

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

RHET 4503 Arguing Public Issues

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: RHET 2863 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

Provides intensive instruction in persuasion and written argument. Emphasis is on arguments focusing on issues of public interest and on civic/corporate policy.

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 and evaluate existing arguments on a variety of public policy/corporate issues.
2. Conduct research on a variety of public policy/corporate issues.
3. Analyze the rhetorical situation and produce arguments in response to a variety of public policy/corporate issues/situations.
4. Write effective policy justifications.
5. Create arguments that demonstrate effective and appropriate linguistic, rhetorical, and stylistic choices.
6. Produce focused, well-organized and developed, well-edited arguments.

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. Major features of public policy/corporate documents
- B. Researching/writing public/corporate policy
- C. Basic policy, descriptive, and analytical writing in a variety of public/corporate settings—including opinion pieces, white papers, research reports, etc.
- D. Grant research
- E. Responding to RFPs