Hum 2A, Fall 2017
Speech Assignment
Due: Varies

Your speech assignment for this semester is to present, in a small group, a debate on a topic related to that day's readings. (You'll find the specific date, subject matter, and reading assignment for your group below) Your four-member group has been divided into two sides, pro and con; your topic is stated in the form, "Resolved: X" (for example, "Resolved: that there should be a two-state solution," "Resolved: that polystyrene should be banned," "Resolved: that all employer health plans should include contraceptive coverage"). On the day, we will flip a coin to see which side goes first, but let's assume that the pro side won the toss and elected to go second. Then (1) one member of the con team delivers their best argument against the resolution, after which (2) one member of the pro team speaks in favor of the resolution. Then (3) the other member of the con team delivers a rebuttal to the pro argument, and finally (4) the remaining member of the pro team rebuts the initial con argument.

To prepare your argument, you will want to be very familiar with the source material, and to do some research on your subject. Both team members should contribute to researching and composing a full-sentence outline of the team's basic arguments, to be submitted on Canvas by class time one week before the speech. That outline will also be shared with the opposing team, who will base their rebuttal on it. You will receive the outline back, with my comments, by the seminar meeting previous to the speech. But you should continue to work on and revise your presentations even after your outline is submitted. An outline for the rebuttal need not be handed in.

Presentations will be graded according to the following rubric. Student evaluators are asked to grade each of the numbered statements from 1 to 3 (where 3 is the highest). Notice there are different qualities being evaluated for 8 and 9, depending on whether the speaker is presenting the argument or the rebuttal. I will then compute the score for each section (introduction, body, conclusion, and overall) based on the average grade of each category and its multiplier (as listed below). Finally, that score will be averaged with those of the other student evaluator and the instructor (weighted double) to compute the grade on the speech. A poor effort on the part of a student evaluator may affect his or her own speech grade.

Introduction (x .20)
1. Gains attention and creates interest
2. Makes topic clear
3. Previews main points

Body (x .50)
4. Thesis developed
5. Major points clearly differentiated, clear transitions
6. Good evidence, reliable sources identified
7. Good use of familiar or personal anecdotes
8. Argument: clearly constructed
   Rebuttal: presents opposing claims accurately
9. Argument: anticipates opponent's claims, evidence
   Rebuttal: answers opposing claims well

Conclusion (x .10)
10. Prepares audience for ending (closure)
11. Reinforces or reformulates central point(s)

Overall (x .20)
11. Speaks clearly, good posture & eye contact
12. Minimal reliance on notes
13. Speech is persuasive

Note: individual speech assignments will be handed out, several weeks (or more) before the speeches are due.