

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

Relationship of Course to Discipline Learning Outcomes	
Explain how ethics play a role in the communication process.	X
Recall the communication process.	X
Demonstrate an ability to select appropriate topics and language for public presentations.	X
Demonstrate an ability to conduct research.	X
Create complex messages in a variety of communication settings.	X

Evaluate and critique one's own and other's communication in a variety of settings.	X
Apply effective delivery skills in a variety of communication settings.	X
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.	X
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.	X
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

