



## PÉCS SUMMER SCHOOL CLASS SYLLABUS



### TITLE OF THE CLASS:

**Debate Academy Summer Program: Introduction to Argumentation, Rhetoric & Debate - A Course in the Art of Persuasion**

<b>CLASS LECTURER:</b>	Maja Nenadovic, PhD Tvrтко Noa Pater
<b>FACULTY/SCHOOL:</b>	N/A

### DESCRIPTION AND AIMS:

This course will provide students with introduction to argumentation theory, rhetoric, and with practical skills-building exercises in debate and public speaking. All of the theories discussed in the course will be connected to present-day issues, as well as to students' personal research interests. Furthermore, through weekly assignments, the students will be required to connect the theory and practical exercises to their field of study i.e. major, thus building on their understanding and knowledge of argumentation, communication and debates in that particular discipline and/or thematic area.

### INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES:

As a practical course that aims to enhance students' critical thinking, active listening, argumentation and presentation skills, this highly interactive training program anticipates the following learning outcomes:

- ✓ students gain a general understanding of argumentation theory and rhetoric;
- ✓ they are able to build arguments using reason and evidence;
- ✓ they recognize fallacious reasoning and are able to respond to it critically;
- ✓ students learn how to debate and to engage persuasively through argumentation;
- ✓ students are able to evaluate debates and also self-reflect on their own performance;
- ✓ students understand the basics of policy debate;
- ✓ students are able to use their argumentation, debate and persuasion skills to advocate for an issue of common/public concern;
- ✓ students are able to effectively persuade and communicate with an audience thoughtfully, with a minimum of anxiety.



## **LEARNING MATERIALS:**

### **Selected reading from:**

- Argumentation Theory (Van Emeren, Toulmin)
- Rhetoric: the Classics (Plato, Gorgias, Aristotle, Cicero)
- Practical reading on Fallacies and Cognitive biases (school of thought educational materials)
- British Parliamentary debate format (Snider; Johnson)
- Debate strategies (Snider; Johnson; Meany & Shuster)

## **DEBATE TOPICS THAT WILL BE COVERED DURING THE ACADEMY:**

### **(in no particular order of relevance)**

#### International Human Rights protection framework topics:

- This House believes that economic sanctions are an effective tool for promoting international human rights.
- This House believes that the responsibility to protect (R2P) doctrine should be expanded to include intervention in cases of severe human rights violations within a country's borders.
- This House supports the use of targeted military intervention to address egregious human rights abuses.

#### International Criminal Court and International Criminal Law topics:

- This House supports the use of universal jurisdiction in prosecuting individuals for international crimes.
- This House believes that the International Criminal Court should have the authority to conduct trials in absentia.
- This House believes that amnesties for war crimes should never be granted, even in the interest of peace negotiations.

#### Environmentalism topics:

- This House supports the establishment of a permanent international tribunal for corporate crimes against environment.
- This House believes that developed countries should bear the primary responsibility for addressing global climate change.
- This House believes that the benefits of nuclear power outweigh its risks.
- This House supports the implementation of a global carbon tax to fund environmental conservation efforts.
- This House believes that indigenous peoples should have veto power over major development projects that may harm their local environment.



Human Rights – Theory vs Practice Paradoxes & Dilemmas:

- This House believes that cultural relativism should not be an excuse for human rights abuses.
- This House supports the use of alternative transitional justice mechanisms over traditional prosecutions in post-conflict societies.
- This House supports the right to privacy over national security concerns in the context of counter-terrorism measures.