



## **SPEECH AND DEBATE MINOR AT UVM**

[debate.uvm.edu/minor.html](http://debate.uvm.edu/minor.html) - 802-656-0097 - [alfred.snider@uvm.edu](mailto:alfred.snider@uvm.edu)

The Speech and Debate program offers practical instruction useful for students in almost every area of study. The program focuses on the use of communication for influence, cooperation and critical decision-making. Students study the theories of using communication through persuasion and argument to influence others, gain compliance and arrive at superior methods and solutions. These theories are then utilized through practical instruction and critiqued performances in practical communication skills, including public speaking, group discussion, message composition, communication criticism, message evaluation and decision-making through complex communication processes such as debates. Students are encouraged to take advantage of additional opportunities for public performance, individually designed study, roles as teaching assistants in basic courses and international performance, competition and training.

Degrees/Minors Offered: Undergraduate minor in Speech and Debate.  
18 credits, 9 at or above 100 level.

Career Directions: Very few minor areas of study are more applicable to professional and personal life than Speech & Debate. No matter your field, you will need to design communication to influence and inform, engage in effective communication in a variety of contexts and evaluate communication events. Speech and Debate study can provide you with the critical communication skills you will need for success. Experience in debating has been shown to be a benefit for admission to prominent graduate programs in many areas. Many Speech and Debate minors go into professions such as law, business, education, public service, social services, management and many others.

### **SPCH 011 - Effective Speaking**

Fundamentals course in effective, informative, and persuasive public speaking and critical listening. Includes theory and practice.

### **SPCH 071 - Fundamentals of Debate**

An introduction to intercollegiate debate, students learn basics of argumentation & national debate tournament/cross examination debate. Students travel to tournaments. Pre-requisite: SPCH 011.

### **SPCH 072 - Citizen Advocacy & Debate**

This course explores citizen advocacy through the vehicle of debating. Students will engage in: preparatory research, in-class debating and discussion, debate adjudication, and public debate.

### **SPCH 031 ARGUMENT AND DECISION**

This course attempts to acquaint the student with the various approaches to the structure, utilization, evaluation, and critique of arguments. A very basic treatment will be given to major theoretical approaches to argumentation, The applicability and usefulness of different argumentative forms in different fields will be examined, criteria and methods for evaluating arguments within a decision process will be examined and students will be encouraged to apply class concepts to real arguments found in everyday experience.

#### SPCH 051 PERSUASION

This course attempts to acquaint the student with the subject of persuasion (attitude, belief, value, and/or behavioral change through communication). This is done through an examination of the components of the persuasive situation, a review of the various theories of persuasion, methods of enacting these concepts through student communication, and an application of these ideas to persuasive attempts we confront in society.

#### SPCH 083 RHETORIC OF REGGAE MUSIC

The purpose of this course is to examine the origins, characteristics, social phenomena, and messages to be found in an African-Caribbean musical form known as reggae music. Reggae music will be examined as a rhetorical movement and as a social movement. The province of rhetoric is to evaluate, criticize, and advocate. Reggae music does all of these.

#### SPCH 082 AFRICAN AMERICAN RHETORIC

This course will utilize the practical tools of rhetorical criticism to examine, attempt to understand and analyze the advocacy and discourse of African Americans throughout USA history. The methods utilized will include classical and contemporary African rhetorical theories as well as classical and contemporary theories of rhetorical analysis better known to European and North American scholars. Students will choose specific speakers and engage in a rhetorical criticism of some element of the discourse of that speaker.

#### SPCH 181 RHETORIC OF PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS

This course will attempt to focus on one area of public discourse (the Presidential election of 20xx) for comprehensive rhetorical analysis. Students will learn about presidential campaigns and will also isolate a specific portion of this discourse for individual study. Students will also learn about theories of rhetoric, style, construction, strategies, and the criticism and evaluation of rhetoric as applied to the presidential campaign.

#### SPCH 184 RHETORIC OF IVAN ILLICH

This course will focus on the non-fiction works of Ivan Illich (1926-2002), an influential social critic who questioned the assumptions of our daily lives. One of his main methods is to identify concepts that we almost universally accept and show how they work to actually become the sources of our failures. His works are also closely related to the field of communication, in that they deal extensively with symbols in politics, language use and social perspective, the dangers of linguistic formalism, and communication and gender.

#### SPCH 171 ADVANCED DEBATE

This course is designed for students who are interested in further study of competitive academic debate in the WUDC format. This course is designed to give these students opportunities to advance their debating skills by competing against other college debaters and learning advanced strategies and theories of argument. Students will work on their speaking, critical reasoning, and argumentation skills at an advanced level.

#### SPCH 196-197 READINGS AND RESEARCH IN SPEECH AND DEBATE

This course allows students to design their own academic projects in cooperation with a faculty member. This is an opportunity to pursue advanced studies in this area as mutually agreed on. The credits are variable.