

Bossier Parish Community College Master Syllabus

Course Prefix and Number: SPCH 233 **Credit Hours:** 3

Course Title: Argumentation and Debate

Course Prerequisites: None

Textbook: None

Course Description: Principles of argumentation and debate; analysis, briefing, evidence, reasoning and refutation; debating on vital questions.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course the student will

- A. be able to construct a coherent, logical, sequenced argument, free from fallacy, supported by documentation and evidence
- B. be able to analyze and critique arguments as they are presented, looking for flaws in logic, reasoning or evidence.
- C. participate in an oral debate.

To achieve the learning outcomes, the student will

(The letter designations at the end of each statement refer to the learning outcome(s).)

- 1. understand the logical fallacies of argumentation (A)
- 2. understand the basic structures of argument (A)
- 3. research and present multiple structured position statements (A,C)
- 4. participate in cross-examination both as a questioner and as a respondent (A,B,C)
- 5. evaluate printed arguments of others (B)
- 6. evaluate oral arguments of others (B)
- 7. participate in structured debates (C)

Course Requirements: There is to be a minimum of five graded arguments per semester, including position statements and structured debates. There will be a final exam and some form of written testing within the semester, be it a mid-term exam or several quizzes based on the material covered.

Course Grading Scale:	90 – 100	A
	80 – 89	B
	70 – 79	C
	60 – 69	D
	0 – 59	F

Attendance Policy: The college attendance policy is available at
<http://www.bpcc.edu/catalog/current/academicpolicies.html>

Nondiscrimination Statement

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