

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

SPCH 3223 Argumentation and Debate

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Prerequisite: MCOM 2223 Communication Theory or consent of instructor

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Theory and practice in using the effective employment of argument and debate techniques on a wide variety of topics.

B. Additional Information

None

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will:

1. Distinguish between argument and debate.
1. Apply a variety of research methods and preparation tactics for argument and debate on various topics.
2. Analyze and employ basic theories of argument and debating.
3. Employ argument and debate techniques on a wide variety of topics.
4. Discuss the history of forensics.
5. Examine and critique debating techniques of classmates.

B. University Learning Outcomes

The course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will participate in group projects, make oral presentations, and conduct basic oral and written critiques, complete research projects for oral presentations.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will recognize and evaluate ethical implication of communication in a variety of situations.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. History of debate
- B. Theories of forensics and forensic rhetoric
- C. Preparation and research
- D. Delivery
- E. Argument and response
- F. Oxford style debate
- G. Lincoln-Douglas style debate