

Debate and Argumentation Syllabus

2023-2024

Instructor Information

Instructor

Mr. Strom

Email

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Office & Classroom Locations

Classroom: 122G/123G

Office: 205H

General Information

Course Description

Debate and Argumentation is designed for the student who is interested in not only argument theory, but also competitive, academic debate. The first part of the class will stress basic argumentation theory. Debate will include instruction regarding analysis of controversial issues, examination of methods and materials of research, the assessment of quality evidence, how to use applied logic and reasoning, the proper construction of debate cases, techniques of audience analysis, and the use of strategy in debate.

Expectations and Goals

1. RESPECT, RESPECT, RESPECT!
2. Be prepared: Bring homework, writing utensils, notebooks, textbooks, etc. every day.
3. Act responsibly. Use the bathroom between classes, do not work on other school work unless you have permission - Use the time given to you in class wisely.
4. Accept the opinions of others - Be open to new ideas and constructive criticism.
5. Help to create a positive and comfortable atmosphere - Show respect to everyone.
6. Share your thoughts and opinions.
7. Challenge yourself!
8. If you need additional help, please visit with me as soon as possible. If there are technology issues, please communicate these issues as soon as they arise.

Special Needs

Any students with disabilities or other special needs, who need accommodations in this course are invited to share these concerns or requests with me.

Grading

A - 90%-100%
(Advanced)

B - 80%-89%
(Proficient)

C - 70%-79%
(Emerging)

D - 60%-69%
(Developing)

F - 50%-59%
(Incomplete)

Homework Policy

Make-Up and Late Work

All make-up work is to be done within the standard allotted time (one day plus days missed). Work missed for a school activity or family trip must be made up in advance.

All late work will be accepted for full credit until the end of each quarter-- All of us have experiences and moments in our lives that may detract from our ability to meet a deadline. My preference is that students communicate when they need an extension for any assessment prior to the deadline.

Cheating and Plagiarism

With regard to cheating, school policy will be enforced. Remember that cheating is as much a character issue as it is a policy issue. The English department recognizes a difference between intentional cheating and accidental plagiarism. Our common definition includes:

- Cheating is the intentional use of someone else's work being presented as one's own work (i.e. submitting another student's essay). Accidental plagiarism is the misrepresentation of another's work as one's own (i.e. forgetting a works cited page; not attributing a quotation to the author; not understanding the correct method of paraphrasing a quotation).
- AI work, such as Chat GPT, promotes institutionalized plagiarism. Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Rutgers Dr. Lauren M.E. Goodlad notes that "[AI is] trained on massive amounts of data, most of which data has been scraped from the internet without any compensation or consent or knowledge of the person who generated the data." As such, any work found to be produced by chatbots will be considered plagiarism. *This AI/ChatGPT policy is new territory and is evolving. It may change to align with English Department, WFHS, and/or WFPS policies. Any changes will be announced.*

Food and Drink Policy

No food in hallways: This includes breakfasts and lunches purchased from school, brought from home, fast food, take-out from a restaurant, etc. Food in classrooms must be provided by teacher(s); All drinks must be in a container with a non-spill lid; **Food or drinks NOT in a non-spill like will be directed to be thrown away.**

Cell Phone and Device Policy

- Students shall not use any electronic device that in any way disrupts or detracts from the educational environment. Electronic devices are inclusive of cell phones, smart watches, earbuds, and school-issued devices.
- Cell phones must be out-of-sight and out-of-use from the first bell to the last bell of all classes, including during study halls and within flexed learning spaces that are an extension of a classroom.
- Photographing or recording of another person should be used for educational purposes as defined by the teacher. Any use of an electronic device for other than educational purposes will result in a consequence.

WFHS Attendance Policy

West Fargo High School Procedure:

- 3 and 5 absences: Letter is mailed home to families.
- 7 absences: Administrator connects schedules a meeting with student
- 9-10 absences: The administrator connects with the family and the student to establish a plan outlining expectations. If expectations are not met, the student will be dropped from the course(s) at a predetermined number of days.

After 20 minutes since the start of class, an unexcused tardy becomes an unverified absence. Every fifth unexcused tardy will convert to an unexcused absence. This is per class period and will adhere to the attendance policy. All passes will be limited in the first and last 15 minutes of class (exceptions made for verifiable emergencies)

Tentative Schedule

Unit 1: Background to Argumentation/SPAR Debates

Unit 2: Parliamentary Debate

Unit 3: Public Forum Debate

Unit 4: Lincoln Douglas Debate