

Advanced Comp II: Argument  
RWS 3366: 23093 • T &Th, 1:30 p.m. to 2:50 p.m.  
Room: UGLC 234

Michael Noricks  
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ONLINE OFFICE HOURS (by appointment): T: 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
If you wish to meet with me, please email a request.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

As its name implies, this class addresses the rhetoric of argumentation. Accordingly, over the next sixteen weeks, you will become acquainted with a variety of argumentation theories and strategies, many of which (at least ideally) will inform your own efforts as you analyze, evaluate, and produce arguments. Our textbook will anchor us, providing a rich, lucid model of argumentation and practical reasoning. Our supplementary readings will enhance our exploration by raising theoretical questions, offering real-world arguments, challenging widely held assumptions, and suggesting new ways to understand and employ the intellectual and creative tools offered by rhetoric and argumentation studies.

This is a senior course, and I suspect that many of you are preparing to enter graduate or professional school. Thus, to the extent that it's possible, we will treat our class as a graduate-style seminar. Among other things, this means that each of you will have the opportunity to present a course reading and facilitate a discussion based on that reading.

## **REQUIRED TEXT**

This semester, David Zarefsky's *The Practice of Argumentation* (ISBN 978-1107681439) will be our primary text.

## **ASSIGNMENTS & PROJECTS**

Except for Reading Response Discussion Posts all work must be submitted in .DOC, .DOCX, or .PDF format (unless otherwise noted).

This course is graded on a 1,000-point scale as follows:

- Reading Response Discussion Posts – 200 points (Note: I will assign 12 posts; however, you are only obligated to complete 8 of them. You may skip any 4 that you wish. If you submit more than 8, you will receive extra credit.)
- Topic Proposal—25 points

- Argument Analysis- 100 points
- *Dissoi Logoi* Exercise - 100 points
- Project Proposal - 25 points
- Text Presentation and Discussion Facilitation – 100 points
- Argument Theory Reflection - 100 points
- Course Project - 200 points
- Oral Argument - 150 points

Final grades will be determined using the scale below. Grades will be posted to Blackboard.

A=900-1,000 points

B=800-899 points

C=700-799 points

D=600-699 points

F=599 or below

### **ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSIONS**

You must submit all assignments via Blackboard. Please note: **You are allowed one late assignment. Late work must be uploaded within a week following the posted due date.**

### **COURSE POLICIES and Procedures**

Please refer to the following policies for this course. If you have any questions, please see me during my office hours or send me an email.

- It is your responsibility to manage your workload, complete all assignments, and stay on top of your grades. It is also your responsibility to arrange an office meeting with me to discuss questions and/or concerns. The earlier you contact me with questions and/or concerns, the better we can deal with them.
- UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER (UWC): I encourage you to make use of the UWC during the planning, drafting, and/or revising phases of writing any assignment in this class. The trained writing consultants can help give you a fresh perspective on ideas and help you with things like correctness, formatting, etc.
- RESOLVING ISSUES: It is your responsibility to manage your workload, complete all assignments and stay on top of your grades. It is also your responsibility to arrange an office meeting with me to discuss questions/concerns. The earlier you contact me with questions/concerns, the better we can deal with them.
- PLAGIARISM: An act of plagiarism (or other form of academic dishonesty) will result in an 'F' for the course, and may include other University disciplinary action, such as suspension or expulsion. You should become familiar with the ethical guidelines for conduct spelled out in the Student Affairs section of the Handbook for Operating Procedures. Additionally, please be aware that you may not submit work for this class that was

produced for another class. You must produce your own original work in this class and appropriately identify and portion of your work which is collaborative with others, borrowed from others, or which is your own work from other contexts. Always cite your information. If you have doubts as to whether or not you are using your own or others' work legally and ethically, ask me or stop by the UTEP Writing Center. Follow this primary principle: Be upfront and honest.

- ADA: The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that reasonable accommodations be provided for students with physical, sensory, cognitive, systemic, learning, and psychiatric disabilities. If you suspect that you have a disability and need accommodation, please contact The Center for Accommodations & Support Services (CASS) at (915)747-5148 or at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu). The CASS office is located in Room 106, Union East. Students are responsible for presenting the instructor with any CASS accommodation letters and instructions.