

Spokane Falls Community College
COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES AND OUTLINE

Prefix and Course Number	CMST 229
Course Title	Argumentation and Advocacy
Version Date: March 2018	

Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. Correctly categorize resolutions on questions of controversy according to type (i.e., resolutions of fact, definition, value, or policy).
2. Analyze resolutions of value and policy.
3. Construct and organize a bibliography of source material for use in affirmative and negative case construction.
4. Compare and rate the relative strength of evidence from bibliographic sources.
5. Construct and present a case in affirmation of a policy or value resolution.
6. Construct and present a case in negation of a policy or value resolution.
7. Correctly label the elements of argument described in Stephen Toulmin's model of argument.
8. Analyze and evaluate arguments presented in support of or opposition to a resolution of fact, definition, value or policy.
9. Orally argue in support of or opposition to a resolution of value or policy.
10. Apply effective questioning skills to an argument to serve the purposes of refutation and response
11. Respond to questions and challenges to arguments and evidence under cross-examination

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 mightily, 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