Minnesota State University Moorhead

COMM 111: Argumentation and Debate

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 02 - Critical Thinking

This course introduces students to argumentation theory and provides the opportunity to practice skills in reasoning, argumentation, and critical thinking. The course focuses on multicultural arguments as they appear in politics, society, and the media. MnTC Goal 2.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 09/09/2014 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Develop effective reasoning skills.
2. Establish an understanding of the procedures and practice of debate (and argumentation).
3. Develop and enhance critical thinking skills through written and oral presentations.
4. Understand the role of context (i.e., culture, society, media) in shaping arguments.

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Recognize and define the questions upon which a controversy depends.
2. Distinguish arguments from non-arguments.
3. Identify the implicit assumptions and practical implications of multiple perspectives so that arguments
   can be analyzed within their historic and cultural contexts.
4. Distinguish between fallacious and non-fallacious arguments.
5. Recognize stereotypes and critically assess cultural images.
6. Distinguish between and use inductive and deductive reasoning.
7. Formulate clearly and precisely a question or problem and generate alternative hypotheses or solutions
   to this problem, including solutions appropriate to the cultural context of the problem.
8. Construct sound or cogent arguments of their own supported by data that are clear, accurate, and relevant.
9. Credit properly ideas developed by others.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 02 - Critical Thinking

1. Gather factual information and apply it to a given problem in a manner that is relevant, clear, comprehensive, and conscious of possible bias in the information selected.
2. Imagine and seek out a variety of possible goals, assumptions, interpretations, or perspectives which can give alternative meanings or solutions to given situations or problems.
3. Analyze the logical connections among the facts, goals, and implicit assumptions relevant to a problem or claim; generate and evaluate implications that follow from them.
4. Recognize and articulate the value assumptions which underlie and affect decisions, interpretations, analyses, and evaluations made by ourselves and others.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted