

ARTSSCI 1BB3/Argumentation
McMaster University
Term 2, 2017-2018

Class:

Time: Tuesday, 1:30-3:20pm, Friday 12:30-1:20pm
Location: BSB 119

Instructor

Instructor: Dr. Matthew Grellette
Office: UH 308
Office Hour: Fridays, 1:30 to 2:30pm
Email: grellemj@mcmaster.ca

Course Description:

Almost everyone uses arguments, because almost everyone wants to demonstrate that they have the correct view of things. Yet most people argue without being trained, even though the ability to detect bad arguments and to construct good ones is a skill which can be developed and enhanced. This course provides you with basic training in the skill of argumentation. It consists of a two-hour class and a one-hour workshop every week. Over the course of the term, you will be provided with the conceptual tools to recognize, understand, evaluate, formulate and attack arguments.

Text:

Trudy Govier, *A Practical Study of Argument*. 7th Edn. United States: Wadsworth 2009.

Online:

This course uses Avenue to post the course outline, assignments and other notices.

Evaluation:

Test.....	20%
Take Home Assignment.....	25%
Group Debate.....	20%
Final Exam.....	35%

In-class Test:

One in-class test will take place on Feb. 9, 2017. The test is worth 20% of your final grade. It will require you to demonstrate your mastery of the skills and technical information that you have been taught to that point.

Take Home Assignment

A take home assignment will be posted on Mar. 6, 2017 worth 25% of your final. This assignment requires students to assess a set of public arguments. You have two weeks to complete the assignment.

Group Debate

Each student will take part in a formal team-debate worth 20% of your final grade. Here two teams will engage in oral argumentation regarding an agreed upon subject. The debate will include introductory and concluding remarks, as well as justificatory and critical segments.

Final Exam:

The final exam is worth 35% of your final grade, and deals with all of the course material covered after the test. The date will be determined by the Registrar.

Late Work:

Late assignments will be penalized 5% of the assignment's worth per day late. Missed assignments will be dealt with via the MSAF (described below).

McMaster Policy on Academic Integrity:

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences—e.g., the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty, please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at: <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty: 1) Plagiarism—e.g., the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained. 2) Improper collaboration in group work. 3) Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF):

In the event of an absence, students should review and follow the Academic Regulations in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work.” Please consult the MSAF statement on our website (<https://artsci.mcmaster.ca/forms-requests/>) and direct any questions or concerns to Shelley Anderson or Rebecca Bishop in the Arts & Science Program Office as appropriate.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities:

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or email sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.

Please Note:

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of students to check **their McMaster email** and course websites weekly during the term and to note any

changes. Announcements will be made in class and by using the course email distribution list.

Course Schedule:

Week 1: Jan. 5	Introduction
Week 2: Jan. 9, 12	The Nature of Argument, Ch. 1
Week 3: Jan. 16, 19	Argument Structure, Ch. 2
Week 4: Jan. 23, 26	Good Arguments, Ch. 4
Week 5: Jan 30, Feb. 2	Premises: What to Accept and Why, Ch. 5
Week 6: Feb. 6, 9	Working on Relevance, Ch. 6 Test — Feb. 9
Week 7: Feb. 13, 16	Inductive Arguments, Ch. 9

Mid-Term Break - Feb. 19-25

Week 8: Feb. 27, Mar. 2	Inductive Arguments, Con't Debate Session #1: Mar. 2
Week 9: Mar. 6, 9	Causal Inductive Arguments Debate Session #2: Mar. 9 Assignment Handed Out - Mar. 6
Week 10: Mar. 13, 16	Conductive Arguments, Ch. 11 Debate Session #3: Mar 16
Week 11: Mar. 20, 23	Arguments from Analogy Ch. 12 Debate Session #4: Mar. 23 Assignment Due - Mar. 20
Week 12: Mar. 27	Deductive Arguments: Categorical Logic, Ch. 7
Week 13: Apr. 3, 6	Debate Session #5: Apr. 3

Debate Session #6: Apr. 3
Debate Session #7: Apr. 6