

**Marshall University**  
**Syllabus**

Course Title/Number	<b>CMM 310 Argumentation and Debate</b>
Semester/Year	Fall 2015
Days/Time	MW 2:00 – 3:15
Location	SH 414
Instructor	Danny Ray
Office	SH 270
Phone	304-696-5293
E-Mail	<a href="mailto:ray102@marshall.edu">ray102@marshall.edu</a>
Office/Hours	MW 1:00 – 2:00, 3:15 – 4:00, others available by appointment

Information for drop or withdraw available on the Academic Calendar  
<http://www.marshall.edu/calendar/academic/>

**COURSE MATERIALS AND COST**

<b>TITLE</b>	Argumentation and Debate: Critical Thinking for Reasoned Decision Making
<b>AUTHOR</b>	Austin J. Freeley & David L. Steinburg
<b>PUBLISHER</b>	Wadsworth Cengage Learning
<b>EDITION</b>	13 <sup>th</sup>
<b>ISBN</b>	

Textbooks and materials may be ordered online at the Marshall University Bookstore  
[http://www.marshall.edu/msc/MU\\_Bookstore/mu\\_bookstore.html](http://www.marshall.edu/msc/MU_Bookstore/mu_bookstore.html)

**COURSE DETAILS:**

**Description:** Basic principles of argument; practice in discussion and debate.

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Prerequisites:** One of the following: CMM 103, CMM 104H, or CMM 207

**Objectives/Expectations:** Objective of the course is to develop critical thinking skills through the construction of effective argumentation and the practice of debate. Expectations: students should complete the course with an understanding of how to form and defend effective arguments, how to compose resolutions and debate briefs and how to apply critical thinking skills in real world applications.

## COURSE OUTCOMES

The table below shows the following relationships: How each student learning outcomes will be practiced and assessed in the course.

<b>Course Student Learning Outcomes</b> <i>Students will . . .</i>	<b>How students will practice each outcome in this Course</b>	<b>How student achievement of each outcome will be assessed in this course</b>
<i>form and defend arguments effectively</i>	In class debates Class discussions Creating arguments Defending arguments Writing briefs	Debate evaluation Value resolutions Policy resolutions Affirmative case construction Negative case construction Exams
<i>develop skills in debate</i>	In class debates Class discussions Creating arguments Defending arguments Writing briefs	Debate evaluation Value resolutions Policy resolutions Affirmative case construction Negative case construction Exams
<i>articulate ideas with limited preparation</i>	In class debates Class discussions Creating arguments Defending arguments Cross examination	Debate evaluation
<i>recognize credible sources</i>	Class discussions Creating arguments Defending arguments Writing briefs	Value resolutions Policy resolutions Affirmative case construction Negative case construction

## COMMUNICATION

Questions and comments will normally be responded to within 24 hours of sending the communication. You may reach me through email, [ray102@marshall.edu](mailto:ray102@marshall.edu). I also have access to voicemail but will most likely not retrieve it from my office. Please speak distinctly if you leave a voicemail as I will receive it as a text through my email.

## COURSE SCHEDULE, ACTIVITIES AND POLICIES

Week	Date	Readings	Assignments
Week 1	August 24	Chapters 1 & 2	
	August 26		
Week 2	August 31	Chapter 3, 4 & 5	
	September 2		
Week 3	September 7	<i>Labor Day</i>	
	September 9	Chapters 6 & 7	
Week 4	September 14		Propositions due
	September 16	Chapters 8 & 9	
Week 5	September 21		
	September 23		
Week 6	September 28	Chapters 10 & 11	
	September 30		
Week 7	October 5	Chapters 12 & 13	
	October 7		
Week 8	October 12	Chapters 14 – 16	
	October 14		
Week 9	October 19	Value Debates	Value cases are due
	October 21	Value Debates	
Week 10	October 26	Value Debates	
	October 28	Value Debates	
Week 11	November 2	Value Debates	
	November 4	Value Debates	
Week 12	November 9	Policy Debates	Policy cases are due
	November 11	Policy Debates	
Week 13	November 16	Policy Debates	
	November 18	Policy Debates	
Week 14	November 23	<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>	
	November 25		
Week 15	November 30	Policy Debates	
	December 2	Policy Debates / Final Exam Review	
Week 16	December 7	Final Exam	12:45 – 2:45 pm

## Exams

Number of exams	1
Types of questions	Multiple choice
Each exam worth (# of points)	100
Total points	100

## Assignments

Number of assignments	10
Type of assignments	2 sets of propositions, 4 cases, 4 debates
Assignments worth (# of points)	Propositions (x2) – 25
	Affirmative case construction (x2) – 50
	Negative case construction (x2) – 50
	Debate performances (x4) – 25

## Grading Breakdown

Item	Value
Value propositions	25
Policy propositions	25
Affirmative case value debate	50
Negative case value debate	50
Value debate	25
Affirmative case policy debate	50
Negative case policy debate	50
Policy debate	25
Final Exam	100

## Grading

<b>A</b>	<b>360 – 400</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>320 – 359</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>280 – 319</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>240 – 279</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>0 – 239</b>

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES

### Academic Dishonesty

All students should be familiar with the university's policy concerning academic dishonesty. This policy can be found on pp. 66 - 68 of the undergraduate catalog [http://www.marshall.edu/catalog/undergraduate/ug\\_10-11\\_published.pdf](http://www.marshall.edu/catalog/undergraduate/ug_10-11_published.pdf), or on pp. 61 – 63 in the 2009 online graduate catalog

[http://www.marshall.edu/catalog/graduate/S2009/gr\\_sp09\\_published.pdf](http://www.marshall.edu/catalog/graduate/S2009/gr_sp09_published.pdf). (Faculty are encouraged to add any additional information specific to their expectations and/or rules regarding academic dishonesty in their class).

### **Policy for Students with Disabilities**

Marshall University is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with physical, learning and psychological disabilities. University policy states that it is the responsibility of students with disabilities to contact the Office of Disabled Student Services (DSS) in Prichard Hall 117, phone 304 696-2271 to provide documentation of their disability. Following this, the DSS Coordinator will send a letter to each of the student's instructors outlining the academic accommodation he/she will need to ensure equality in classroom experiences, outside assignment, testing and grading. The instructor and student will meet to discuss how the accommodation(s) requested will be provided. For more information, please visit <http://www.marshall.edu/disabled> or contact Disabled Student Services Office at Prichard Hall 11, phone 304-696-2271.

### **University Computing Services' Acceptable Use Policy:**

All students are responsible for knowing this policy, which can be found on the web at <http://www.marshall.edu/ucs/CS/acpttuse.asp>.

### **Affirmative Action Policy:**

This course will follow Marshall University's policy on Affirmative Action, which can be found on p. 63 of the undergraduate catalog [http://www.marshall.edu/catalog/undergraduate/ug\\_10-11\\_published.pdf](http://www.marshall.edu/catalog/undergraduate/ug_10-11_published.pdf), or on pp. 16-17 of the 2008 graduate catalog [http://www.marshall.edu/catalog/graduate/S2009/gr\\_sp09\\_published.pdf](http://www.marshall.edu/catalog/graduate/S2009/gr_sp09_published.pdf). Specifically, all students will be afforded equal opportunity without regard to race, color, sex, religion, age, disability, national origin, or sexual orientation.

### **Course Policies:**

#### **Professionalism**

All students are required to present themselves in a professional manner when delivering debates. This requires business professional attire. Failure to do so will result in the deduction of points.

#### **Attendance Policy**

Roll will be taken every day and you are expected to be in class and on time. If you have any unforeseen circumstances that prevent you from attending then it is your responsibility to inform me ahead of time if at all possible. Tardiness will not be tolerated. According to Student Affairs, a student must secure a University Excused Absence upon returning to class. This does not mean waiting two weeks and then expecting me to allow you to make-up the assignments that you missed. Be proactive. It is the responsibility of the student to request an opportunity to complete missed assignments. Students should be aware that excessive absences--whether excused or unexcused--may affect their ability to earn a passing grade. Regardless of the nature of the excused absence, the student is responsible for completing all coursework prior to the end of the semester.

### **Class Participation, Participation, and Punctuality**

This is not a lecture course. In order to meet the objectives of the course, you will need to arrive at each class on time, having completed the assigned reading and writing and prepared yourself to participate intelligently in the discussion. Please arrive fully prepared to make presentations or submit accompanying documents when you are scheduled. Participation also includes providing grounded, actionable feedback to classmates following their presentations. In order for you to demonstrate the skills necessary for this course, you will be required to participate in group activities. From time to time, it will be necessary for you to prepare for class on your own time. These activities will require you to perform competent research. Failure to participate in class, with the completed assignments on time will result in the deduction of points from this category.

### **Make-up Work:**

It is expected that you will turn in all work by the due date. Exceptions will be made on an individual basis. All debates must occur on the date that they are scheduled. Only a University Excused Absence will be considered in order for these items to be made up. Any assignments turned in late will be cut the amount of points equal to one letter grade. No email copies of assignments will be accepted unless a prior arrangement has been made and accepted by me. In order for you to achieve the objectives of this course; acquiring the skills to speak publicly; while forming and defending sound arguments, you must complete the oral performance of all debates. Failure to meet this requirement will result in failing the course without exception.

### **APA Style Formatting**

All written work submitted in this class must adhere to the APA formatting guide as published by the American Psychological Association, which can be found here: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in point deductions per assignment.