

LABETTE COMMUNITY COLLEGE BRIEF SYLLABUS

SPECIAL NOTE:

This brief syllabus is not intended to be a legal contract. A full syllabus will be distributed to students at the first class session.

TEXT AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS USED IN THE COURSE (if any):

Please check with the LCC bookstore <http://www.labette.edu/bookstore> for the required texts for this class.

COURSE NUMBER: COMM 110

COURSE TITLE: CRITICAL THINKING AND ARGUMENTATION

SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS: 3

DEPARTMENT: Communication

DIVISION: General Education

PREREQUISITE: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to the basic theory of argument and persuasion. Students learn how to think in a clear and logical manner, analyze information critically, formulate persuasive arguments, and deliver those arguments effectively, both in oral and in written forms. Students learn how to make claims, provide evidence, explore underlying assumptions, and analyze counter-points.

COURSE OUTCOMES AND COMPETENCIES:

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of principles of argument and persuasion.
 - Describe the relationship between critical thinking and argumentation.
 - Identify the parts (claim, evidence, and reasoning) of an argument and how they work together.
 - Differentiate arguments from other forms of communication.
 - Apply ethical standards to argument practices.
 - Understand how evidence functions within the context of argument.
 - Understand the criteria for accepting or rejecting claims
 - Diagram argument structures using the general model of argument analysis.
 - Differentiate between compound claims and conditionals.
 - Understand the process for refuting an argument
 - Understand the different types of fallacies in arguments.
 - Demonstrate effective argument analysis.

2. Apply these principles to actual argumentative situations.

- Evaluate arguments to identify the conclusion and premises and to determine if they are valid, sound, invalid, or weak.
- Analyze how arguments build on each other to produce argument chains.
- Establish ethical relationships with the audiences of your argument.
- Formulate an effective proposition on an argumentative case.
- Apply the tests of reasoning to arguments to detect fallacies in others' arguments.
- Use the strategies of refutation to respond to an opposing argument.