Class:
Time: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 3:30pm-4:20pm
Location: TSH B106

Instructor
Instructor: Dr. Matthew Grellette
Office: UH 314
Office Hour: Fridays 4:30-5:20pm by appointment or request
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 some basic training in the skills of argumentation. Specifically, it will provide you with some of the conceptual tools to recognize, understand, evaluate, formulate and attack arguments.

Text:

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

Evaluation:
Take Home Assignments (2).............. . . . .30%
Group Debate............................................30%
Final Exam............................................ 40%

Take Home Assignments:
Two take home assignments will be assigned throughout the term (each worth 15%). These will encourage students to consider both public and personal arguments.

Debate and Debate Essay:
Each student will take part in a formal team-debate. 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. Afterwards, each team will be asked to provide a written debrief of the debate. Your overall grade will be based on your debate performance and the quality of the essay. All members of a team receive the same grade.
Final Exam:
The final exam deals with all of the material covered in the course. 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 Student Absence Form (MSAF):
In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work.” Please also see the MSAF statement on our website (http://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.

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.

Course Modification
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.

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.

Written Work Submission Guidelines
The written work submission guidelines have been chose to support the more sustainable use of paper, energy, and toner, and meet the Gold standard of the Office of Sustainability
www.mcmaster.ca/sustainability. All written work should be submitted in the following format: double-sided printing; no title page; sans-serif font.

Course Schedule:

Week 1: Jan 5, 6, 8  The Nature of Argument - Ch 1, Govier
Week 2: Jan 12, 13, 15  The Nature of Argument / Argument Structure - Ch 1, 2 Govier
Week 3: Jan 19, 20, 22  Argument Structure Con’t
Week 4: Jan 26, 27, 29  Good Arguments - Ch. 4 Govier
Week 5: Feb 2, 3, 5  Premises: What to Accept and Why - Ch. 5 Govier
Week 6: Feb 9, 10, 12  Working on Relevance - Ch. 6 Govier
Assignment 1 Assigned - Feb. 12

Mid-Term Break (Feb 15-20)  No Class

Week 7: Feb 23, 24, 26  Inductive Arguments - Ch. 9 Govier
Assignment 1 Due - Feb 26
Week 8: Mar 1, 2, 4  Inductive Arguments Con’t
Debate Session #1: Mar 4th
Week 9: Mar 8, 9, 11  Causal Inductive Arguments - Ch. 10 Govier
Debate Session #2: Mar 11th
Week 10: Mar 15, 16, 18  Deductive Logic: Categorical
Assignment 2 Assigned - Mar 18
Debate Session #3: Mar 18th
Week 11: Mar 22, 23  Deductive Logic: Propositional
Debate Session #4: Mar 23

Week 12: Mar 29, 30 / Apr 1  Arguments from Analogy - Ch. 11 Govier
Assignment 2 Due - Mar 29
Debate Session #5: Apr 1
Week 13: Apr 5, 6, 8  Arguments from Analogy Con’t
Debate Session #6: Apr 8