



Walters State Community College Course Syllabus

Course Information

Course Number and Name: COMM 2055 Argumentation and Debate

Section ID: 81401.202380

Semester and Year: Fall 2023

Credit Hours: 3

Start Date: August 21, 2023

End Date: December 08, 2023

Course Format: CON - Conventional Methodology

Catalog Course Description: Instruction and participation in argumentation and debate. Emphasis will be given to researching current issues, case construction techniques, and case analysis.

Prerequisite(s): COMM 2025. **S** (T)

General Education Course Designation: General Education Course

Meeting Details: W; 03:30PM - 05:30PM; MBSS 242

Course Drop Deadline: October 27, 2023

Instructor Information

Name: Belle Elliott

Role: Instructor of Communication/ Director of Debate

Office Location: HUM 109 C

Office Hours: Virtual office hours: M, T, R~3-3:30/ M, T, W, R~ 8:30-9:30 Student hours: M, T, R~1-3/ W, 1-3:30

Office Phone: 423-585-6957

Email: Belle.Elliott@ws.edu

Supervisor Name: Marci Nimick

Supervisor Phone: 423-798-7986

Required Textbook(s) and Materials



Art, Argument and Advocacy

ISBN: 9780970213075

Authors: John Meany, Kate Shuster

Publisher: IDEA

Publication Date: 2002-01-01

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

- Argumentation

To develop the student's use of logic, reasoning, and critical thinking skills.

To enable a student to learn, hone, and apply research skills

To develop the student's argumentation skills.

To develop the student's ability to create valid arguments.

To prepare the student to delivery of effective oral presentations.

To develop the student's persuasive speaking skills.

Instructional Approach and Methods

Much class time will be devoted to actual debate exercises. Class time will also be used for lecture/discussion on course topics covered in the text and class handouts. Student participation in class activities will be stressed.

1. Students will be evaluated based on their performance on in-class and debate tournament exercises.
2. Students will be evaluated based on written assignments including debate cases.
3. Students will be evaluated based on their performance on objective exams.
4. Students will be evaluated based on their attendance and general class participation

Assessment, Evaluation and Testing Procedures

1. The exam will be drawn from the readings, class notes, and videos, and will be primarily multiple-choice.
2. All exams must be taken on the day scheduled. If a student misses an exam due to illness the student should contact the instructor immediately upon his/her return to campus to schedule a makeup exam.
3. No makeup exams will be given except in cases of documented personal illness or emergencies.
4. Makeup exams must be completed within one week.

Grading Scale

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

Assignments

- a. The student should be able to use logic and reasoning to construct and critique arguments such as Toulmin's Model as well as recognizing and applying classic rhetorical elements.
- b. The student should be able to locate, evaluate, and cite research from a variety of sources.
- c. The student should be able to create and critique fact, value, and policy claims while identifying stock issues.
- d. The student should be able to respectfully and analytically respond to others' arguments.
- e. The student should be able to prepare and deliver effective oral presentations with appropriate organization.

Class Participation

- a. Students are expected to attend all designated classes. A major focus of COMM 2055 is the development of debate skills. Class attendance and participation in class activities are absolutely essential to the student's ultimate success in the course. Failure to attend class and participate effectively in class exercises may result in a failing grade for the course. Attendance, student reading, and out-of-class activities ("homework") are all important.

- b. Communication exercises and group discussions conducted in class cannot be made up outside of class.
- c. Although class activities missed because of absence cannot be made up, a limited amount of make-up work will be available for excused absences (illness or family emergency). No makeups will be allowed for unexcused absences. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor regarding missed work.
- d. Behaviors related to attendance and participation – such as frequent absences or tardiness, distracting or inappropriate class conduct, or the failure to complete assignments and speeches on time – may significantly lower the student's grade

Course and Class Policies/Procedures

The instructor has primary responsibility for control over classroom behavior and maintenance of academic integrity and can order the temporary removal or exclusion from the classroom of any student engaged in disruptive conduct or conduct in violation of the general rules and regulations of the institution. Extended or permanent exclusion from the classroom or further disciplinary action can be effected only through appropriate procedures of the institution.

Classroom Behavior Policy:

Students are expected to be positively engaged in class lectures, group discussions and student speeches. Students should show respect to the instructor and to other students. Any behavior which may distract from the learning process should be avoided. The behaviors listed below may affect the student's final course grade:

1. Arriving for class late.
2. Leaving class early.
3. Leaving during class for restroom or water breaks.
4. Eating or drinking during class.
5. Sleeping during class.
6. Attending to a cell phone or laptop computer.
7. Private conversations with classmates.

8. Blurting out comments.

Students exhibiting these behaviors will be given a Classroom Misconduct Report and asked to meet with the instructor.

Cellular phones and digital devices:

Cellular phones, earbuds and all digital devices MUST be turned off during class. If these disrupt the class the owner will be asked to leave.

Online/Web-Enhanced Course Supplementary Information

This class is taught in a hybrid format with in-person class meetings on most, if not all scheduled class afternoons. The major focus of the class is in-person attendance, and all students are expected to attend in-person whenever possible. Students may attend virtually when documented illness or pandemic-related circumstances require it. The instructor may choose to deliver a class entirely virtually if circumstances such as extreme weather or the pandemic make it necessary. Students should check eLearn regularly throughout the semester for schedule updates.

Additional Course Requirements/Details/Information

Graded Item	Possible	% of Grade	Earned Score
In-class/Tournament Debate Exercises	500 Points	50%	
Written Assignments/Debate Cases	200 Points	20 %	
Exams	200 Points	20%	
Attendance/Professionalism	100 Points	10%	
Total	1000 Points	100%	

Academic Program Standards/Policies/Accreditation Information

Faculty expect all students to refrain from acts of academic misconduct including but not limited to:

1. Plagiarism - refers to using another person's ideas or writing without giving proper credit to the original source. Indulging in this type of conduct will subject the student to disciplinary sanctions, which may be imposed through the regular institutional procedures of Walters State Community College as outlined in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism will result in a grade of "0" for the paper/exam/presentation. Student Conduct and Disciplinary Sanctions contained in the college Catalog/Student Handbook apply (see policy 04:18:02 Disciplinary Sanctions).

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to the following:

- a. Using cut/paste tool from original document with no references given.
 - b. Copying another student's work and submitting it as one's own.
 - c. Forging or otherwise altering signatures.
 - d. Giving or falsifying academic documents or materials.
2. Cheating - construed as attempting to deceive or mislead which includes, but is not limited to the following:
 - a. Utilizing old tests, projects, notes or written papers.
 - b. Providing unauthorized information to a fellow student about exam content.
 - c. Receiving unauthorized aid from any source with quizzes, examinations, or other assignments.
 - d. Seeking information in an unacceptable manner during/preceding an exam or other assigned work (cheat sheet, verbal exchange, looking at another person's paper or electronic device, utilizing headphones, using textbook when the test/quiz is not an open book test/quiz, using textbook test bank etc.).
 - e. Consulting with a classmate or others when taking a computerized test.
 - f. Disregarding other specific policies and procedures outlined for a particular class.
 - g. Utilizing unapproved technology/electronic equipment during testing (i.e.: mobile devices such as cell phones, smart devices, or tablets, etc.).
 - h. Using the same Internet Protocol network address (IP address) as another student for testing without approval from the course faculty.

Academic Honesty

Faculty expect all students to refrain from acts of academic misconduct including but not limited to:

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 - d. Seeking information in an unacceptable manner during/preceding an exam or other assigned work (cheat sheet, verbal exchange, looking at another person's paper or electronic device, utilizing headphones, using textbook when the test/quiz is not an open book test/quiz, using textbook test bank etc.).
 - e. Consulting with a classmate or others when taking a computerized test.
 - f. Disregarding other specific policies and procedures outlined for a particular class.
 - g. Utilizing unapproved technology/electronic equipment during testing (i.e.: mobile devices such as cell phones, smart devices, or tablets, etc.).
 - h. Using the same Internet Protocol network address (IP address) as another student for testing without approval from the course faculty.
3. The use of any generative artificial intelligence (AI) tool, such as OpenAI's ChatGPT, Google's Bard, or any other pre-trained language model (commonly referred to as "chatbot"), must be cited for any assignment where it has been used and may not be used unless specifically allowed by your instructor. Please see your instructor or the course policies within the syllabus if you have questions.

Student Resources

TUTORING SERVICES

Students in need of tutoring assistance are encouraged to contact the Office of Student Tutoring located as follows:

- Morristown Campus - Student Services Building Room L107 - (423) 585-6920
- Niswonger Campus - GRNV 226 - (423) 798-7982
- Sevierville Campus - MMH Room 210 - (865) 286-2787
- Claiborne Campus - Room 123A - (423) 851-4761

Specific tutoring assistance in mathematics and writing is available in-person and online as follows:

- Morristown Campus - English Learning Lab - HUM 120 - (423) 585-6970

[Walters State English Learning Lab \(opens in new window\).](https://www.waltersstate.edu/academics/humanities/writing-lab)
[ws.edu/academics/humanities/writing-lab](https://www.waltersstate.edu/academics/humanities/writing-lab)

- Morristown Campus - Mathematics Lab - MBSS 222 - (423) 585-6872

[Walters State Mathematics Learning Lab \(opens in new window\).](https://www.waltersstate.edu/academics/mathematics/learning-lab)
[ws.edu/academics/mathematics/learning-lab](https://www.waltersstate.edu/academics/mathematics/learning-lab)

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

Students who need assistance with computing and technology issues should contact the IET Helpdesk by phone at Morristown: (423) 318-2742; Niswonger: (423) 798-8186; or Sevierville: (865) 286-2789 or on-line access.

[Walters State Helpdesk \(opens in new window\).](https://www.waltersstate.edu/helpdesk)
[helpdesk.ws.edu](https://www.waltersstate.edu/helpdesk)

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES SUPPORT SERVICES

Students with disabilities must register with Student Support Services each semester in the Student Services Building, Room U134 (phone (423) 585-6892) if they need any special facilities, services, or consideration.

[Walters State Student Support Services \(opens in new window\).](https://www.waltersstate.edu/student-services/disability/)
[ws.edu/student-services/disability/](https://www.waltersstate.edu/student-services/disability/)

SUICIDE PREVENTION STATEMENT

Walters State is committed to and cares about all students. Support services are available for any person at Walters State who is experiencing feelings of being overwhelmed, hopelessness, depression, thinking about dying by suicide, or is otherwise in need of assistance. For immediate help, contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by calling or texting 9-8-8 or the Trevor Lifeline at 1-866-488-7386. Veterans may also contact the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 (press 1) or Text 838255.

Walters State has a relationship in place with the following community agencies to provide services (may include crisis referral services, prevention screenings, etc.):

- Cherokee Health Systems 423-586-5032
- Frontier Health 423-467-3600

College Policies

STUDENTS HANDBOOK AS OFFICIAL GOVERNING DOCUMENT

This class is governed by the policies and procedures stated in the current Walters State Community College Student Handbook. All students attending Walters State Community College, regardless of the time, location, or format of the class, must abide by the rules and regulations outlined in the current Walters State Catalog/Student Handbook and the current Walters State Timetable of Classes.

[Walters State Catalog \(opens in new window\)](https://catalog.ws.edu/)
catalog.ws.edu/

[Walters State Timetable of Classes \(opens in new window\)](https://ws.edu/admissions/registration/)
ws.edu/admissions/registration/

PURPOSE, LIMITATIONS AND MODIFICATION OF SYLLABUS

This syllabus sets forth the expectations for the course content, work, and grading as well as expectations for student performance and conduct. The syllabus does not constitute a contract between the student and the instructor or the College. The information contained here is subject to change at any time. The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus at any time with written notification to the students. Though changes are possible, it is expected that the course will be conducted as described in this syllabus for the semester/year specified in the Course Information section of the syllabus. This syllabus is only valid for the semester/year specified and course requirements are not guaranteed for future semesters.

COURSE GROUND RULES

- Students must attend the first day of on-ground class or contact the instructor prior to the first class. Failure to do this may result in being dropped from the class. Excessive absences may substantially lower the course grade.
- Regular class attendance is a student's obligation for any course regardless of format. (See the Walters State Catalog/Student Handbook). If a student misses class, it is his or her responsibility to contact the instructor regarding missed assignments and/or activities and to be prepared for the next class assignment.

- Students enrolled in web courses must follow the course attendance policy defined for online attendance during the first week of class and throughout the term. Failure to do this may result in being dropped from the class during week one OR may result in the accrual of absences which may negatively impact the student's grade in the course.
- Students who have not paid fees on time and/or are not correctly registered for this class and whose names do not appear on official class rolls generated by the Walters State student information system (MyWS) will not be allowed to remain in class or receive credit for this course.
- Electronic devices must not disrupt the instructional process or college-sponsored academic activity. Use of electronic devices is prohibited unless use of the device is relevant to the activity and use is sanctioned by the faculty member in charge. Electronic devices that are not relevant to the activity or sanctioned by the faculty member in charge should be set so that they will not produce an audible sound during classroom instruction or other college-sponsored academic activity.

FINANCIAL AID

Students receiving any type of financial aid or scholarship should contact the Financial Aid Office before making any changes to their schedule. Schedule changes without prior approval may result in loss of award for the current term and future terms.

All forms of student Financial Aid may be jeopardized or lost due to the lack of Satisfactory Academic Progress in one or multiple courses. Lack of Satisfactory Academic Progress may negatively impact a student's degree/certificate completion pace and further jeopardize Financial Aid eligibility.

CANCELLATION OF CLASSES AND ACADEMIC CONTINUITY

For information related to the cancellation of classes due to inclement weather or other events, please check the Senators Emergency Text system or the college's Web site at:

[Walters State Homepage \(opens in new window\)](#)

ws.edu/home/

[Walters State Facebook page \(opens in new window\)](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/WaltersState/>

[Walters State Twitter page \(opens in new window\)](#)

<https://twitter.com/waltersstate>

or call the college's student information line, 1-800-225-4770, option 1; the Sevier County Campus, (865) 774-5800, option 7; the Niswonger Campus (423) 798-7940, option 7; or the Claiborne County

Campus, 423-636-6200, option 7. Also, please monitor local TV and radio stations for further announcements.

When an event or disaster interrupts the scheduled operations of the college and the ability to proceed with the academic course activities as planned, the college and your instructor may alter the course plan outlined in the syllabus. Should an event occur, students should refer to their course e-Learn pages and/or class materials previously delivered to receive guidance from their instructor. Students should continue to monitor the official college channels of communication listed in the above paragraph. If you would like to sign up for the Senators Emergency Text system, please go to the following Web site:

[Senator Emergency Text System \(opens in new window\).](https://ws.edu/set/)
ws.edu/set/

Dual Enrollment students attending on a high school campus should refer to the high school inclement weather cancellations.

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Brightspace (commonly known as eLearn or D2L) is the college's Learning Management System (LMS).

Brightspace is committed to accessibility by "deliver[ing] a learning experience that meets the needs of all people, regardless of age or ability." [Brightspace Accessibility Standard \(opens in new window\)](#).

Brightspace is also committed to guarding student data and privacy. [Brightspace Privacy Policy \(opens in new window\)](#).