

## Debating and Dialogue

Department of English Language & Literature

**Course Title:** Debating and Dialogue

**Course Number:** 2201373

Prerequisites	Corequisites	Co-requisites	Electives

### Course Summary:

This course is aimed at improving students' ability to present a convincing argument in English, particularly as a public speech, and at developing their ability to respond on the spur of the moment to other people's counter-arguments. The course covers the theory and practice of debating skills in areas of content, strategy, and style. Students will learn to improve their speaking and listening skills in social and academic situations by using the principles of a formal 'parliamentary' debate. For example, students will learn that preparation is effective especially when responding to what other people have said, when it is appropriate to interrupt a fellow speaker, and how to think on the spot. Students will often be required to speak in favor of something which they might disagree with. Students' team-work abilities will improve when they work closely with fellow students to ensure that they can present a coherent and solid front.

### Course Theoretical Objectives:

The theory and practice of debating covers four key areas:

- **Reasoning and evidence:** Debating focuses on the facts and statements used to put forward an argument and how logic is used to link these together.
- **Organization and prioritization:** The debaters should make sure that in the structure of their speeches the most important points are given the most attention.

- **Listening and response:**Parliamentary debating places a great deal of emphasis on listening to what others (both on one's team and on the other side) have said and then responding to it, often on the spur of the moment.
- **Expression and delivery:** The stylistic aspects of how to communicate, with one's voice and through body language, play a crucial role in whether or not the message will get through to the listeners and be understood.

### **Course Objectives:**

By the end of the course students are expected to:

- Think more clearly and more spontaneously.
- Be more confident about the way they speak and how they express their opinions.
- Know what kind of content is needed for a good speech, and how to come up with things to say even if they think they have insufficient expertise on a particular subject.
- Know how to structure what they say, and how to adapt that structure at short notice to take account of developments in a fast-moving conversation.
- Spot flaws in their own and other people's arguments, and know how to address them.
- Be suitably expressive with their voice and body while presenting different types of argument.
- Have a greater awareness of current affairs and topical issues of debate in their environment.
- Understand how the skills they have learned are applicable to almost every aspect of written and oral communication in their personal/future professional life.

### **Readings and References:**

- International Debate Education Association. 2003. *The Debatabase Book: A Must-Have Guide for Successful Debate*. New York: IDEA Press Books.
- Johnson, Steven L.2009. *Winning Debates: A Guide to Debating in the Style of the World Universities Debating Championships*. New York: IDEA Press Books.
- Quinn, Simon. 2009.*Debating in the World Schools Style*. New York: IDEA Press Books.

### Methodology:

Students are advised to have a file/folder as they will be given worksheets and material from different references throughout the course. There will be several relevant video screening throughout the course. If possible, noted speakers from campus as well as off-campus will be invited to speak on pertinent topics to their fields. Students are asked to read relevant material before attending class to better prepare for their arguments on the assigned motion of the debate.

### Course Plan:

This course plan is subject modifications. Students will be notified of any changes beforehand.

Week	Lectures	Motion
1.	2	<b>Introduction</b> <b>Television is doing irreparable harm.</b>
2.	2	<b>WATCHING AN ONLINE DEBATE</b> <b>Public schools in Jordan produce better citizens than private schools do.</b>
3.	2	<b>The legal age of marriage in Jordan should not be less than 18.</b> <b>The younger generation knows best.</b>
4.	2	<b>WATCHING AN ONLINE DEBATE</b> <b>The end of the world is at hand. (written speech assignment)</b>
5.	2	<b>Parents are too permissive with their children nowadays.</b> <b>It is the right of any country to develop nuclear power.</b>
6.	2	<b>Western conspiracies are the main reason for Arab backwardness.</b> <b>Does euthanasia deserve a place in a civilized society?</b>
7.	2	<b>All schools should make it a compulsion to teach arts and music.</b> <b>Clothes fashion is created solely for the commercial exploitation of women.</b>
8.	2	<b>WATCHING AN ONLINE DEBATE</b> <b>Compulsory military service should be abolished in all countries.</b>
9.	1	<b>Books, plays, and films should be censored.</b> <b>Money motivates people more than any other factor at the workplace.</b>
10.	2	<b>Only Stricter traffic laws can prevent accidents.</b> <b>Most Arabs have no pride in their language and cultural traditions.</b>
11.	2	<b>Each country has the news paper it deserves.</b> <b>Reservation of seats for women in the parliament is doing no good.</b>
12.	1	<b>Human cloning should be allowed.</b> <b>Women in Jordan are undervalued, underpaid and underutilized.</b>
13.	2	<b>Capital punishment is the only way to deter criminals.</b> <b>Vegetarians have found the secret of good living.</b>
14.	1	<b>Arranged-marriages are better than marriages based on love-relations.</b>

**Course Policy:**

- You are expected to be in class on time. Students coming late are allowed to enter but will be counted as absent. The same applies to leaving class early. **No exceptions.**
- Participation and students' involvement are crucial to the success of the course. All students are expected to have read the assigned materials before coming to class in order to fully engage in the discussions.
- The University allows students to be absent **FIVE** times during the semester. These times include those with an excuse. If you exceed this limit, you will not be allowed to sit for the final exam. The only excuse that would remove your absence from your record is in case of a conflict with another course (a scheduled written exam).
- **No make-up exams.** In case of sickness, only reports issued directly from a public clinic or hospital will be accepted. Medical reports from private practiced doctors or private hospitals will not be accepted even if they are stamped by the university's clinic. Reports should be produced within a week of the date of the exam. **No exceptions.**

**Course Evaluation:**

Examination	Grading	Date	Time	Venue
Written Speech	10%	11 Feb 2023	9:30 - 11:00	Hand in after oral debate
Quiz 1	5%	During the term	9:30 - 11:00	Lecture venue
Quiz 2	5%	During the term		Lecture venue
Midterm	30%	18 Feb 2023	9:30 - 11:00	Lecture venue
Final	50%	27 Feb 2023	9:30 - 11:00	Lecture venue

**Department Debates:**

- **Date:** The legal age of marriage in Jordan should not be less than 18.
- **Date:** The end of the world is at hand.
- **Date:** Western conspiracies are the main reason for Arab backwardness.