

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
5210 Grand Avenue
P. O. Box 3469
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3469
479-788-7000

General Syllabus

RHET 3503 Writing Arguments

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: RHET 2853 Advanced Composition or RHET 3103 Editing for Usage, Style, and Clarity or consent of instructor.

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information:

A. Catalog Description

Advanced instruction in writing arguments in response to a variety of rhetorical situations. Emphasizes persuasive techniques and their ethical implications.

B. Additional Information

None.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Analyze the rhetorical situation and produce a variety of arguments in response to a variety of audiences, specific purposes, and contexts.
2. Use classical and contemporary theories and principles of persuasion to produce effective arguments.
3. Analyze a variety of existing arguments.
4. Create arguments that demonstrate effective and appropriate linguistic, rhetorical, and stylistic choices.
5. Produce focused, well-organized and developed, well-edited arguments.
6. Demonstrate positive ethical choices in writing assignment.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills**Critical Thinking Skills**

Students will identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis. Students will analyze a variety of texts for their rhetorical and/or literary features, as well as analyze the rhetorical situation to which the texts they produce respond.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate proficiently. Students will practice communication skills through discussions, presentations, and a variety of required written assignments.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes. Students will practice critical response to the writing of others, responsible use of research materials and intellectual property, and the ethical use of persuasion.

Global & Cultural Perspectives

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own. Students will analyze the rhetorical situation, produce texts for a variety of audiences, and avoid the use of biased language.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Classical and contemporary theories and principles of argument and persuasion
- B. Rhetorical analysis of discourse occasions and existing texts (author/purpose, audience/effect, text/context)
- C. Writing arguments and analyses of existing arguments
- D. Revising and editing for clarity, conciseness, details, organization, consistency, and coherence
- E. Ethical use of persuasive techniques