

**University of Arkansas - Fort Smith**  
**5210 Grand Avenue**  
**P. O. Box 3649**  
**Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649**  
**479-788-7000**

**General Syllabus**

**RHET 4503 Legal Rhetoric**

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory or other types of Hours:

Prerequisite(s): Prerequisites: ENGL 1213 Composition II, or ENGL 1233 Honors Composition, or consent of instructor.

Effective Catalog: 2023-2024

**I. Course Information**

**A. Catalog Description**

Provides intensive instruction in persuasion and written argument. Emphasis is public-policy, civics, law, and/or corporate issues. Due to its focus on argument and logic, this course may be especially beneficial for students who wish to attend law school after obtaining their degree.

**II. Student Learning Outcomes**

**A. Subject Matter**

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

1. Find, identify, and use legal resources in the university library, public library, archives, or online.
2. Produce and present an argument in a public or court setting.
3. Conduct research on public-policy, civic/advocacy, or corporate issues.
4. Write effective papers or reports related to public-policy, civic/advocacy, or corporate issues.
5. Write effective correspondence in a wide variety of public, civic, legal, or corporate settings.

**B. University Learning Outcomes (ULO)**

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

**Analytical Skills**

**Critical Thinking Skills Goal:** 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. History of civic Rhetoric
- B. Legal discourse and resources
- B. Argumentation and logic
- C. Audience awareness and theories of persuasion
- D. Conducting research
- E. Public-policy, civic/advocacy, and corporate issues