# 8/24/2021

# brcc keystone logo

Baton Rouge Community College

*Academic Affairs Master Syllabus*

Date Approved: 4 November 2021

Term and Year of Implementation: Fall 2022

**Course Title:** Argumentation and Debate

**BRCC Course Rubric:** SPCH 2113

**Previous Course Rubric**: SPCH 263

**Lecture Hours per week-Lab Hours per week-Credit Hours**: 3-0-3

**Per semester: Lecture Hours-Lab Hours-Instructional Contact Hours**: 45-0-45

**Louisiana Common Course Number:** CCOM 2113

**CIP Code:** 09.0101

**Course Description:** Introduces fundamentals of argumentation and debate: analysis, brief construction, evidence, reasoning, and refutation. This course explores rhetorical tradition from Socrates to modern civic debate. Students debate vital questions of the day.

**Prerequisites:**  None

**Co-requisites:** None

**Suggested Enrollment Cap:** 25

**Learning Outcomes.** *Upon successful completion of this course, the students will be able to:*

1. Classify elements of an effective argument using the Toulmin method.

2. Construct arguments that are well-reasoned, well-supported, and free of fallacies.

3. Identify questions of fact, value, and policy from stock issues.

4. Explain how persuasive arguments reply on evidence appropriate to purpose, topic, and audience.

5. Perform debates on questions of policy.

**General Education Learning Outcome(s):** This course supports the development of competency in the following area(s). Students will:

Construct written and/or verbal arguments. (General Education Competency: Communication)

**Assessment Measures.** Assessment of all learning outcomes will be measured using the following methods:

1. Writing assignments that assess Learning Outcomes 1, 3, and 4

2. In-class speeches and debates to assess Learning Outcomes 2 and 5

**Information to be included on the Instructor’s Course Syllabi:**

* ***Disability Statement*:** Baton Rouge Community College seeks to meet the needs of its students in many ways. See the Office of Disability Services to receive suggestions for disability statements that should be included in each syllabus.
* ***Grading:*** The College grading policy should be included in the course syllabus. Any special practices should also go here. This should include the instructor’s and/or the department’s policy for make-up work. For example in a speech course, “Speeches not given on due date will receive no grade higher than a sixty” or “Make-up work will not be accepted after the last day of class”.
* ***Attendance Policy*:** Include the overall attendance policy of the college. Instructors may want to add additional information in individual syllabi to meet the needs of their courses.
* ***General Policies*:** Instructors’ policy on the use of things such as beepers and cell phones and/or hand held programmable calculators should be covered in this section.
* ***Cheating and Plagiarism*:** This must be included in all syllabi and should include the penalties for incidents in a given class. Students should have a clear idea of what constitutes cheating in a given course.
* ***Safety Concerns:*** In some courses, this may be a major issue. For example, “No student will be allowed in the lab without safety glasses”. General statements such as, “Items that may be harmful to one’s self or others should not be brought to class”.
* ***Library/ Learning Resources:*** Since the development of the total person is part of our mission, assignments in the library and/or the Learning Resources Center should be included to assist students in enhancing skills and in using resources. Students should be encouraged to use the library for reading enjoyment as part of lifelong learning.

**Expanded Course Outline:**

I. Defining Argumentation

A. Historical development of argumentation

B. Argumentation as a decision-making technique

II. Argumentation foundations

A. Presumption

B. Burden of Proof

C. Prima facie Cases

III. Three types of debate propositions & definitions

A. Fact

B. Value

C. Policy

IV. Discovering main issues in a debate proposition

A. Causes

B. Definitions

C. Stock Issues

V. The Toulmin model of arguments

A. Claim

B. Data

C. Warrant

D. Backing

E. Qualifier

F. Rebuttal

VI. Evidence

A. Discovery of evidence

B. Types of evidence

C. Tests of evidence

VII. The Reasoning Process

A. Argument from cause

B. Argument from sign

C. Argument from parallel case

D. Argument from generalization

E. Argument from authority

VIII. Logical Fallacies

A. Fallacies in Reasoning

B. Fallacies of Appeal

C. Fallacies in Language

IX. Affirming and Negating propositions

A. Advocating propositions of fact

B. Opposing propositions of fact

C. Advocating propositions of value

D. Opposing propositions of value

E. Advocating policy propositions

F. Opposing policy propositions

X. Presentation strategies

A. Demonstration debate

B. Delivery of a speech