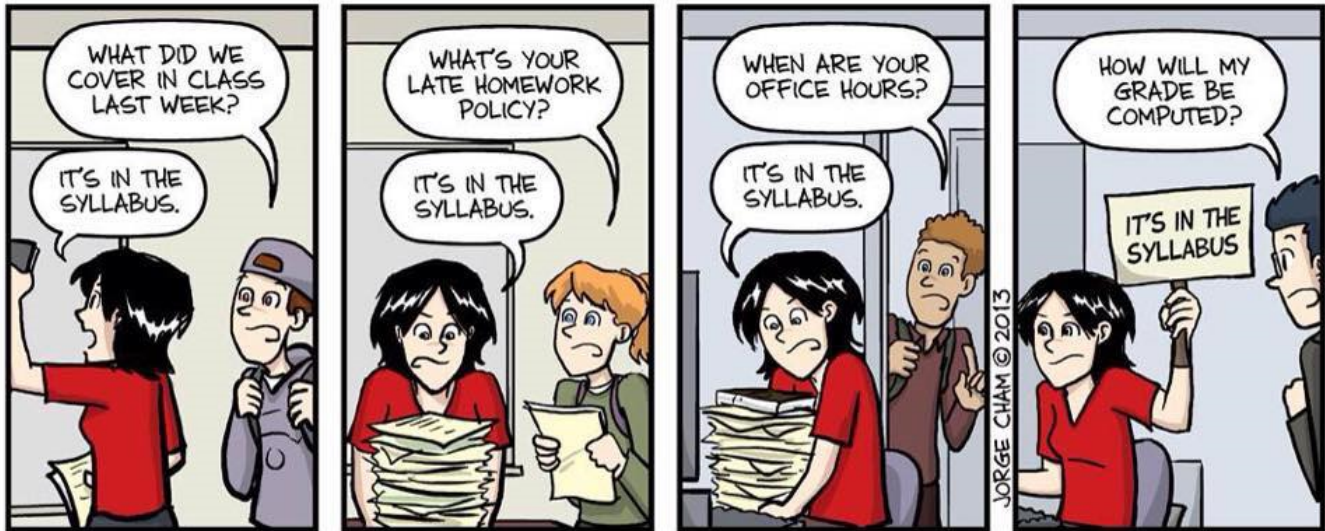


COMMUNICATION AND CRITICAL THINKING (COM 210)
Section 1 (2 pm, Fell 176)

Instructor: Chad Woolard
Office: Fell 422
Office Phone: 438-8270 (direct line/voice mail)
Office Hours: T & Th 2-3 pm or by appointment
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IT'S IN THE SYLLABUS

This message brought to you by every instructor that ever lived.

WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION

Principles of critical thinking, argumentation, and advocacy and their expression in electronic, oral and written contexts.

COURSE MATERIALS

Textbook:

Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. G., Williams, J. M., Bizup, J., & Fitzgerald, W. T. (2017). The craft of research (4th ed.). Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press. Available as an eBook through Milner Library:
https://i-share-isu.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CARLI_ISU/1vcthf/alma9916643066605845

Recommended Textbook:

Van Rys, J., Meyer, V., & Sebranek, P. (2012). The research writer: Curiosity, discovery, and dialogue. Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.

COMMUNICATION AS CRITICAL THINKING (COM 210) COURSE GOALS

- 1) Students will hone their research and critical thinking skills
- 2) Students will become more critical consumers and producers of ideas and information (using analytical reasoning skills in the reception, collection, and presentation of ideas).
- 3) Students will enhance their ability to link claims together to form full arguments
- 4) Students will become more effective communicators in a democracy (demonstrating ethical communication, considering multiple perspectives on controversial issues, and managing conflict).

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

Defining Critical Thinking Paper	10 pts
Policy Analysis Project Proposal	45 pts
Policy Research Annotative	
Bibliography	65 pts
Policy Research Card Assignment	65 pts
Policy Background Paper	100 pts
Policy Analysis Paper	100 pts
Policy Analysis: Group Member	
Evaluation	100 pts
Policy Debates	80 pts
Policy Debate Flows (6)	60 pts
Fallacy Detective Quizzes	100 pts
Attendance	100 pts
Total Points:	825 pts

The grading scale is a standard ten percentage point scale:

90-100% = A; 80%-89% = B; 70%-79% = C; 60-69% = D; below 60% = F

COURSE POLICIES:

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

Participation is a function of attendance, demonstration of having read the material, asking questions that extend the thinking of the class and instructor, contributing relevant examples, and demonstrating respect for the contributions of classmates. It is important that students are engaged in discussion and also express their opinions and thoughts to the class, even if it is something other students have expressed. It is in your best interest to attend class regularly; the reading, lecture, class discussion, and activities are directly related to the course assignments and final grade for the course. Attendance will be taken every class period and will be recorded on a physical sign in sheet and then will be entered into the Canvas Attendance tool. Canvas Attendance only has 3 options to record attendance, Present, Late, and Absent. "Present" and "Absent" are straight forward, but I will use "Late" to designate an Excused Absence (EA). Excused Absences are absences for university related travel (i.e., athletics, debate/forensics, etc.), documented illness or injury, or student accommodations. These absences must be confirmed/verified through some official university means (communication from a coach or advisor, the Dean of Students, or Student Accommodations offices) and you must be able to show documentation for the absence. If you participate in university extracurricular activities or have a documented accommodation you should receive an official letter for your instructors. If your absence is due to injury or illness you should contact the Dean of Students' office and they can help you to verify and communicate with your instructors. **DO NOT EMAIL ME ABOUT AN ABSENCE UNLESS YOU CAN PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION THROUGH THE APPROPRIATE UNIVERSITY OFFICE.**

ABSENCES DUE TO COVID. If you are absent due to a required self-isolation or quarantine, you will need to provide documentation to the Dean of Students Office for your absence to be excused. The Dean of Students Office will notify your instructors, and they will make reasonable modifications/extensions to any assignments missed during this time.

UNIVERSITY BEREAVEMENT POLICY: Students who experience the death of an immediate family member or relative as defined in the University Student Bereavement Policy will be excused from class for funeral leave, subsequent bereavement, and/or travel considerations. Students are responsible for providing appropriate documentation to the Dean of Students office and for contacting the instructor as soon as possible to make arrangements for completing missed work. More information is available in the Student Bereavement Policy at <http://policy.illinoisstate.edu/students/2-1-27.shtml>.

ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES: All speeches, assignments, and exams must be completed on the date assigned. If you do not turn in assignments the dates they are due you will receive a ZERO for that assignment unless an alternate due date has been previously approved or documentation has been provided for extreme circumstances. I do not accept any emailed assignment—all assignments need to be submitted in print or through Reggienet. In some situations, I may allow you to email an assignment and later turn in a paper copy; however, this requires prior permission.

BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

Professional Courtesy. Professional courtesy includes respecting others' opinions, not interrupting in class, being respectful to those who are speaking, and working together in a spirit of cooperation. I expect you to demonstrate these behaviors at all times in this class. With that in mind, sleeping, reading materials irrelevant to class purposes, texting, or disrupting the class will not be tolerated and will result in the student being considered absent for that particular class period.

Presentation Etiquette. On presentation days, you have dual responsibilities as a speaker and an audience member. When you are presenting, you will dress appropriately. When you are an audience member, you will be attentive and ask challenging but constructive questions when the presentation is finished. Because most people are nervous when they present, you will be supportive both verbally and nonverbally. You will never enter or leave the room while a presentation is in progress.

Behavioral Expectation Policy. Should any student violate the expectations of appropriate classroom behavior (as mentioned in the professional courtesy and presentation etiquette policies above), the instructor will schedule a meeting to discuss these expectations and develop a behavioral modification plan. If these behaviors persist, you will be at-risk for failing the course.

EMAIL ETIQUETTE: I use email to deliver some course materials and assignments in addition to Reggienet and the textbook websites. I also will answer questions and address problems through email. I encourage you to email with this issues and concerns; however, I need some basic information from you to properly and quickly answer your email: 1) A subject line that tells me what you are emailing me about (i.e. Assignment, Question about X assignment, etc.). 2) Your full name, most of the time the only information I get through the email system is your email address, not your full name. 3) Your class section or class time. If you can provide me with this information I can quickly address your concerns.

CHEATING/PLAGIARISM: Students are expected to be honest in all academic work, consistent with the academic integrity policy as outlined in the *Code of Student Conduct*. All work is to be appropriately cited when

it is borrowed, directly or indirectly, from another source. Unauthorized and unacknowledged collaboration on speech topics and/or the presentation of someone else's work warrants plagiarism. Students found to inadvertently commit acts of dishonesty will receive appropriate penalties specific to the assignment in question. Students found to commit intentional acts of dishonesty will receive a failing grade in the course and will be referred for appropriate disciplinary action through Community Rights and Responsibilities.

SPECIAL NEEDS: Any student needing to arrange a reasonable accommodation for a documented disability and/or medical/mental health condition should contact Student Access and Accommodation Services at 350 Fell Hall, (309) 438-5853, or visit the website at www.StudentAccess.IllinoisState.edu.

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES: Life at college can get very complicated. Students sometimes feel overwhelmed, lost, experience anxiety or depression, struggle with relationship difficulties or diminished self-esteem. However, many of these issues can be effectively addressed with a little help. Student Counseling Services (SCS) helps students cope with difficult emotions and life stressors. Student Counseling Services is staffed by experienced, professional psychologists and counselors, who are attuned to the needs of college students. The services are FREE and completely confidential. Find out more at Counseling.IllinoisState.edu or by calling (309) 438-3655.

Tentative Schedule
(All assignment and dates are subject to change)

Week 1 (Jan 15-19)

(M) No Class, MLK Jr. Holiday

(W) Course Introduction

(F) Policy Analysis Primer

Assign Defining Critical Thinking Paper

Week 2 (Jan 22-26)

(M) Critical Thinking, Research, and Audiences

Ch. 1 & 2

(W) Research Topic Selection and Identifying Research Problems

Ch. 3-6

(F) Research Topic Selection and Identifying Research Problems

Ch. 3-6

**DEFINING CRITICAL
THINKING PAPER DUE**

Week 3 (Jan 29-Feb 2)

(M) Policy Problems and Policy Analysis

Freeley & Steinberg, 2014

Assign Policy Analysis Final Project Assignments

Assign Policy Analysis Project Proposal

(W) Policy Problems and Policy Analysis

Freeley & Steinberg, 2014

(F) Policy Problems and Policy Analysis

Dunn, 1993 Reading

Week 4 (Feb 5-9)

(M) Foundations of Argumentation

Ch. 7 & 8

(W) Foundations of Argumentation

Ch. 7 & 8

(F) Policy Analysis Workday

**POLICY ANALYSIS PROPOSAL
DUE**

Week 5 (Feb 12-16)

(M) Evidence, Reasoning, and Counterarguments

Ch. 9-11

Assign Policy Research Annotative Bibliography

(W) Evidence, Reasoning, and Counterarguments

Ch. 9-11

Assign Fallacy Detective Quizzes

(F) Policy Analysis Workday

Week 6 (Feb 19-23)

(M) Planning, Organizing and Drafting Arguments

Ch. 12 & 13

(W) Incorporating Sources and Evidence

Ch. 14 & 15

(F) Policy Analysis Workday

**POLICY RESEARCH
ANNOTATIVE
BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE**

Week 7 (Feb 26-Mar 1)

(M) Writing Introductions/Conclusions and Revising Drafts
Assign Policy Research Card Assignment

Ch. 16-17

(W) Policy Analysis Work Day

(F) Policy Analysis Work Day

Week 8 (Mar 4-8)

Final Project Work Week

**Suggested Task: Work on Fallacy Detective Quizzes
Assign Policy Background Assignment**

DEBATE CARDS DUE

Week 9 (Mar 11-15)

No Class, Spring Break

Week 10 (Mar 18-22)

Final Project Work Week

**Suggested Task: Work on Fallacy Detective Quizzes
Assign Policy Analysis Assignment**

POLICY BACKGROUND PAPER DUE

Week 11 (Mar 25-29)

Final Project Work Week

Suggested Task: Work on Fallacy Detective Quizzes

Week 12 (Apr 1-5)

Final Project Work Week

Suggested Task: Work on Fallacy Detective Quizzes

**POLICY ANALYSIS PAPER
DUE**

Week 13 (Apr 8-12)

Debate Preparation Work Week

Week 14 (Apr 15-19)

Debate Preparation Work Week

(F) Policy Debate and Flowing Run Through

Week 15 (Apr 22-26)

(M) Policy Debates

(W) Policy Debates

(F) Policy Debates

**DEBATE MATERIALS AND FLOWS
DUE**

**DEBATE MATERIALS AND FLOWS
DUE**

**DEBATE MATERIALS AND FLOWS
DUE**

Week 16 (Apr 29-May 3)

(M) Policy Debates

(W) Policy Debates

Assign Group Member Evaluations

(F) Policy Debates

**DEBATE MATERIALS AND FLOWS
DUE**

**DEBATE MATERIALS AND
FLOWS DUE**

**DEBATE MATERIALS AND FLOWS
DUE**

Week 17 (May 6-10)

FINALS WEEK:

(TBD) Policy Debates (Only if needed)

**DEBATE MATERIALS AND
FLOWS DUE**

(F) 1. ALL FALLACY DETECTIVE QUIZZES DUE

2. GROUP MEMBER EVALUATIONS DUE