Speech 104/105/105H: Argumentation and Critical Thinking
Fall 2008 Course Syllabus
Professor Robert K. S. Allen, M.A.

Class Meetings: M 6:45 PM-9:45 PM  Ticket: 5154(104), 5159(105), 5160(105H)
Location: Humanities (H) 110  E-Mail: media_studies@yahoo.com
Website: http://professorallen.wordpress.com/

General Course Guidelines

Required Texts:

- Communicating Critical Thinking. (Jack Sterk and Jim Marteney). Available at the LAVC Bookstore (818) 947-2313

Note: This is a tentative syllabus. I reserve the right to alter the syllabus as necessary.

Attendance and Participation:

General Attendance and Tardiness: You are expected to attend and be prepared for every class session. If you are not in class you are not learning nor participating. However, you are allowed one absence for the semester. Any absence(s) after the first will result in a penalization of 10 points per absence from your participation score. Additionally, missing more than 5 classes will result in an automatic fail.

Late arrivals and early departures will result in a five point deduction.

‘Late Debates’ and Papers: There will be no ‘late’ debates in this class. If you are not ready or not in class during your assigned debate period, you will receive a zero for your grade. Late papers will be accepted with a penalty of 10 percent for each class period missed. There will be no exceptions to these rules.

Classroom Conduct:

- As a courtesy to your classmates, please keep cell phones, pagers and any other noise making devices quiet. Remember, students will be actively engaged in debate and discussion, therefore distractions must be held to a minimum. A disruption caused by these devices may result in a deduction in participation points.

- All assignments to be turned in must be typed- this includes all outlines and the midterm. All speeches require two copies of an outline, and a visual aid.

- Students are responsible for all information distributed verbally and via handout. If you are absent you must obtain the missed information from a classmate. Please do not e-mail me or ask me, “What did I miss?”

- Disruptions will not be permitted. This includes, but is not limited to: entering or leaving during a debate and inappropriate noise or comments. A student making a disruption will be penalized based on the severity of the interruption.
Course Assignments:

Oral

**Reading Presentation with Activity:** 50 Points x 2 = 100 Points
On two separate occasions you will work with two other students to highlight the key points of the previous reading assignment. In your own words, you will briefly go over the most important point of the reading, inserting your own experiences and beliefs. This presentation should be conversational, and not read from a note sheet. Additionally, you will include some sort of interactive activity for the audience which may include but is not limited to: a quiz game, a skit, or a worksheet handout. Presentations should be between 25-30 minutes in length, including activity.

**Debate:** 25 Points x 2 = 50 Points
Debates will be one-on-one, with one person taking the “Affirmative” side (which endorses a particular policy change that falls under the scope of the resolution) while the other person takes the “Negative” side. The Negative side’s job is to negate, in any way possible, the claims made by the Affirmative.

The Affirmative will speak first and have three minutes to present their proposal. The Negative will have four minutes to respond to the Affirmative proposal. The Affirmative will then have two minutes to respond to the negative and extend their arguments. Then we enter the rebuttal stage of the debate. The Negative will give the first rebuttal and will have two minutes to do so. The Affirmative speaks last and will have one minute for their rebuttal. There will also be a one minute cross-examination period after each of the first constructive speeches. As you can see, each side has a total of six minutes speaking time with the Affirmative having the first, third, and fifth speeches in the debate while the Negative has the second and fourth speeches in the debate.

Written

**Midterm and Final Exam:** 50 Points Each
There will be a midterm exam around the eighth week of class, and a final exam on the last day of class. Not all the material on the tests will come from the text; some will come from class lecture. There will be no opportunity for make-ups without prior notification/arrangements.

**Term Paper:** 100 Points
An additional requirement for the 105 and 105 honors classes, will be the term paper. 105 students will write a four to six page issue paper that will take a stance on a controversy, while the honors class will create nine to twelve page paper that will explore both sides of an issue. Student will use APA formatting and citation methods. (http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01)

**Quizzes:** 50 points
Periodically, throughout the quarter there will be quizzes on both the lecture material and the reading. This is an extra incentive to keep up with the reading material and attend class.
Participation: 40 points
You will be evaluated on the following factors:

- Amount and quality of in-class discussion
- Attendance and punctuality
- Participation in impromptu speeches
- Participation in activities
- Various small assignments that I will have for you

Speech 104/105/105H Fall 2008 Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>In Class</th>
<th>Reading (to be completed before class)</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/8</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Syllabus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/15</td>
<td>Icebreakers</td>
<td>Chapter 1, p. 1-18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/22</td>
<td>Communication Basics</td>
<td>Chapter 2, p. 19-32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/29</td>
<td>History/Toulmin Model</td>
<td>Chapter 3, p. 33-48</td>
<td>Debate 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/6</td>
<td>Decisions and Persuasion</td>
<td>Chapter 4, p. 49-68</td>
<td>Debate 1 (Con’t)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/13</td>
<td>Intelligence and Thinking</td>
<td>Chapter 5, p. 69-84</td>
<td>Debate 1 (Con’t)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/20</td>
<td>Reality and Perception</td>
<td>Chapter 6, p. 85-100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/27</td>
<td>Language, Critical Thinking</td>
<td>Chapter 7, p. 101-118</td>
<td>Midterm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/3</td>
<td>Beliefs, Attitudes, and Behaviors</td>
<td>Chapter 8, 119-134</td>
<td>Debate 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/10</td>
<td>Knowing your Audience</td>
<td>Chapter 9, p. 135-148</td>
<td>Debate 2 (Con’t)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/17</td>
<td>Claims</td>
<td>Chapter 10, p. 149-160</td>
<td>Debate 2 (Con’t)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/24</td>
<td>Issues, Analysis and Contentions</td>
<td>Chapter 11, p. 161-176</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/1</td>
<td>Evidence</td>
<td>Chapter 12, p. 177-192</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/8</td>
<td>Reasoning</td>
<td>Chapter 13, p. 193-206</td>
<td>105/105H Term Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>12/15 6:45 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>