



**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course helps students to become effective communicators in society. It examines historical elements of critical thinking necessary for the successful exchange of information. Students will respond to positions presented in scenarios, case studies or current affairs that they are likely to encounter. They will be challenged to identify problems and generate solutions supported by logical arguments. Emphasis will be placed on independent learning skills needed to adapt to a changing environment and on persuasive communication of ideas in order to facilitate creative problem solving for a variety of life situations.

**II. LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ELEMENTS OF THE PERFORMANCE:****A. Learning Outcomes:**

(Generic Skills Learning Outcomes placement on the course outline will be determined and communicated at a later date.)

1. Express opinions as an informed student/citizen/worker through analysis of contemporary societal issues.
2. Demonstrate strong investigative/research techniques, documentation, writing, editing, and proofreading skills required by life-long learners and prospective employers.
3. Recognize the elements of modern debate and its inherent bias and manipulation by examining and discussing the historical perspectives of argument.
4. Show personal growth by demonstration of interpersonal assertive communication.
5. Use critical and creative thinking skills to analyze problems, identify solutions, select the best options, and present logical persuasive arguments in a variety of forms.
6. Meet/face a variety of contemporary life challenges through questioning strategies, constructive feedback techniques, and effective oral and written responses.

**B. Learning Outcomes and Elements of the Performance:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will demonstrate the ability to:

1. Express opinions as an informed student/citizen/worker through analysis of contemporary societal issues.

**Potential elements of the performance:**

- Assess the validity of researched material
- Recognize bias in researched materials
- Order the material logically
- Express opinions assertively
- Define the issue
- Recognize the different sides of an issue

## II. LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ELEMENTS OF THE PERFORMANCE (Continued):

2. Demonstrate strong investigative/research techniques, documentation, writing, editing, and proofreading skills required by life-long and prospective employers.

### Potential elements of the performance:

- Determine the reliability of reading material
  - Recognize bias
  - Make logical inferences and draw conclusions
  - Determine cause and effect
  - Recognize the author's audience and purpose
  - Write persuasive documents
  - Use proofreading and editing techniques
3. Recognize the elements of modern debate and its inherent bias and manipulation by examining and discussing the historical perspectives of argument.

### Potential elements of the performance:

- Identify the elements of modern debate
  - Identify the historical perspectives of argument
  - Write syllogisms
  - Locate syllogistic reasoning in articles
  - Use inductive/deductive reasoning to persuade an audience
  - Produce arguments that employ effective persuasive techniques
  - Examine the nature of persuasive language – tone, style, uses
4. Show personal growth by demonstration of interpersonal assertive communication.

### Potential elements of the performance:

- Recognize power as an issue in interpersonal relationships
- Recognize barriers to effective communication and know how to minimize them
- Identify the characteristics of aggressive, passive, and assertive behaviour
- Roleplay assertive strategies to counter aggressive and passive behaviours
- Anticipate audience response to a viewpoint by assessing their characteristics and interests

## II. LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ELEMENTS OF THE PERFORMANCE (Continued):

5. Use critical and creative thinking skills to analyze problems, identify solutions, select the best options, and present logical persuasive arguments in a variety of forms.

### Potential elements of the performance:

- Identify the actual major and minor issues
  - Identify bias and its role
  - Demonstrate the strategies of creative thinking
  - Formulate possible approaches to issues
  - Prioritize approaches using a logical approach
  - Respond persuasively to the audience by using the skills of effective argument
  - Recognize fallacies in others' arguments
  - Recognize statistical manipulation in others' supporting evidence
  - Discriminate connotative and denotative language and the importance of semantics
  - Examine modern advertising's use of persuasive techniques
  - Recognize different types of authority as sources of evidence
6. Meet/face a variety of contemporary life challenges through questioning strategies, constructive feedback techniques, and effective oral and written responses.

### Potential elements of the performance:

- Roleplay scenarios involving controversial or challenging current issues
- Use the strategies for effective and productive questioning
- Demonstrate the ability to give helpful feedback in written and oral formats
- Analyze persuasive writing for reliability, validity, soundness

## III. TOPICS:

Note: These topics sometimes overlap several areas of skill development and are not necessarily intended to be explored in isolated learning units or in the order below.

1. Critical thinking for informed citizenship
2. Exploring reasoning through contemporary issues
3. Foundations of persuasion
4. Ethical considerations in persuasive argument
5. Elements of interpersonal communication in collaborative work
6. The elements and value of making powerful presentations

## IV. REQUIRED RESOURCES / TEXTS / MATERIALS:

1. The Language of Argument by Daniel McDonald. (8<sup>th</sup> ed.) Harper Collins
2. A dictionary and thesaurus
3. Sault College Language and Communication Guidelines (provided)

**V. EVALUATION PROCESS / GRADING SYSTEM:  
MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS AND TESTING**

(Refer also to the Language and Communication Guidelines)

The professor will announce which of the following will be completed in class under test conditions (minimum of 20%):

1. Evaluation of oral presentations	<b>5%</b>
2. Oral presentation	<b>10%</b>
3. Written persuasive document (format as assigned by professor: proposal, essay or technical)	<b>15%</b>
4. In-class quizzes	<b>30%</b>
5. Written assignments	<b>40%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Notes:**

1. Professors reserve the right to adjust the course as they deem necessary to meet the needs of students.
2. Professors will deduct marks for any grammar and fundamental errors in final submissions.
3. Marking schemes for assignments will vary from professor to professor and from assignment to assignment. This flexibility recognizes that professors need to vary their approaches as they assist students with differing levels of competence to meet the learning outcomes of the course and to respond to program areas.

**METHOD OF ASSESSMENT (GRADING METHOD):**

Students will be assessed on the basis of evaluation skills, oral presentations, persuasive documents, in-class quizzes/tests, and written assignments.

The following letter grades will be assigned in accordance with college policy and the Language and Communication Department Guidelines.

**V. EVALUATION PROCESS / GRADING SYSTEM (cont'd):**

A+	Consistently outstanding	(90% - 100%)
A	Outstanding achievement	(80% - 89%)
B	Consistently above average achievement	(70% - 79%)
C	Satisfactory or acceptable achievement in all areas subject to assessment	(60% - 69%)
R	Repeat - The student has not achieved the objectives of the course, and the course must be repeated	(less than 60%)
CR	Credit exemption	
X	A temporary grade, limited to situations with extenuating circumstances, giving a student additional time to complete course requirements	

**NOTE:** Students may be assigned a mid-term grade of "R" for unsatisfactory performance.

**TIME FRAME**

Ideas, Issues and Persuasion (Eng 315-3) involves two in-class periods and one hour of independent/group study per week for one entire semester. The independent study hour may include activities such as readings, group discussions, research project planning and organizing, analysis assignments, etc., as identified by the professor and based on student needs. (NOTE: Compressed time frame involves four in-class periods and two hours of independent/group study per week for one half of a semester.)

Independent Study

The learning activities for the Independent Study time are as follows:

- |                                       |         |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Directed Readings                  | 3 hours |
| 2. Analysis Assignments               | 5 hours |
| 3. Group Discussions/Project Planning | 4 hours |
| 4. Research                           | 4 hours |

**VI. SPECIAL NOTES:**Special Needs

Students with special needs (e.g. physical limitations, visual impairments, hearing impairments, learning disabilities) are encouraged to discuss required accommodations with the professor and/or contact the Special Needs Office.

Complementary Activities

To meet course objectives, students should expect to match each scheduled class hour with independent study.

Plagiarism

To plagiarise is to “take and use as one’s own (thoughts [ideas], writings, inventions, etc. of another); especially to take and use a passage, plot, etc. from the work of another writer.” (Gage Canadian Dictionary, 861)

Students should refer to the definition of “academic dishonesty” in the “Statement of Students’ Rights and Responsibilities” (on-line Intranet for Sault College). Also, in order to collaborate on an assignment, students need prior permission from the professor.

Students who engage in “academic dishonesty” will receive an automatic failure for that submission and/or other such penalty, up to and including expulsion from the course.

In order to protect students from inadvertent plagiarism, to protect the material referenced, and to credit the author of the material, it is the policy of the department to employ a documentation format for referencing source material.

Advanced Standing

Students who have completed an equivalent post-secondary course must bring relevant documents to the Coordinator, Language and Communication Department:

- a copy of course outline
- a copy of the transcript verifying successful completion of the equivalent course

Note: A copy of the transcript must be on file in the Registrar’s Office.

Retention of Course Outlines

Students are responsible for retaining all course outlines for possible future use in gaining advanced standing at other post-secondary institutions.

Substitute course information is available at the Registrar’s office.

**VII. PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT**

Students who have related employment-centered experience should see the Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Coordinator.

