

**From:** Kathleen Herndon kherndon@weber.edu  
**Subject:** Re: Request for Feedback on New Course Proposal  
**Date:** November 20, 2014 at 11:06 AM  
**To:** Ryan Cheek ryancheek@weber.edu



Ryan, I apologize for not getting back to you sooner. The response from English faculty is positive. The syllabus is approved.  
K. Herndon

On Wed, Nov 19, 2014 at 2:57 PM, Ryan Cheek <[ryancheek@weber.edu](mailto:ryancheek@weber.edu)> wrote:

Hi Dr. Herndon,

The Analysis of Argument proposal was passed by the A&H College Curriculum Committee today. Before I move it along to the University Curriculum Committee, I just wanted to see if your Advisory Committee had gotten back to you. Please let me know.

Thanks,

Ryan Cheek  
Assistant Director of Forensics  
Department of Communication  
Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities  
Weber State University  
[801-626-6438](tel:801-626-6438)  
[ryancheek@weber.edu](mailto:ryancheek@weber.edu)

On Nov 7, 2014, at 11:17 AM, Kathleen Herndon <[kherndon@weber.edu](mailto:kherndon@weber.edu)> wrote:

Ryan,  
I'll forward this syllabus to my Advisory Committee and ask for their input and will get back to you.  
K. Herndon

On Thu, Nov 6, 2014 at 1:59 PM, Ryan Cheek <[ryancheek@weber.edu](mailto:ryancheek@weber.edu)> wrote:

Hello Dr. Herndon and Dr. Kuehls,

The Department of Communication will be submitting a new course proposal to the A&H College Curriculum Committee on November 12th. The new course will be COMM 1270 Analysis of Argument and is modeled after a course by the same prefix, number and title that is offered at the University of Utah and Salt Lake Community College. We've identified two existing courses that potentially overlap with the focus on argumentation. First is ENGL 2010 Intermediate College Writing and second is PHIL 1250 Critical Thinking. We believe that the proposed course differs substantially in its rhetorical focus on argument in public discourse, but in the spirit of cooperation, we would like feedback from both the Department of English and the Department of Political Science & Philosophy indicating support, opposition or indifference to the current proposal. I've attached a sample syllabus to this email. If I could get feedback by November 11th, I would be very grateful. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ryan Cheek  
Assistant Director of Forensics  
Department of Communication  
Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities  
Weber State University  
[801-626-6438](tel:801-626-6438)  
[ryancheek@weber.edu](mailto:ryancheek@weber.edu)

**From:** Robert Fudge robertfudge@weber.edu  
**Subject:** Course Proposal  
**Date:** November 11, 2014 at 2:00 PM  
**To:** Ryan Cheek ryancheek@weber.edu  
**Cc:** Thom Kuehls tkuehls@weber.edu

---



Dear Ryan,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to review your course proposal. While there are certainly differences between this course and the existing courses you identify, there are also enough similarities to cause me concern. Students in ENGL 2010 routinely learn about the Toulmin and Rogerian methods, while students in PHIL 1250 are well-versed in Aristotelian syllogistic logic. Students in 1250 also learn how to diagram arguments using the Beardsley method, and students in both courses learn about informal fallacies (more extensively in PHIL than in ENGL). Now, interestingly, when I look at the weekly course outline at the bottom of the syllabus, this looks quite a bit different from what I offer in 1250. More specifically, it looks like there is much less theory offered than in a typical critical thinking course and much more application in writing. But then, of course, you might be running afoul of the English department.

While I wouldn't go so far as to state that I oppose this course, I would need much more convincing that the material in this course is sufficiently different in order for me to lend it my support.

Best,

Bob Fudge

---

Dr. Robert Fudge, Associate Professor and  
Philosophy Program Coordinator  
Weber State University  
Dept. of Poli Sci and Philosophy  
1299 Edvalson Street, Dept. 1203  
Ogden, UT 84408-1203

(801) 626-7046 \*\*\* [robertfudge@weber.edu](mailto:robertfudge@weber.edu)  
<http://faculty.weber.edu/rfudge/>