COM 170-171: Forensics

Course Syllabus

COURSE:

This is a debate/forensics activity class designed to provide practical experience in the area of preparing and delivering public presentations of various types. (Credit Hours – 1)

PROFESSOR:

Instructor --	Merle Ziegler, PhD
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PREREQUISITES:

There are no prerequisites for this class. It is strongly suggested the student consider taking either the COM 304 or COM 305 class in conjunction with this class.

DISCLAIMER:

The instructor reserves the right to make modifications in the course calendar if circumstances warrant. All such modifications will be made with input from the class.

REQUIRED MATERIAL:

There are no required texts or materials for this course.

DESCRIPTION:

This is the introductory level course designed to maximize the students experience in many forms of public address. The course is focused around debate and forensic speaking activities. The student will participate in giving public speeches, oral interpretation, and debating. As the student develops their skill they may be encouraged to compete in inter-collegiate competition in these activities.

RATIONALE:

While the traditional public speaking and debate classes effectively teach the concepts and techniques associated with effective public communication they often fail to provide ample opportunity to practice those skills. The forensics classes provide this opportunity thorough on-campus practice as well as inter-collegiate competition.

OBJECTIVES:

- The student will be able to competently research a subject/topic with the aim of preparing a speech.
- The student will be able to construct effective speech introductions.
- The student will be able to competently structure the body of a speech.
- The student will be able to competently structure an argument.
- The student will be able to competently identify and use various types of supporting material in a speech.
- The student will be able to use varying delivery techniques in making a public presentation.
- The student will be able to make effective refutation.
- The student will assist fellow debaters and speakers in preparation for debates and speaking events

ATTENDANCE:

It is expected that each student will be present during the class sessions listed. Otherwise the class is structured the same as an independent study so each student will need to see the instructor for assistance as the need arises.

GRADING:

This is a pass/fail course. All activities must be completed satisfactorily for the student to receive a passing grade. Each student majoring in communication must pass this class in order to graduate.