

**Communication Studies 304-Human Communication and Rational Decision Making**

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Scheduled hours per week**

Lecture: 3

Lab: 0

Other: 0

**Catalog Course Description:** Argumentation, small group, persuasion, and system theories application to the process and outcome of rational decision-making in communication.

**Prerequisites:** ENGL 101, 102, COMM 111 or 112

**Corequisites:** None

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

- Apply specific vocabulary of argumentation
- Describe and apply the significant components of argument theory
- Prepare and distinguish between propositions of fact, value, and policy
- Analyze and evaluate the quality of arguments with increasing sophistication and efficiency
- Integrate practices of argument in the context of community issues, academic work, and personal beliefs
- Promote effective argumentation as a way to understand others and to promote dialogue and dispute resolution
- Learn the elements of persuasion/argumentation in persuasive public speaking
- Build skills in research, quantitative and qualitative reasoning, problem solving, decision-making, and advocacy
- Distinguish between argumentation, verbal aggression, and assertiveness
- Demonstrate the importance of listening and managing interpersonal relationships
- Identify the importance of argumentation within problem-solving groups

**Topics to be studied:**

- Argumentativeness
- Verbal Aggression
- Stating the Controversy in Propositional Form
- Inventing Arguments
- Presenting and Defending your Position
- Attacking Other positions
- CLARCCS

- Managing Interpersonal Relations
- Analyzing Your Adversary
- Assertiveness
- Listening Skills
- Credibility and Ethics
- Delivery and Nonverbal Communication
- Language
- Communication and Change
- Making Rational Decisions

<b>Relationship of Course to Discipline Learning Outcomes</b>	
Explain how ethics play a role in the communication process.	X
Recall the communication process.	X
Demonstrate an ability to select appropriate topics and language for public presentations.	X
Demonstrate an ability to conduct research.	X
Create complex messages in a variety of communication settings.	X
Evaluate and critique one's own and other's communication in a variety of settings.	X
Apply effective delivery skills in a variety of communication settings.	
Recall the historic background of mass media and contemporary media issues.	
Summarize the theoretical underpinnings of mass communication.	

<b>Relationship of Course to General Education Learning Outcomes:</b>	
<b>Composition and Rhetoric</b> Students illustrate a fundamental understanding of the best practices of communicating in English and meet the writing standards of their college or program-based communication requirements.	X
<b>Science &amp; Technology</b> Students successfully apply systematic methods of analysis to the natural and physical world, understand scientific knowledge as empirical, and refer to data as a basis for conclusions.	
<b>Mathematics &amp; Quantitative Skills</b> Students effectively use quantitative techniques and the practical application of numerical, symbolic, or spatial concepts.	
<b>Society, Diversity, &amp; Connections</b> Students demonstrate understanding of and a logical ability to successfully analyze human behavior, societal and political organization, or communication.	X
<b>Human Inquiry &amp; the Past</b> Students interpret historical events or philosophical perspectives by identifying patterns, applying analytical reasoning, employing methods of critical inquiry, or expanding problem-solving skills.	
<b>The Arts &amp; Creativity</b> Students successfully articulate and apply methods and principles of critical and creative inquiry to the production or analysis of works of art.	

**Special projects or requirements of the course:** N/A

**Additional information:** N/A

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