

SPRING 2026

Topic Book
ELECTIVE: ARGUMENT
COMMRC0500

Course Information

	Instructor:	Professor Robyn Najar
	Office:	Jiang'an South Campus N426
Credit hours: 3	Email:	robyn.najar@scupi.cn
	Telephone (Main Office):	28-6259-6919
16 weeks	Office hours:	60 minutes prior to class AND by appointment
Pre-requisites		ENGCMP152 & ENGCMP200
Room:		see schedule

Recommended Resources

Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. G., Williams, J. M., Bizup, J., & FitzGerald, W. T. (2016). *The craft of research (4th ed.)*. Chicago IL: University of Chicago Press. (CR)
<http://lccn.loc.gov/2016000143>

Dollahite, N. E., & Haun, J. (2012). *Sourcework: Academic writing from sources (2nd ed.)*. Boston MA: Heinle Cengage Learning. (SW)

Hacker, D., & Sommers, N. (2015). *A writer's reference (8th ed.)*. Boston MA: Bedford/St. Martin's. (WR)

Course Description

In response to the importance of fluency in thought, and the demand for fluent speakers in a foreign language, speaking is a valuable activity for students of all skill levels. Argument teaches useful skills for academic pursuits and life more generally. Activities such as discussion and debate engage students in a variety of cognitive and linguistic practices: building confidence in public speaking; expressing ideas eloquently; and developing sharp, concise arguments. Developing skills in critical thinking; leadership; researching; time management; teamwork and collaboration are benefits of engaging in active discussion and debating.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Use digital tools, such as search engines and library databases to find print and electronic resources
2. Evaluate research resources for quality, and properly cite these sources in students' own work in addition to synthesizing research materials through coherent reasoning
3. Critically and creatively express concepts or ideas in written and spoken English
4. Construct researched and logical arguments
5. Present well-researched arguments to support claims
6. Demonstrate responsive and coherent rebuttals to proposed theses
7. Propose alternative arguments to claims
8. Contribute actively and cooperatively in teamwork such as debates

Course Objectives

In this course students will complete the following:

Assignment	SLOs	Percentage of Final Grade	Week due
1. Participation, Routine Writing and Speaking (e.g., class work, HW forums, formal outlines, oral presentations of various formats; class debates)	Outcomes 1-8	60%	Continuous assessment Lessons 1-16
2. Formal debates	Outcomes 1-8	40%	Lessons 12-15

Please note:

Electronic devices such as mobile phones must be on silent and put away in your bags during lesson time, unless advised by your instructor.

SYLLABUS/COURSE SCHEDULE
Subject to change at professor's discretion

Remember to ALWAYS bring your laptop/tablet/iPad to class charged and ready to use.

Lesson	Topic for lesson	Pre-reading: before lesson	Assignments due:
1	Introductions Warm-up “metaphors” Topic requirements Attendance Group work Class Code of Conduct	Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 1 files Topic Book LESSON 1 Using the Forum	
Homework (HW) 1 1. Forum HW 1.1: Self-Introduction (250 words) post by 12noon before Lesson 2. 2. Forum HW 1.2: Make one question about Topic Book information post by 12noon before Lesson 2. 3. Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 2 files			
2	Review HW 1 Topic Book Quiz Creating Key Word Searches and Searching Library Databases, Search Engines; Library Research Reading strategy SQ3R Recording bibliographic information	Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 3 files Read SQ3R (1); SQ3R (2) Read SW pp.145-152 Finding & Evaluating Read CR pp.96-97 5.3 Locating resources on the Internet Read CR pp.98-101 5.4 Evaluating: Relevance & Reliability Read CR pp.106-107 6.1 Recording complete	HW 1

Lesson	Topic for lesson	Pre-reading: before lesson	Assignments due:
		bibliographical information Read SW pp.123-138 Documenting Your Evidence <u>Use this site:</u> mybib.com (APA 7 style) Read <i>Writer's Reference</i> (WR) pp. 8-10 Thesis statements	
Homework 2 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> HW 2.1 Works Cited Write a full reference in APA style for your article from today's lesson. Post by 12noon before Lesson 3 Complete all work from today's lesson (See PPT from LESSON 2: TO DO). Post by 12noon before Lesson 3 Read BB Content LESSON 3 files 			
3	Review HW 2 ARGUMENTATION Assertion, Reasoning, Evidence (ARE) ASSERTION		HW 2
Homework 3 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Re-read file: LESSON 3 ARGUMENTATION STRATEGY ARESR Forum HW 3.1 Make a summary of the main points from LESSON 3 ARGUMENTATION STRATEGY ARESR. Post by 12noon before Lesson 4. Forum HW 3.2 Assertion List Make your own list of at least 5 (five) assertions. Post by 12noon before Lesson 4. Read BB Content LESSON 4 files 			

Lesson	Topic for lesson	Pre-reading: before lesson	Assignments due:
4	Review HW3 Refutation	Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 4 files	HW 3
Homework 4 1. Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 5 files			
5	Review HW 4 WORKSHOP ARE Assertion/Refutation Basic outlines Review reading strategy SQ3R Citation intext (APA 7 style) Citation in speech (APA style)	Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 5 files SW pp.3-30 Explore: Paraphrasing & Summarizing	HW 4
Homework 5 1. Revise paraphrasing 2. Revise References (APA style) 3. Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 6 files			
6	Review HW 5 Proposition/Opposition Debate	Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 6 files	HW 5
Homework 6 1. Forum HW 6 (Bring to class, or if not in class send to Professor Robyn's email). 2. Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 7 files			

Lesson	Topic for lesson	Pre-reading: before lesson	Assignments due:
7	Review HW 6 Debate	Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 7 files	HW 6
Homework 7 1. Forum HW 7 (Bring to class, or if not in class send to Professor Robyn's email). 2. Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 8 files			
8	Review HW 7 Debate	Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 8 files	HW 7
Homework 8 1. Forum HW 8 (Bring to class, or if not in class send to Professor Robyn's email). 2. Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 9 files			
9	Review HW 8 Debate	Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 9 files	HW 8
Homework 9 1. Forum HW 9 (Bring to class, or if not in class send to Professor Robyn's email). 2. Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 10 files			
10	Review HW 9 Debate	Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 10 files	HW 9
Homework 10 1. Forum HW 10 (Bring to class, or if not in class send to Professor Robyn's email) 2. Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 11 files			

Lesson	Topic for lesson	Pre-reading: before lesson	Assignments due:
11	Review HW 10 Debate	Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 11 files	HW 10
Homework 11 1. Forum HW 11 (Bring to class, or if not in class send to Professor Robyn's email) 2. Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 12 files			
12-15	Formal debates		
16	Review SET		
Thank you for your hard work and cooperation 😊			

ATTENDANCE

Attendance at the scheduled class time and day is compulsory. It is expected that students will have completed the set tasks for each class and bring hard copies of work to the lessons. Any student who misses more than **three (3)** classes in a semester will be deemed to have NOT completed this topic and will fail. All absences require a medical certificate or evidence of exceptional circumstances **in writing** (WeChat ok). Attendance is required; a class attendance roll will be kept.

PUNCTUALITY

Arriving to class on time is a vital component in this topic. Students arriving at class after the set time will be recorded as 'tardy' and three (3) late arrivals to class will equal one (1) absence. Any student coming to class 15 or more minutes late will be recorded as absent.

PARTICIPATION

Satisfactory participation in classes is a prerequisite for passing the topic. Students are expected to take part in all classes, including individual and group activities. If, for an approved reason, you cannot attend your class, you should consult the lesson notes posted on WeChat and arrange with your instructor to independently make-up

the work missed. If possible, please inform your monitor and/or instructor in advance if you will be absent.

Students should contribute constructively to class discussion and demonstrate they can apply the learning in the lessons. This is more than attendance, though that obviously matters. Sixty per cent (60%) of your mark is based on completing required work and active participation each class. Completing required work and bringing/presenting it in class is essential to participation. In addition, class discussion is a vital part of learning, particularly when it involves giving feedback on a fellow student's work. In addition, evidence of team and group work is a necessary component of the work in this topic. Do your best!

Student Use of Electronic Technology Policy:

Students must use electronic technology (including cell phones, laptops, tablets, and iPads) in appropriate ways during classes. Out of respect, cell phones should generally be turned off or on silent and stored out of sight. They should not be used during classroom activities unless the instructor has given permission. Electronic devices are forbidden during quizzes, tests or other in-class graded assignments, unless the instructor has given permission.

Technology use in this class is meant to improve the learning environment for all students. Please be respectful of your instructor and classmates and use the technology appropriately. If you have questions about what this means, please talk to your individual instructor.

Recording:

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may NOT record classroom lectures, discussions, and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly recorded in advance can be used solely for the student's own private study.

Make-up Policy for Missed Assignments and Tests:

Students are responsible for the assignments in their classes. Assignments include in-class activities, quizzes, tests, homework, and any other work related to classes.

No late work will be accepted without instructor approval; it will receive a grade of 0 (zero).

- If you are absent from class, you should try to contact one of the students in your class to find out what work was missed.
- If you cannot find out from another student about what work you have missed, when you return to class you must talk to your teacher about the missed work and if/when you can make up the work. You are responsible for talking to your teacher; your teacher is not responsible for reminding you about missed work.
- If you are absent from class on the due date of an assignment, you must still hand in the assignment on the due date and be prepared to make up tests the day that you return to class or on a date decided with your teacher.
- If you know you will be absent, talk to your teacher before you leave or email your teacher to find out about the work that you will miss while you are away.
- If you have not been absent from class and you want to hand in an assignment late, you must first discuss the reason with your teacher before or on the due date. Do not assume that your teacher will accept late assignments. Also, you will lose points for late work in this situation.
- If you and your teacher arrange to meet so that you can make up an assignment and you miss that meeting, you will receive a “0” for that assignment.

Plagiarism:

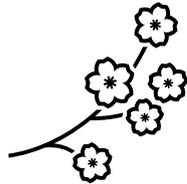
Policy and process for plagiarism: First instance will result in failure in assignment and the option of a re-write; second instance will result in failure of assignment and meeting with the Dean; third instance will result in failure in the course and referral to university officials for Honor Code violation.

Participation:

Active participation is crucial for language learning. Participating makes you an engaged learner of English. In this class participation means:

- cooperation
- consideration

- arriving to class on time
- attending class regularly
- staying on task (including appropriate use of technology)
- completing all homework on time
- actively listening to your classmates and teacher when they speak in class
- actively and constructively participating in class activities
- asking questions
- being prepared to answer questions
- bringing all class materials
- using only English in class



Thank you for your cooperation and hard work