

St. Joseph's College of Commerce

(Autonomous)

#163, Brigade Road, Bangalore - 560025



Department of English

BA General English

Sem III

Academic Year 2024-25

B.A. General English – Semester III

Debate and Argumentation

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce students to the art of argumentation, both ancient and modern. Through the examination of texts from various time periods and cultures, students will explore the ways in which ideas are expressed and debated.

Course Objectives:

- to develop critical thinking skills through the analysis and evaluation of arguments presented in the course materials
- to explore the historical and cultural contexts in which arguments are presented and debated
- to understand the role of language and rhetoric in argumentation
- to develop effective communication skills through practice in presenting and defending arguments

Course Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- analyze and evaluate arguments presented in course materials and in real-world situations
- effectively communicate their own arguments through written and oral presentations
- demonstrate critical thinking skills in a variety of contexts, both inside and outside of the classroom

Module 1: Ancient Dialogues

15 hrs

1. Excerpts from Meno (Dialogue on Virtue) – Plato
2. Excerpts from Milinda Panha – Nagasena
3. What the Tortoise Said to Achilles – Lewis Carrol

Module 2: History of Thought and Action

15 hrs

4. The Frailty of Human Affairs from ‘The Human Condition’ – Hannah Arendt
5. The Argumentative Indian – Amartya Sen
6. Are There Two Sides to Every Questions - Trudy Govier

Module 3: Arguments in Context

15 hrs

7. Annihilation of Caste – B R Ambedkar
8. Arguing with God – Daniel Cohen
9. The Will to Believe – William James

References

1. Walter Sinnott-Armstrong, Robert J Fogelin - Understanding Arguments_ An Introduction to Informal Logic (2014)
2. David Kelley - The Art of Reasoning_ An Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking-W. W. Norton & Company (2013)
3. Daniel Cohen - Arguments and Metaphors in Philosophy-University Press of America (2004)