West Virginia University at Parkersburg   Uniform Course Syllabus

Communication Studies 310-Argumentation and Debate

Credit Hours:  3

Scheduled hours per week
  Lecture: 3
  Lab: 0
  Other: 0

Catalog Course Description:  This course provides an overview of the principles of argumentation, logic and reasoning, evidence, forms of debate, and decision making. Application of the principles will take the form of in-class debates.

Prerequisites: COMM 111, COMM 112 or COMM 202

Corequisites: None

Course Learning Outcomes:
  • Understand and demonstrate argumentative strategies
  • Understand and demonstrate logical proofs and claims
  • Develop skills in analyzing research and arguments
  • Become competent in oral presentation of arguments

Topics to be studied:
  • Syllogisms and enthymemes
  • Forms of reasoning
  • Argumentative fallacies
  • Critical thinking
  • Ethical decision making
  • Refutation
  • Policy debate
  • Value debate

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<th>Relationship of Course to Discipline Learning Outcomes</th>
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<td>Explain how ethics play a role in the communication process.</td>
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<td>Recall the communication process.</td>
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<td>Demonstrate an ability to select appropriate topics and language for public presentations.</td>
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<td>Demonstrate an ability to conduct research.</td>
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<td>Create complex messages in a variety of communication settings.</td>
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Evaluate and critique one’s own and other’s communication in a variety of settings. 

Apply effective delivery skills in a variety of communication settings. 

Recall the historic background of mass media and contemporary media issues. 

Summarize the theoretical underpinnings of mass communication. 

Relationship of Course to General Education Learning Outcomes:

**Composition and Rhetoric** Students illustrate a fundamental understanding of the best practices of communicating in English and meet the writing standards of their college or program-based communication requirements. 

**Science & Technology** Students successfully apply systematic methods of analysis to the natural and physical world, understand scientific knowledge as empirical, and refer to data as a basis for conclusions. 

**Mathematics & Quantitative Skills** Students effectively use quantitative techniques and the practical application of numerical, symbolic, or spatial concepts. 

**Society, Diversity, & Connections** Students demonstrate understanding of and a logical ability to successfully analyze human behavior, societal and political organization, or communication. 

**Human Inquiry & the Past** Students interpret historical events or philosophical perspectives by identifying patterns, applying analytical reasoning, employing methods of critical inquiry, or expanding problem-solving skills. 

**The Arts & Creativity** Students successfully articulate and apply methods and principles of critical and creative inquiry to the production or analysis of works of art.

**Special projects or requirements of the course:** N/A

**Additional information:** N/A

**Prepared by:** Mary Beth Held

**Date:** 10/10/2017