



Undergraduate Program in International Relations (HSE and UoL)

Academic Argumentation

Course Syllabus (Fall 2019)

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Abstract:

Academic Argumentation course is designed specifically for the parallel degree program in International Affairs to advance the skills of oral and written argumentation. This class builds on the genre distinction of oral public speaking with rhetorical strategies and persuasion techniques from the academic essay with the formal language and structure. The class activities engage students in debate participation, which serves as a groundwork for the essay writing. Special attention is given to the multi-stakeholder debates, which require the understanding of counter-arguments and limitations.

Level: second-year course

Prerequisite: one semester of Academic Writing

Course Objective: to develop advanced competency in oral and written construction of critical discourse based on Superior-level English-language proficiency (according to ACTFL scale)

Learning Outcomes:

- Using rhetorical strategies and superior-level discourse in various contexts related to international affairs
- Mastering the skill of public speaking involving persuasion techniques
- Applying debate and negotiation algorithms to bilateral and multilateral communicative settings

Course Materials (Reading list):

- Talalakina et al. (2017) *Mastering English through Global Debate*, Georgetown University Press, Washington, DC. Chapter 1 (open access): https://id.hse.ru/data/2017/01/24/1113836233/Talalakina-text_site.pdf
- LSE: Studying for a degree. Chapter 4: Writing Essays. LSE (students get in the mail from UoL)
- World Economic Forum: The Global Risks Report 2019 (open access): http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Global_Risks_Report_2019.pdf
- Instructor's Handouts

Extra Resources:

- <https://quizlet.com/GlobalDebateEnglish> (Quizlet sets with active vocabulary from the textbook)
- <https://corpus.byu.edu/coca/> (COCA – Corpus of Contemporary American English)
- <https://scholar.google.ru/> (open access)
- <http://library.hse.ru/e-resources/e-resources.htm> (access through HSE login)

Duration: Module 1 (7 weeks, 14 classes)

Course Plan: This course is built around the set of debate skills, formed through oral and written practice in the discussion of content-material relevant to international relations major.

	Topics	Skill areas
Week 1	Environment vs Economy	Rhetorical strategies
Week 2	Interventionism vs Isolationism	Types of arguments
Week 3		Types of evidence
Week 4	Security vs Freedom	Inferences
Week 5		Hypothesis
Week 6	United Nations General Debate	Corpus functions
Week 7		Types of claims



Grading System:

Forms of Final Assessment (exam): Student Portfolio

Module Grade: 30% - writing (essays, in-class tasks), 40% - speaking (presentations, debates, role-plays), 20% - quizzes, 10% - textbook assignments

(96-100% - 10, 90-95% - 9, 80-89% - 8, 75-79% - 7, 65-74% - 6, 55-64% - 5, 45-54% - 4, 35-44% - 3, 25-34% - 2, 0-24% - 1)

Final Grade Formula: (Module grade)*0,7 + (Portfolio)*0,3

Student Portfolio Checklist (10 items):

1. Essay plans (2)
2. Individual essay (1 draft+1 final copy)
3. Peer-reviews of debates (2)
4. Note-taking tasks (2)
5. United Nations tasks (2)

Sample test questions (essay topic):

- 1) Economic issues should take precedence over environmental ones for the global community. Discuss.
- 2) To what extent can isolationist policies benefit a country?
- 3) What kinds of freedoms are more important than security?

Methods of instructions: round-table discussions, role-plays, presentations, peer-reviews.

Classroom policies:

- **Make-up assignments policy:** It is possible to make up for certain (not all) types of assignments only in case of having a **certificate** providing a valid reason for the missed class (medical certificate, event participation certificate, etc.). Make-up tasks should be requested and fulfilled within two weeks from the day of the missed class.
- **Hand-in assignments policy:** All written home assignments should be typed and printed out (hand-written papers are not accepted). All assignments should be handed in on the due date. An extra point (1 out of 10) will be subtracted for each day of the delay. In case of missing the class on the due date, the assignment should be emailed to the instructor until 23:30 of the due date.
- **Cheating policy:** In case of any kind of plagiarism (with the detected source), the assignment is evaluated as zero without the chance to make up for it. In case of two written assignments with the similarity index of 50% and higher from two students, both get a zero for the assignment.
- **THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MODIFY THIS SYLLABUS DURING THE SEMESTER (TOPICS, SKILLS, PORTFOLIO ASSIGNMENTS) BY NOT MORE THAN 10%.**

Additional information:

- Online concordances for collocation check: <http://www.just-the-word.com/> and <http://ozdic.com/>
- Citation service: <http://www.calvin.edu/library/knightcite/index.php> (choose APA style)
- Proofreaders: www.paperrater.com and www.grammarly.com
- Mind map maker: MindMeister
- Presentation makers: Prezi, Keynote, Google Slides, Readymag, Flowvella
- Video lectures: www.ted.com
- Harvard guide to using sources: <http://sites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k70847&pageid=icb.page342054>

Special equipment: NONE

Apps to install on student devices (optional):

1. Socrative (for weekly quizzes)
2. Google disc (for collaborative tasks)
3. VK (to view and follow shared links)
4. MindMeister (to create mindmaps)
5. Coursera (for additional training)
6. Prezi (to make presentations)
7. FlowVella (to make presentations)
8. Haiku Deck (to make presentations)
9. Quizlet (to learn the words)
10. TED (to watch ted talks)