Instructor Lindsey Dixon  
Office 305 Daniel Hall  
Email: ldixon2@clemson.edu  
Office Hours:  
Tuesday and Thursday 8:30-9:30 AM  
12:15-1:45 PM

Required Materials

- Open Mind.
- Willingness to improve critical thinking skills through debate and argumentation development skills.

This class is a Clemson Thinks2 (CT2) seminar- developed to increase and enhance your critical thinking skills

Critical Thinking (CT2) Student Outcomes
In following with the Department and University’s philosophy, this course includes the following objectives in which students should be able to:

- Identify and use the Toulmin Model of Argumentation.
- Create and present sound arguments.
- Effectively research issues using library resources and technology.
- Identify different philosophical decision making paradigms.
- Determine the relevance of information for evaluating an argument.
- Separate facts from opinions and inferences.
- Recognize flaws, inconsistencies, and logical fallacies in an argument
- Evaluate competing interpretations, explanations, evidence, and conclusions.

Class Policies

Assignments

- All written assignments and formal outlines must be:
  1. written in 12 point Times New Roman font
  2. double spaced
  3. stapled in the upper left corner
Papers that do not meet all of the above guidelines will not be accepted and will receive a zero.
Attendance

• BE HERE.
• YOU CANNOT MISS ANY DEBATE DAYS
  o If you do miss a debate day you will lose 10% of your own debate grade)
• However, you are allowed 2 absences to use at your discretion. Ten points will be deducted from your final grade for each unexcused absence over the allotted two.
• I do not differentiate between excused or unexcused absences. However I do understand that life gets in the way and the sooner you can keep me in the loop the better.

Instructor

If I am late please wait 15 minutes before leaving the classroom.

Late Work

• If you miss in-class speeches, papers, or assignments because of an unexcused absence, you may not make up the work and will receive a zero. What this means:
  Pay attention to the course schedule when deciding to use an unexcused absence.
  If you miss a speech day for an unexcused reason, you will receive a zero for the speech. Only official, documented, University sanctioned excuses are valid for speech days.
• Each assigned paper is due at the beginning of class on the assigned dates. Late papers will not be accepted for any reason. I do not accept papers by email, fax, left under my office door, left in my mailbox or left with the main office.

Email

• Email is the official medium for this class. You are responsible for checking your Clemson email account regularly for assignments and information.
• Please allow for a reasonable amount of time for my response… I have a life outside of class as well.

Academic Integrity

“As members of the Clemson University community, we have inherited Thomas Green Clemson’s vision of this institution as a “high seminary of learning.” Fundamental to this vision is a mutual commitment to truthfulness, honor, and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of others. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of a Clemson degree. Therefore, we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form.”

“When, in the opinion of a faculty member, there is evidence that a student has committed an act of academic dishonesty, the faculty member shall make a formal written charge of academic dishonesty, including a description of the misconduct, to the Associate Dean for Curriculum in the Office of Undergraduate Studies. At the same time, the faculty member may, but is not required to, inform each involved student privately of the nature of the alleged charge.”
Class Conduct

- Do not be late to class.
- Cell phones must be turned off or on silent. If I hear your phone I will respond to anyone who is calling/texting you. Turn everything off, this room is not pager friendly, you’re not going to get a sig’ on your beeper.
- DO NOT walk in during someone’s speech.
- You will be kind and respectful to everyone in class or I will ask you to leave.
- If I make a joke you better laugh.

Immersive Critical Thinking Options

Compete with the debate team

You can travel to one tournaments with the debate team and judge.

What will be expected of you:
- You will judge 6 rounds of British Parliamentary debate at a local Tournament.
- You will identify arguments that happen in the round and decide who was most persuasive.
- You will communicate your thoughts on the debate to fellow judges in the room and come to a consensus decision on who won the debate round.

I will explain this option more in class.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities who require accommodations should make an appointment with Student Disability Services (SDS) within the first month of classes to discuss specific needs. Students with such needs are required to present a Faculty Accommodation Letter from SDS when they meet with instructors to discuss their special needs. SDS is located in G-20 Redfern Health Center (telephone number: 864-656-6848; email: sds-1@clemson.edu). I am more than happy to work with you individually to accommodate your documented needs.

Title IX

The Clemson University Title IX (Sexual Harassment) statement must be included: Clemson University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender, pregnancy, national origin, age, disability, veteran’s status, genetic information or protected activity (e.g., opposition to prohibited discrimination or participation in any complaint process, etc.) in employment, educational programs and activities, admissions and financial aid. This includes a prohibition against sexual harassment and sexual violence as mandated by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. This policy is located at http://www.clemson.edu/campus-life/campus-services/access/title-ix/. Mr. Jerry
Knighton is the Clemson University Title IX Coordinator. He also is the Director of Access and Equity. His office is located at 111 Holtzendorff Hall, 864.656.3181 (voice) or 864.565.0899 (TDD). If your course includes the use of animals, the following policy and link must be included in the syllabus: http://www.clemson.edu/research/compliance/iacuc/regulations.htm

Critical Thinking Activities

**POI (Point of Information)**
You will be given a motion at the beginning of class and you will have five minutes to come up with a one minute speech(arguments proving your motion true. After one minute the class will ask you questions making you defend your position.

**Rebuttal Drill**
You will randomly be assigned a partner in class. One person will be the Government team the other Opposition. You will be given a motion and 10 minutes to prepare an argument. Each person will speak for 1 minute three different times. You will work on rebutting the argument you just heard from the previous speaker.

**Building Arguments**
You will be assigned a motion and will have ten minutes to think of as many arguments that you can for your position. We will work on depth and breath of arguments and play a Scattergories types game with the class.

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**COMM 361 Course Requirements and Point Distribution**

**Exams**
- Final Exam 100 points

**Debates**
- British Parli Debate X2 200 points
- Final Debate 100 points

**Assignments**
- What’s going on in the world? X2 100 points
- Participations 100 points

*Disclaimer*
The syllabus and course schedule are subject to adjustment. All students will be notified via email of any changes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R 1/7</td>
<td>NO CLASS</td>
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<tr>
<td>T 1/12</td>
<td>Introductions, Syllabus/ Why did you take this class? So, umm, what is debate?</td>
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<tr>
<td>R 1/14</td>
<td>Debate Structures/ Motions/ Toulmin Model</td>
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<tr>
<td>T 1/19</td>
<td>Debate drill</td>
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<tr>
<td>R 1/21</td>
<td>Debate drill</td>
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<tr>
<td>T 1/26</td>
<td>Watch a full debate (What’s happening in the World assignment due) Break into teams/Pick motions</td>
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<tr>
<td>R 1/28</td>
<td>Debate drill</td>
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<tr>
<td>T 2/2</td>
<td>DEBATE</td>
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<tr>
<td>R 2/4</td>
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<tr>
<td>R 2/11</td>
<td>DEBATE</td>
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<tr>
<td>T 2/16</td>
<td>DEBATE Debrief from debates</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>R 2/25</td>
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<td>T 3/8</td>
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<tr>
<td>R 3/10</td>
<td>TBA What’s Happening in the World assignment due</td>
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T 3/15  Spring Break
R 3/17  SPRING BREAK
T 3/22  NO CLASS
R 3/24  In class meeting with Lindsey
T 3/29  DEBATE
R 3/31  DEBATE
T 4/5  DEBATE
R 4/7  DEBATE
T 4/12  TBA
R 4/14  Mini-debates
T 4/19  Mini-debates
R 4/21  Mini-debates
T 4/28  FINAL TBA