

**Communication 114**  
**Argument and Critical Discourse**  
**Course Syllabus**  
**Summer 2021**  
**CRN: 16599**

**Instructor Information**

Mark Urista, M.A.  
uristam@linnbenton.edu

**Office Hours:** Available by appointment

**Course Description**

This course examines argumentation as a part of human interaction and investigation. Emphasis is placed on the processes by which people give reasons to gain adherence and justify beliefs and actions. Students will develop, deliver, and critically analyze persuasive arguments through written assignments and in-class presentations.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Engage in ethical communication processes that accomplish goals
- Respond to the needs of diverse audiences and contexts
- Build and manage relationships
- Analyze, evaluate, and rationally respond to the arguments of others
- Present effective arguments and rebuttals

**Online Learning with Canvas**

There is no required textbook for this course; all course content will be posted on our Canvas class site.

Because online learning requires a high level of independence and self-motivation, students who lack time management skills and self-motivation typically don't fare well in courses like this. You give yourself the best chance to do well in the course by being proactive: logging-in to our course site frequently, reading online instructions carefully, paying close attention to the course calendar, and contacting me well ahead of time when you have questions, not a few hours before an assignment is due.

Course content is organized into weekly sections. Each week's material and assignments will be finalized and made available by Monday at 9am. This three credit course is equivalent to meeting in class for about three hours per week. The amount of content and work you are given each week will be comparable. This does not include major assignments that would be worked on "outside of class."

**Communicating with Me**

My main communication tool with you will be email, so it's essential that you check your LBCC student email daily. In addition to having useful reminders for upcoming tasks, my emails will also provide important info related to what you are working on. Checking email frequently and reading my messages carefully is your best way to stay current in the class! I have a 24-hour turnaround when receiving emails Monday through Thursday, although I typically reply much sooner than that. On weekends, I observe a 48-hour turnaround. When you have questions about an assignment, do not wait until a few hours before it is due to email me. Instead, be working on the course content early, and allow yourself time for questions--and time for me to answer those questions. I also encourage you to schedule a Zoom appointment with me to discuss any questions or concerns.

## Participation, Assignments, and Quizzes

**Participation Points** Discussion Posts 20 points  
**Quizzes Points** OpenMind 5 points

Grade	Points
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	59 or less

### Written Assignments Points

Peer-to-Peer Reflections 10 points  
 Toulmin Model 15 points  
 Fallacies 15 points  
 Best of Enemies Paper 15 points

### Speaking Assignments Points

Panel Presentation 15 points  
 1:1 Conversations 5 points

## Classroom Policies

Success is your choice! If you choose to be successful, I will be happy to help you. If you do not choose to be successful, I will honor your choice. *Every student has the potential to succeed in this class.*

*\*Please note that college-level reading and writing skills (WR 121) are strongly recommended for success in this course.*

**Attendance & Participation:** Your involvement impacts the quality of each student's learning experience. Participation with your classmates will primarily occur through discussion posts, peer-to-peer conversations, and speaking assignments. *Students who do not complete all of the first week's assignments on time will be dropped.*

**Tolerance:** In this class there may be times when you disagree with opinions being expressed. It is important that you respond to these opinions in an appropriate, respectful and professional manner. Healthy disagreement and discussion are a central component of this class and is encouraged, but must be done so on a professional and constructive basis.

**Special Needs:** Individuals requiring accommodation due to a documented disability

and/or personal hardship should meet with me during the first week of class. I will do my best to assist you, provided that it does not compromise the academic integrity of LBCC. Students with disabilities should contact the Center for Accessibility Resources at 541-917-4789.

## Honor Code

LBCC is dedicated to maintaining an optimal learning environment and insists upon academic honesty. To uphold the academic integrity of the institution, all members of the academic community, faculty, staff and students alike, must assume responsibility for providing an educational environment of the highest standards characterized by a spirit of academic honesty. Accordingly, if you use unauthorized sources, and/or submit someone else's work or ideas as your own in any of your assignments, you will receive an "F" and may be subject to further discipline.

## Nondiscrimination Policy

LBCC prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, veteran status, age, or any other status protected under applicable federal, state, or local laws.

## Tentative Course Schedule

**Be sure to confirm that your time zone setting is correct**

**DATE TOPICS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND DUE**

**DATES** **Check Canvas for days/times assignments are due**

**WEEKLY CONTENT**

**(Available Monday at 9am)**

**WEEK 1** Jun. 28<sup>th</sup>

### **OpenMind**

**WEEK 2** Jul. 5<sup>th</sup>

- Complete OpenMind Lessons 3 & 4
- Submit assigned discussion post
- Peer-to-Peer Reflection

**WEEK 3** Jul. 12<sup>th</sup>

**WEEK 4** Jul. 19<sup>th</sup>

### **OpenMind**

- Complete OpenMind Lessons 7 & 8
- Submit assigned discussion post
- Peer-to-Peer Reflection

**WEEK 5** Jul. 26<sup>th</sup>

### **Course Introduction and**

**OpenMind** ● Complete

OpenMind Lessons 1 & 2 ●

Submit assigned discussion post

● Peer-to-Peer Reflection

### **OpenMind**

- Complete OpenMind Lessons 5 & 6
- Submit assigned discussion post
- Peer-to-Peer Reflection

**Braver Angels 1:1  
Conversations** ● Schedule 1:1  
conversations ● Submit  
assigned discussion post ●  
Submit Best of Enemies paper

**WEEK 8** Aug. 16<sup>th</sup>

**WEEK 9** Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>

**WEEK 10** Aug. 30<sup>th</sup>

**Fallacies**

- Review material and instructions for Fallacies assignment
- Submit Toulmin Model assignment ● Submit assigned discussion post

**Toulmin Model**

- Review material and instructions for Toulmin Model assignment

- Submit assigned discussion post

Check Canvas for required readings, videos, and discussion posts

Check Canvas for required readings, videos, and discussion posts

Check Canvas for required readings, videos, and discussion posts

Check Canvas for required readings, videos, and discussion posts

Check Canvas for required readings, videos, and discussion posts

**WEEK 6** Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Panel Presentation**

- Review material and instructions for Panel Presentation
- Select panel topics and form pairings ● Submit Fallacies assignment ● Submit assigned discussion post

**End of Term**

- Complete 1:1 conversations and submit paper
  - Submit assigned discussion post
- Check Canvas for required readings, videos, and discussion posts

Check Canvas for required readings, videos, and discussion posts

Check Canvas for required readings, videos, and discussion posts

**Best of Enemies**

- Review instructions for Best of Enemies paper
- Submit briefs and panel videos ● Submit assigned discussion post

**WEEK 7** Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>

Check Canvas for required readings, videos, and discussion posts

*posts*

*readings, videos, and discussion  
posts*

*Check Canvas for required*

*\*Please note that assignments, policies, and schedule are subject to change upon instructor's discretion.*