SYLLABUS
PHI 1110
Logic, Language and Persuasion

Dr. Sergio Gallegos
Spring 2014
Office: Central Classroom 307J
Office Hours: M/W 12:30-3:00PM and by appointment
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Required Texts:

D. Morrow and A. Weston, A Workbook for Arguments (Hackett Publishing)
W. Keith and C. Lundberg, The Essential Guide To Rhetoric (Bedford/St. Martin's)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is a first course in philosophy designed to introduce students to reasoning and argumentative techniques in language, logic and rhetoric. Through the study of these reasoning and argumentative techniques, we will see how it is possible to develop arguments that can be used to persuade others. After presenting initially the notion of argument (and highlighting the difference between good and bad arguments through the study of the relations between premises and conclusion), we will consider different types of arguments (e.g., arguments by analogy, causal arguments, deductive arguments) as well as different rhetorical techniques involving the development of an ethos, the construction of a logos and the uses of pathos. We will assess under which conditions they are effective to persuade someone. We will also examine when generalizations from certain instances are appropriate, how to use properly statistics and how to assess the relevance and value of sources to develop arguments that can delivered orally to persuade a targeted audience. Finally, we will present and discuss some of the most common errors in reasoning in logic and language (which are called fallacies) in order to learn to recognize them and avoid them.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Upon successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. a. Identify central concepts used in reasoning such that of argument, premise, conclusion, validity, cogency and others.
   b. Identify the different modes of persuasion used in rhetoric (logos, pathos and ethos)
   c. Identify different types of arguments in different pieces of writing (ranging from newspaper articles to philosophical works)
2. a. Critically assess different types arguments after they have been identified in order to determine whether to accept them or reject them.
   b. Write brief pieces (e.g., a letter to an editor) in which they present and develop an argument to support or reject a thesis.
3. Develop, using the concepts and argumentative and rhetorical strategies learned in class, an argument based on original research and deliver it orally to persuade a targeted audience.

Grading for the Course:
First Take-Home Exam: Due February 27th (15% of your grade)
Second Take-Home Exam: Due April 1st (15%)
Third Take-Home Exam: Due Final's Week (15%)
Two assignments (details to be discussed): Due February 11th and 20th (10% each)
Presenting an oral argument based on original research in class (30%)
Office meeting: (5%)

Grades will be determined as follows:
A: 94-100
A-: 90-93
B+: 86-89
B: 84-85
B-: 80-83
C+: 76-79
C: 74-75
C-: 70-73
D: 60-69
F: 0-59

Important policy changes in grading

Effective fall 2013, the NC grade notation is no longer being applied to academic records. A "W" (Withdrawal) or "AW" (Administrative Withdrawal) will now replace the "NC" notation. For information on this and other academic policy changes, please see http://www.msudenver.edu/advising/student/academicpolicies/

Withdrawal – W

The Withdrawal (W) notation is assigned when a student officially withdraws from a course via ConnectU after the drop deadline (census date) and before the withdrawal deadline posted in the official academic calendar. Students should refer to the Student Detail Schedule via ConnectU to review drop and withdrawal deadlines for individual courses. When a student withdraws from a course, no academic credit is awarded. The course remains on the student's academic record with a "W" notation and counts toward the student's attempted hours. The course is not calculated in the student's GPA or quality points. After the withdrawal deadline, students may not withdraw from a course and will be assigned the grade earned based on the course syllabus.

Administrative Withdrawal – AW

The Administrative Withdrawal (AW) notation is assigned when a student, or representative, requests to be withdrawn from a course due to unforeseen or extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control. When the "AW" notation is assigned, no academic credit is awarded. The course remains on the student's academic record with an "AW" notation and counts toward the student's attempted hours. The course is not calculated in the student's GPA or quality points. Students may request an administrative withdrawal from the Office of the Registrar after the drop deadline (census date) posted in

the official academic calendar. For more information, please see MSU Denver's student handbook.

Incomplete – I

The Incomplete (I) notation may be assigned when a student who is achieving satisfactory progress in a course and who has completed most class assignments is unable to take the final examination and/or does not complete all class assignments due to unusual circumstances, such as hospitalization or disability. Incomplete work denoted by the Incomplete "I" notation must be completed within one calendar year or earlier, at the discretion of the faculty member. If the incomplete work is not completed within one year, the "I" notation will convert to an "F." Students must have completed at least 75% of the course work to qualify for consideration for an incomplete. The student must be passing the course in order to be granted an incomplete. The course counts toward the student's attempted hours, does not count toward earned hours, and is not calculated in the GPA or quality points. For more information, please see MSU Denver's student handbook.

Important notes regarding written assignments:

Students are responsible to submit assignments on time. Written assignments must bear the name of their author, have their pages numbered and be stapled.
Students are required to submit a hard copy of their assignments. Electronic submissions will only be allowed for purposes of providing proof of timely submission, but will not be considered as fulfilling the assignment. It is the responsibility of students to provide a hard copy of their assignments to the instructor at their earliest convenience.
In case of late submissions, I reserve the right to accept the assignment. In addition, if I accept a late assignment, a grade deduction will be applied (a full letter grade per day).

Important notes regarding timeliness and attendance:

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. If you do not respond to your name being called, you will be marked absent.
If you show up late, it is your responsibility to remind me at the end of class to modify the record from "absent" to "late". No changes will be allowed subsequently.
Constant absences and lateness will impact your final grade. Any three instances of lateness will be considered an absence. After three absences, your final grade will drop a full letter grade. After six absences, you will fail the course.
In case of absence, you are responsible for the material covered during the class period missed.

Classroom Behavior Policy:
Disruptive and disrespectful behavior will be identified, warned and, if it continues, penalized appropriately. Respectful and non-disruptive behavior includes:
*Coming to class on time and not leaving early; informing Dr. Gallegos if you must leave early
*Coming to class prepared; being prepared means carefully reading the material by the assigned date. **Even if you have difficulty with it, still engage with the material**
*Asking thoughtful questions based on lecture, readings, and discussion
*Talking during class only when called upon or during class discussion by raising your hand.

*Keeping class discussion on topic rather than talking about your neurotic boss, dog, boyfriend, or girlfriend
*Listening to Dr. Gallegos or your classmates, and not your IPods, etc
*Putting your cell phone on vibrate, and if you forget, not answering it if it rings during class; **No texting!!!** (I have to put this in bold because some students will still do this despite this warning; **if you do this, you will be immediately asked to leave**)
*Not reading the newspaper, magazines, or other coursework
*Not behaving in ways that threaten or disparage other students or Dr. Gallegos
*Staying awake and paying attention during class
***If you are not prepared to do the above, stay home!**

Useful Policy Information

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:
Students who need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor to discuss their specific needs. Students will need to provide the instructor with a disability verification letter from the ACCESS Center (located in the Auraria Library) before appropriate accommodations can be made. Failure to notify the instructor in a timely fashion may hinder the college's ability to assist students to successfully complete the course.

Academic Dishonesty:
As students, faculty, staff and administrators of Metropolitan State University of Denver, it is our responsibility to uphold and maintain an academic environment that furthers scholarly inquiry, creative activity and the application of knowledge. We will not tolerate academic dishonesty. We will demonstrate honesty and integrity in all activities related to our learning and scholarship. We will not plagiarize, fabricate information or data, cheat on tests or exams, steal academic material, or submit work to more than one class without full disclosure. **If you engage in any kind of academic dishonesty (even unwillingly) in an assignment, this will immediately result in a failing grade for the assignment in question and may bring further sanctions. If you have any doubts or questions regarding what kind of sources you may use for your assignments or how you should use them, I strongly encourage you to discuss them with me.**

Class Attendance on Religious Holidays
Students at Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver) who, because of their sincerely held religious beliefs, are unable to attend classes, take examinations, participate in graded activities or submit graded assignments on particular days shall without penalty be excused from such classes and be given a meaningful opportunity to make up such examinations and graded activities or assignments provided that advance written notice that the student will be absent for religious reasons is given to the faculty members during the first two weeks of the semester.

Semester Schedule:

T, January 21st: Course Introduction
Th, 23rd: A Workbook for Arguments, Chapter I, Rules 1-3
T, 28th: A Workbook for Arguments, Chapter I, Rules 4-6.
Th, 30th: A Workbook for Arguments, Class Activity (Exercise set 1.7). Assignment 1 (p. 426): Bring a letter to the editor from a newspaper and analyze it

T, February 4th: Chapter II, Rules 7-8
Th, 6th: A Workbook for Arguments, Assignment 1 due. Chapter II, Rules 9-11
T, 11th: A Workbook for Arguments, Class activity (Exercise sets 2.6. and 2.7). Assignment 2 (p. 429): Generalizations about your classroom.
Th, 13th: A Workbook for Arguments, Chapter III, Rule 12
T, 18th: A Workbook for Arguments, Assignment 2 due. Class activity (Exercise sets 3.3 and 3.4) First Take-Home Exam handed out.
Th, 20th: A Workbook for Arguments, Chapter IV, Rules 13-14
T, 25th: A Workbook for Arguments, Chapter IV, Rules 15-17. First Take Home exam due.
Th, 27th: A Workbook for Arguments, Chapter V, Rules 18-19
T, March 4th: A Workbook for Arguments, Rules 20-21
Th, 6th: A Workbook for Arguments, Class activity: Exercise sets 5.3 and 5.4
T, 11th: A Workbook for Arguments, Chapter VI, Rules 22-25
Th, 13th: A Workbook for Arguments, Chapter VI, Rules 26-28
T, 18th: A Workbook for Arguments, Chapter VIII, Rules 34-35
Th, 20th: A Workbook for Arguments, Chapter VIII, Rules 36-37
T, 25th : Spring break. No class
Th, 27th: Spring Break. No class
T April, 1st: A Workbook for Arguments, Chapter VIII, Rules 37-38 Second Take-Home Exam due.
Th, 3rd: The Essential Guide To Rhetoric, Part I, Rhetoric and the Audience (pp. 11-23)
T, 8th : The Essential Guide To Rhetoric, Part I, Situation and Speech Types (pp. 24-32)
Th, 10th: The Essential Guide To Rhetoric, Part II, Proofs (pp. 35-39)
T, 15th : The Essential Guide To Rhetoric, Part II, Topoi and Stock Issues (pp. 40-46) Second
Th, 17th : The Essential Guide To Rhetoric, Part II, Organization (pp. 55-61)
T, 22nd : Oral arguments by students
Th, 24th: Oral arguments by students
T, 29th: Oral arguments by students
Th, May 1st: The Essential Guide To Rhetoric, Part II, Figures (pp. 62-66). Third Take-Home Exam handed out.
T, 6th: The Essential Guide To Rhetoric, Part II, Tropes and Why Tropes Matter (pp. 66-70)
Th, 8th : The Essential Guide To Rhetoric, Part II, Rhetoric in Contemporary Life (pp. 71-74)
Finals week: Third Take-Home exam due