COURSE DETAIL

ARGUMENTATION II
Country Netherlands
Host Institution Maastricht University – University College Maastricht
Program(s) University College Maastricht
UCEAP Course Level Lower Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Communication
UCEAP Course Number 16
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title ARGUMENTATION II
UCEAP Transcript Title ARGUMENTATION II
UCEAP Quarter Units 2.00
UCEAP Semester Units 1.30

Course Description

This course focuses on the structure of arguments. The first part of the skills course takes the step to a strictly formal, almost mathematical approach, to argument analysis and explores basic sentential logic. Sentential logic introduces a simple set of rules and procedures that allows one to test whether an argument is formally valid, i.e. if its structure is correct independent of its content. To test for the validity of an argument in this way, the structure of English sentences is separated from their content by translating the sentences into symbols; afterwards formal rules are applied (by using truth tables and semantic tableaus) to check whether an argument logically works or not. While the first part of the skills training concentrates on skills related to logical reasoning, the second part aims to demonstrate how such skills can be used even if a strictly formal way of argument analysis is not applicable. This is done by introducing the Toulmin model of argumentation. This model goes beyond the basic distinction of premises and conclusions as constituent parts of arguments by distinguishing different functions premises can fulfill. The Toulmin model is more flexible than argumentative analysis based on formal logic. Therefore it can be a powerful tool for specific and sophisticated argumentative analysis. Such analyses are conducted during the course, first on small, simplified academic arguments and afterwards on a larger scale, analyzing an academic paper. Finally, in the final assignment, students are asked to apply the Toulmin model to design an argument themselves.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
SKI3002

Host Institution Course Title
ARGUMENTATION II

Host Institution Course Details
https://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/education/course-finder/organisation/5760?s...

Host Institution Campus University College Maastricht
Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department Skills
Course Last Reviewed 2021-2022

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