

**El Paso Community College**  
**Syllabus**  
**Part II**  
**Official Course Description**

<b>SUBJECT AREA</b>	<u>Speech Communication</u>						
<b>COURSE RUBRIC AND NUMBER</b>	<u>SPCH 2335</u>						
<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	<u>Argumentation and Debate</u>						
<b>COURSE CREDIT HOURS</b>	<table border="0" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>3</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>3:</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>0</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Credits</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Lec</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Lab</td> </tr> </table>	<u>3</u>	<u>3:</u>	<u>0</u>	Credits	Lec	Lab
<u>3</u>	<u>3:</u>	<u>0</u>					
Credits	Lec	Lab					

**I. Catalog Description**

Examines the preparation of written and spoken arguments, analysis of arguments used in contemporary society and propaganda campaigns and practice in debate technique. **Prerequisite: READ 0309 or INRW 0311 or ESOL 0340 (can be taken concurrently) or by placement exam or ENGL 1301 with a “C” or better or ENGL 1302 with a “C” or better. (3:0).**

**II. Course Objectives**

Upon satisfactory completion of this course the student will be able to:

- A. Demonstrate an understanding of the role that debate plays in society.
- B. Demonstrate understanding of the similarities and differences between value, policy, and parliamentary forms of debate.
- C. Exhibit an understanding of the role of ethics, morality, and honor in argumentation and debate.
- D. Demonstrate a working knowledge of research techniques in the acquisition of support for argumentation.
- E. Demonstrate an understanding of debate topic analysis, and the intent of the framers of the resolution as a basis for debate and the argumentation process.
- F. Exhibit knowledge of argument structure and type for supporting a position.
- G. Construct debate cases for both sides of an issue, following the required format for the debate type.
- H. Exhibit an understanding of the importance of, and proper method for conducting cross examination as a way of clarifying information, acquiring additional information, and preparing future arguments.
- I. Exhibit effective presentational skills and interpersonal communication skills in argument presentation and debate situations.
- J. Evaluate argument structure and presentation in making sound judgements of argumentation effectiveness.

**III. Evaluation**

- A. The student will complete the following requirements for evaluation of successful completion of the course objectives:

1. Exams: You will be tested on several chapters found in your text, the information discussed in lectures as well as the information found in supplemental materials.
  2. Topic Analysis and Position Paper: You will complete a formal written paper, on the CEDA debate topic, consisting of three, well supported and documented arguments in support of your position on the issue inherent in the topic.
  3. Research and compose an Affirmative Case on the CEDA topic, following proper debate form, documented, including rebuttal briefs.
  4. Research and construct ten Negative briefs containing argumentation against the Affirmative position inherent in the CEDA topic.
  5. Participate in two formal debates in class.
  6. Judge in class debates, coming to a decision, based on argumentation presented during the debates, as to the winner of the debate.
- B. Assessment tools and activities that measure the student's ability to critically assess the communication context and apply appropriate communication strategies will be used.
- C. The following grading scale will be used:

90 - 100	=A
80 - 89	=B
70 - 79	=C
60 - 69	=D
Below 60	=F

#### **IV. Disability Statement (American with/Disabilities Act [ADA])**

EPCC offers a variety of services to persons with documented sensory, mental, physical, or temporary disabling conditions to promote success in classes. If you have a disability and believe you may need services, you are encouraged to contact the Center for Students with Disabilities to discuss your needs with a counselor. All discussions and documentation are kept confidential. Offices located: VV Rm C-112 (831-2426); TM Rm 1400 (831-5808); RG Rm B-201 (831-4198); NWC Rm M-54 (831-8815); and MDP Rm A-125 (831-7024).

#### **V. 6 Drop Rule**

Students who began attending Texas public institutions of higher education for the first time during the Fall 2007 semester or later are subject to a 6-Drop limit for all undergraduate classes. Developmental, ESL, Dual Credit and Early College High School classes are exempt from this rule. All students should consult with their instructor before dropping a class. Academic assistance is available. Students are encouraged to see Counseling Services if dropping because exemptions may apply. Refer to the EPCC catalog and website for additional information.