind <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Complete OpenMind Steps 3, 4, and 5 ● Submit assigned discussion posts Both due on Thursday	<i>Check Canvas for required readings, videos, and discussion posts</i>
WEEK 3 <i>July 13th - 17th</i>	FreeIC and The Moral Roots of Politics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● *Be prepared to Zoom and engage in FreeIC on Tue from 10-11:20am* ● Review assigned content from The Moral Roots of Politics on OpenMind ● Submit assigned discussion posts Posts due on Thursday	<i>Check Canvas for required readings, videos, and discussion posts</i>

<p>WEEK 4 July 20th- 24th</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Best of Enemies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Watch film while using discussion questions and review instructions for Best of Enemies Paper ● Submit assigned discussion posts <p style="text-align: center;">Both due on Thursday</p>	<p>Check Canvas for required readings, videos, and discussion posts</p>
<p>WEEK 5 July 27th- 31st</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Toulmin Model</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review material and instructions for Toulmin Model assignment ● Submit assigned discussion posts ● Submit Best of Enemies Paper <p style="text-align: center;">All due on Thursday</p>	<p>Check Canvas for required readings, videos, and discussion posts</p>
<p>WEEK 6 August 3rd- 7th</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Fallacies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review material and instructions for Fallacies assignment ● Submit assigned discussion posts ● Submit Toulmin Model assignment <p style="text-align: center;">All due on Thursday</p>	<p>Check Canvas for required readings, videos, and discussion posts</p>
<p>WEEK 7 August 10th- 14th</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Panel Prep</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review material and instructions for Panel Presentation ● Select panel topics and form pairings ● Submit Fallacies assignment ● Submit assigned discussion posts <p style="text-align: center;">All due on Thursday</p>	<p>Check Canvas for required readings, videos, and discussion posts</p>
<p>WEEK 8 August 17th- 21st</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Panels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● *Be prepared to Zoom and present on Tue and/or Thu from 10-11:20am* ● Submit assigned discussion posts <p style="text-align: center;">Posts due on Thursday</p>	<p>Check Canvas for required readings, videos, and discussion posts</p>
<p>WEEK 9 August 24th- 28th</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Braver Angels Debate Prep</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review material and instructions for Better Angels Debate ● Submit assigned discussion posts <p style="text-align: center;">All due on Thursday</p>	<p>Check Canvas for required readings, videos, and discussion posts</p>
<p>WEEK 10 August 31st- September 4th</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Braver Angels Debates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● *Be prepared to Zoom and debate on Tue and/or Thu from 10-11:20am* ● Submit assigned discussion posts <p style="text-align: center;">Posts due on Thursday</p>	<p>Check Canvas for required readings, videos, and discussion posts</p>

**Please note that assignments, policies, and schedule are subject to change upon instructor's discretion.*