



Course Outline

Course number	RBE320				
Course title	Argumentation: Theory and Practice				
Credit points	3 ECTS (2 LV CP)				
Total hours	80				
Lecture and seminar hours	32				
Course level	Bachelor				
Prerequisites	None				
Category	Mandatory		Restricted elective	X	Free elective

COURSE RESPONSIBLE

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Marika Laizāne-Jurkāne	Dr.sc.pol.	Visiting Docent

COURSE ABSTRACT

We live in times when argumentation in writing and speaking becomes critically important. Increase of the role of the social media makes it essential to learn how to make an argument and analyse the arguments of others. Skills to develop and convey arguments are essential in many settings. This course is an introduction to the theory and practice of argumentation and rhetoric, the approaches of persuasive writing and speech. The aim of the course is to introduce students with the core theories, concepts and approaches of argumentation. The study course is divided into two parts: theoretical approaches and concepts and argumentation trainings. The course will focus on theory and practice of the argumentation; students will be engaged in argumentation trainings, group discussions and creative tasks. Topics include argumentation development, argumentation methods, persuasive writing, argumentation in public speaking. The course is aimed at developing analytical, critical thinking and communication skills for developing argumentation and persuasion skills. During the course, students will be trained when and how to apply a variety of argumentation methods and rhetorical devices in writing and speaking. During the course, students will learn skills to analyse and explore rhetorical structure and style of the argumentation. This course will help students to analyse and apply argumentation, rhetoric and persuasive communication to persuade and recognize when others are trying to persuade students.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course has the following main objectives:

Knowledge:

1. Students understand nature, concepts and principles of argumentation in speaking and writing communication.

2. Students acquire knowledge about structure and types of argumentation.
3. Students understand and identify different argumentation development stages, mapping and evaluating arguments.
4. Students acquire knowledge about correlation between argumentation and different communicative situations and adaptation of argumentation messages to different audiences, purposes, and contexts.
5. Students understand different argumentation methods and supplementary methods and select appropriate methods for different communicative situations.

Skills:

6. Students have improved skills in carrying out analysis of argumentation in speaking and writing communication.
7. Students have improved understanding in regard to the key concepts of argumentation and logical reasoning.
8. Students have improved communication and persuasion skills, apply the principles of argumentative reasoning to professional, civic, and academic situations.
9. Students have improved analytical and critical thinking skills.
10. Students have improved skills in recognizing analytical, persuasive, deductive, inductive, causal, cooperative, attack and defence arguments.
11. Students have improved skills in identification of argumentation fallacies.
12. Students have improved skills in development of structures argumentation, including presentation skills of argumentation.

Competencies:

13. Students can analyse and explain the core theories, concepts and approaches of the argumentation theories, explain the range of choices in regard to the argumentation development and methods.
14. Students can apply verbal and written communications skills and convey a convincing message to represent students' positions.
15. Students can construct and defend arguments in different communicative situation.
16. Students can write sophisticated, coherently structured, mechanically sound argumentation statements.

GRADING CRITERIA

Criteria	Weighting
Exam (argumentation debate)	35%
Argumentation trainings (in-class debates)	35%
Preparation of speeches: informative and persuasive	20%
Preparation for argumentation trainings (in-class debates) and in-class activity and participation	10%

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

No.	Main subjects	Planned hours
1	Core concepts and approaches of the argumentation	2
2	Methods and stages of development of the argumentation, analytical and argumentative writing	4
3	Persuasive opinion, strength of the argument, mapping and evaluating arguments Argumentation fallacies	6
4	Rhetoric, techniques of public speaking, argumentation skills “Think out of the Box”	4