

Pasadena City College
Community Education Center HSDP
Contemporary American Problems Fall 07
Prof. Inda E-mail javiermorrone@hotmail.com

This is an introductory debate course on current issues that affect America. Students will explore and analyze different views on controversial economic, political, and social issues.

Partial list of topics: Abortion, Euthanasia, U.S. Iraq, Illegal Immigration, HIV Aids, Drug or Substance Abuse, Domestic Violence-Abuse, Economy, Racism, Social Security, Welfare, Terrorism, Creationism vs. Evolution, Alternative Energy, etc. (Note: Students may be exposed to adult content. Presentation's material must not include illegal drugs, weapons or pornography)

Textbook: No text book is required, but students must have access to the internet and also submit current articles on two different topics with a hand-written summary attached. (Due every Thursday)

Objectives: The student must understand the basic three steps for presenting an argument. Research it, write it, and present it in a speech form.

Methodology: Internet research, collaborative groups, lecture, films, class discussions, class assignments and presentations.

Grading Criteria:

- 20% Attendance* (if not able or willing to stay until 10:00 pm everyday, drop this class)
- 20% Preparation of research assignments (weekly supporting articles)
- 20% Three (3) written (5-paragraph / 3-pages) essays
- 20% Three (3) Oral (speech) essay presentations
- 20% Final hand-written-in-class-5-paragraph argumentative essay about your preferred topic
- Every missing presentation or essay represents a zero added to the total research-paper-presentation average.

***Note: Pasadena City College Policy regarding attendance will be followed: three absences in a 14-week Fall session will constitute grounds for a *drop* from the course. NO REINSTATEMENT.**

The Plan:

- First Essay-Presentation Round, October 2 and 4
 - Visit www.ProCon.org and: Pick a topic, select an issue, select a sub issue, pick a question, embrace a PRO or a CON position, write a three-page argumentative essay using three of the existent quotes. Present your argument in front of the class. (two minutes)
- Second Essay-Presentation Round, Oct. 30 and Nov. 1
 - What to do: Research your own topic, identify an issue, a sub issue and pose a question. Adopt a position to the question. Find three or more sources to back your position. (Do not use material from ProCon.org. Use your own articles). Present your argument in front of the class. (two minutes)
- Third Essay-Presentation Round, November 27 and 29
 - What to do: Research your own topic, identify an issue, a sub issue and pose a question. Adopt a position to the question. Find three or more sources to back your position. (Do not use material from ProCon.org. Use your own articles). Present your argument in front of the class. (two minutes)
- Final hand-written-in-class-5-paragraph argumentative essay Thu. Dec. 6