

El Paso Community College

Syllabus

Part II

Official Course Description

SUBJECT AREA	<u>Speech Communication</u>
COURSE RUBRIC AND NUMBER	<u>SPCH 2335</u>
COURSE TITLE	<u>Argumentation & Debate</u>
COURSE CREDIT HOURS	<u>3 3 ; 0</u> Credits Lec Lab

I. Catalog Description

Theories and practice in argumentation and debate including analysis, reasoning, organization, evidence, and refutation. **Prerequisite: Placement at college-level English Language Arts Reading by TSIA2 or equivalent; OR completion with a "C" or better or concurrent enrollment in the following: INRW 0311 or INRW 0312 or [ESOL 0340 and ESOL 0341]. (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:
 1. Write two topic analysis and position papers (one as Affirmative, and the other as Negative), from selected debate topics.
 2. Research and construct an Affirmative Case on a chosen debate topic.

3. Research and construct a Negative Case on a chosen debate topic.
 4. Participate in two formal debates in class (one as Affirmative, one as Negative).
 5. Judge debates, coming to a decision based on argumentation during the debates, as to the winner of the debate.
- B. Additionally, students may complete one or some combination of the following:
1. Analyses of videotaped debates.
 2. Exams
 3. Other classroom activities
- 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 (Americans 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.

VI. Title IX and Sex Discrimination

Title 9 (20 U.S.C. 1681 & 34 C.F.R. Part 106) states the following "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance." The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) prohibits stalking, date violence, sexual violence, and domestic violence for all students, employees and visitors (male and female). If you have any concerns related to discrimination, harassment, or assault (of any type) you can contact the Assistant to the Vice President for Student and Enrollment Services at 915-831-2655. Employees can call the Manager of Employee Relations at 915-831-6458. Reports of sexual assault/violence may also be reported to EPCC Police at 915-831-2200.