

Course Objectives/Course Outline
Spokane Community College

Course Title: Introduction to Argumentation and Debate

Prefix and Course Number: CMST 229

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, a student should be able to:

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Course Outline:

- I. Introduction to Argumentation and Debate
 - A. Three converging traditions
 1. Rhetoric
 2. Logic
 3. Dialectic
 - B. Definition of “argumentation.”
 - C. Rhetorical considerations
 - D. Ethical considerations
 1. Voluntary assent or compliance
 2. Truth-telling
 3. The forensic model
 4. Dissent and skepticism
 - E. Underlying assumptions of argumentation
- II. Debate: applied Argumentation
 - A. Forms and Forums of Debate
 - B. Controversies and Resolutions
 1. Resolutions of fact
 2. Resolutions of definition
 3. Resolutions of value
 4. Resolutions of policy
 - C. Analysis of Resolutions
 1. Definitions
 2. Stock issues
 3. Affirmative burdens
 4. Negative burdens
 - D. Researching the resolution
 1. Gathering evidence.
 2. Testing evidence.
 - E. Case Construction
 1. Affirmative value case
 2. Affirmative policy case
 3. Negative value case
 4. Negative policy case
- III. Formal and Informal Reasoning
 - A. Deductive Reasoning
 1. Properties of deductive reasoning

2. Types of syllogisms
 - a. Categorical
 - b. Conditional
 - c. Disjunctive
- B. Inductive Reasoning
 1. Properties of inductive reasoning
 2. Conclusions based on inductive reasoning.
- C. Diagramming arguments using Toulmin's model of argument
- D. Common Patterns of Reasoning
 1. Parts to whole/whole to parts
 2. Causal arguments
 3. Correlations
 4. Comparisons and Analogies
 5. Enthymemes, Quasi-logical, and Commonplace forms.
- E. Validity and Fallacy
 1. Testing arguments
 2. Identifying common fallacies
- IV. Delivering Arguments Orally
 - A. Audience
 - B. Language
 - C. Style
 1. Vocal
 2. Nonverbal
 - D. Source credibility and persuasion
 - E. Refutation and Rebuttal
 1. Identifying arguments for refutation
 2. Organizing refutation
 - F. "Strive mighty, but eat and drink as friends" (Shakespeare, TOS I,ii)
 1. Competition and etiquette
 2. Cooperation and education
 - G. Cross-examination
 1. Goals
 2. Strategies
 3. Dialectic responsibilities