Academic Debate & Critical Thinking

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This course is designed to develop students’ abilities and skills in academic communication, argumentation and debate.

The topics of this course train the Students to use sources for academic communication, to produce knowledge, to raise academic questions and to answer the questions scientifically.

It also trains them to think critically, to respect others’ points of view and also to direct academic arguments.
In this course, students are directed to raise questions and analyze the scientific texts logically and critically, i.e.

- they are guided to conduct a critical analysis of what they read and are provided with opportunities to practice and develop their skills by writing their reflections on the material studied and on their own learning.
Moreover, they are assisted to identifying problems academically and offer appropriate and scientific suggestions for solving such problems.

Also, a number of lectures are devoted to teaching Health and Safety subject to train students about health awareness in order to use laboratories, and protecting against diseases in cafeterias, libraries and lecture halls.

Furthermore, the course will focus on the importance of debate and time management.
AIMS

- To foster critical thinking and thoughtful expression
- To appreciate the diversity of social relations in communities
- To develop intellectualism and confidence of expression
Learning outcomes
Students will be able to:

- Exercise debating skills and enhance abilities to express thoughtful, informed opinions in public settings.
- Use reliable sources to gather evidence in a responsive, critical way.
- Demonstrate skills of peaceful negotiation with others.
- Prepare and execute an argument that is logically grounded and contributes to the good of the community.
Identify emergent problems in communities and to see oneself as an active agent committed to the resolution of them.

Demonstrate openness to diverse viewpoints and to express a willingness to change as a result.

Demonstrate knowledge in learning communities using tools of technology for the common good.
what you are expected to learn in this course:

- Collect information, analyze, criticize, evaluate it and choose what is suitable to the cases under study (i.e. think critically).
- They are expected to be critical in their reading and writing and respect the different points of view.
- They are also expected to write reports, to debate, argue, communicate and make posters.
Furthermore, through understanding Health and Safety subject,

the students will be aware of health issues when using the labs and be able to protect themselves against the dangers of contagious diseases.
Do you know the philosophy of this course?

- The philosophy of this course is that learning is a social process and knowledge is constructed, not only transferred; thus, you have a great role and responsibility in the process of learning.
A serious word of warning:

- please do not plagiarize or cheat.
- Plagiarism is presenting someone else's ideas as your own,
- whether in speaking or writing--this means that you must cite all of your sources both on your outline as well as when speaking.
What is your activity and methodology in this course?

- This course implements the learner-centered approach which enables students to relate what they read and study to their environment and they will be responsible for their learning.
- Students are motivated to participate in the learning and teaching processes.
- The class should be a helpful and engaging medium for academic debate.
Information on ethics of communication, argumentation, report writing, health and safety, other skills and other required topics are given by the teacher in the beginning of the year to help students prepare themselves for the assignments of the course.
What are the methods we will use to teach this course:

- Lecturing
- Discussion
- Group work
- Practical activities
- Task-based & Project-Based
- Problem-Based
- Learning by doing
- Self-assessment and peer review
What is academic debate?

- **Debate** allows students to develop a tolerance of new or alternative ideas, to value competition and gain a broader knowledge of a topic. ...
How does debate help critical thinking?

- **Debating**, instead of arguing, can help you defuse a rapidly escalating situation. ...

- **Debating helps you to develop** essential **critical thinking** skills – the ability to make reasoned and well thought out arguments in addition to questioning the evidence behind a particular stance or conclusion.
What is academic debate and why it is important?

- **Academic debate** is one of the best investments a student can make in their future.
- From building communication skills to fostering **critical** thinking and confidence,
- **debate** teaches students what they need to live a successful **academic**, professional, and personal life.
Why debate is important in education?

- **Debate** is a great device for engaging students and bringing life to the classroom.

- Using **debates** in the classroom can help students understand essential critical-thinking and presentation skills. ...

- Class **debates** give students the opportunity to test their thoughts and views against that of their peers.
Why speech and debate is important?

► WARRANT: **Speech and debate** provides students an opportunity to develop skills in research, critical thinking, organization, persuasion and communication. ...

► Students learn to accept constructive criticism from judges in each round and use it to improve their future performance.
How do you write an academic debate?

- You can do this by building an effective and persuasive argument for your reader.
- Make an argument. Your argument is how you express your viewpoint and answer the question you have been set, using evidence. ...
- **Structure** your argument. ...
- Develop your argument. ...
- Include your own voice in your **writing**.
How do you debate a topic?

- How to Write a Debate
  - Step One: A Strong Opening. Every good debate starts with a strong opening line.
  - Step Two: Defining the Topic. After your opening you need to make the subject that you're talking about crystal-clear to your listeners.
  - Step Three: Signposting.
  - Step Four: Rebuttal.
  - Step Five: Your Arguments.
  - Step Six: Conclusion.
What skills does debating develop?

- **5 Valuable skills you learned from debate**
- It's fun to learn something new even when it can be initially daunting. ...
- You meet great people and expand your understanding of the world. ...
- You learn to not take things personally. ...
- If you want to be effective, you have to consider and think about others' perspectives. ...
- You learn how to have faith and confidence in yourself.
How do you introduce yourself in a debate?

- Start by greeting your judges, teachers and the audience.
- Say good morning or good evening sir/madam. Never say good night at late hours.
- Mention the topic you are going to speak for/against.
- Do say have a nice day or thank you for letting me share my thoughts/opinion on the topic/matter.