

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith

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General Syllabus

ENGL 33053 Rhetorical/Textual Criticism

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: ENGL 32053 Textual Research Methods or consent of the
instructor Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Survey of various methods for analyzing and evaluating textual rhetoric.

B. Additional Information

None.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Analyze the presence and influence of rhetoric.
2. Use a variety of rhetorical tools for interpreting and evaluating texts.
3. Implement various approaches to evaluating messages.
4. Reproduce these approaches in their own messages.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills

Students will identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis. Students will analyze a variety of texts for their rhetorical and/or literary features, as well as analyze the rhetorical situation to which the texts they produce respond.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate proficiently. Students will practice communication skills through discussions, presentations, and a variety of required written assignments.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes. Students will practice critical response to the writing of others, responsible use of research materials and intellectual property, and the ethical use of persuasion.

Global & Cultural Perspectives

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own. Students will analyze the rhetorical situation, produce texts for a variety of audiences, and avoid the use of biased language.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Aristotelian Rhetoric
- B. Toulmin Logic
- C. Argument Structures and Logic
- D. Form and Style
- E. Rhetorical Tropes
- F. Audience and authorial roles
- G. Dramatistic criticism
- H. Identity politics and text