Class days/time: M/W 5:30-6:45 p.m.  
Classroom: THMA 350  
Prerequisites: NA

Coach Contact Information

Instructor/Director: Sue Peterson  
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Telephone: 530-898-4771 (office); 530-592-9893 (cell)  
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Office hours:

Assistant Coach: Mark Faaita  
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Office hours:

Class Description and Expectations

Supervised preparation for participating in intercollegiate contests in debate, persuasion, informative speaking, oral interpretation, speeches to entertain, and oral interpretation events. Students will be taught to apply new knowledge and skills to improve individual and team performance. An understanding of the team concept and team unity will be stressed, while maintaining a focus on individual goals and performance to contribute to team performance.

The class can be taken for one-, two-, or three-units. Units are based on outside of class time commitment, which can be met through competition or public presentations, service learning, and/or peer coaching. Students are expected to keep track of their hours through weekly reports.

No more than 8 units of Forensics (CMST 339) may be counted toward total University requirements. 2 hours discussion, 3 hours activity. You may take this course more than once for a maximum of 6.0 units.

Student Learning Objectives

1. Students will be able to identify various genres of speech communication through applied exercises.
2. Students will research, evaluate and organize content for at least two types of oral presentations.
3. Students will demonstrate effective listening and evaluation skills through peer coaching.
4. Students will utilize feedback from coaches, judges and peers to revise and improve oral presentations.
5. Students will attend and participate in at least one intercollegiate forensics competition.
6. Students will apply knowledge of audience analysis and speech construction by providing peer feedback, moderating public sphere pedagogy events, and/or judging at speech and debate events.
Course Requirements: Progression Through the Forensics Experience

As a member of the class, you will learn about Forensics as an historical and current academic endeavor. Just like any competitive activity, there are rules and norms and a culture that is unique to Forensics. In the interest of making sure that you learn about the activity and its relationship to Communication Studies, we have established a progression of activities that will provide you with the best possible experience.

- **EXPLORE**: Attend a tournament as an "explorer" and then reflect on it afterward. Watch a minimum of five “rounds” of competition and write a reflection based on questions provided. OR Attend an event in the community that has others actively participation in presenting material. This can be an improv event, an open-mic night, etc.

- **ENGAGE**: Attend a tournament as a competitor in two or more events (one can be limited prep). A requirement to watch at least two other events and another reflection is due. OR Present at an event in the community. Again, this can be improv, poetry slam, open-mic night, etc. Presentation must be recorded for purposes of reviewing, receiving coaching, and making improvements

- **EXPAND**: by attending a second tournament as a competitor in the same events. Limited prep plus two prepped event. OR Attend a second similar event with presentation based on coaching and suggested improvements

After this progression, individuals can attend additional tournaments both in region and out-of-region. At a minimum, everyone must complete “Explore” and “Engage”. Everyone is required to prepare AT LEAST one event for presentation and can use Impromptu as their second event.

Travel Team Requirements

In order to travel with the team and compete, one must:

1. enroll in at least one unit of 339 and
2. attend both practice sessions for at least three weeks prior to a competition.

Those traveling with the team will be expected to commit to uphold the IRA Code of Conduct signed at the beginning of the semester during all times they are representing the team. Violation of this Code of Conduct will result in disciplinary action which may include suspension, dismissal from the team and/or referral to Judicial Affairs.

Dropping and Adding

You are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. found [http://www.csuchico.edu/catalog/](http://www.csuchico.edu/catalog/). You should be aware of the deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes. You are also responsible for verifying you are enrolled in the appropriate class for the appropriate number of units before the add/drop deadline. You can do this through your portal. The Director can help you make changes or get you added or dropped if you cannot do so through your portal.

Assignments and Grading Policy

The class is graded on a 100 point scale:

- 94 – 100 points = A
- 90 – 93 points = A-
- 87 – 89 points = B+
- 84 – 86 points = B
- 80 – 83 points = B-
- 77 – 79 = C+
- 74 – 76 = C
- 70 – 73 = C-
- 67 – 69 = D+
- 64 – 66 = D
- 60 – 63 = D-
- 59 or less = F
ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION (25 points): You are responsible to attend weekly team class meetings. If you miss partial meetings, you will receive partial credit. You receive approximately one point a week simply for attending classes and being actively engaged.

PERFORMANCE (25 points): All students are expected to attend and/or perform in competitions or at on-campus/community events during the semester – see below for specific requirements for each unit total.

RESEARCH, WRITING AND PREPARATION (25 points): Each student is expected to meet certain benchmarks during the semester – you can consider them your “due dates” for assignments. This will often be an assignment that requires a combination of research, writing and/or performance practices.

Each student is expected to work on their performance objectives weekly. This work may entail researching, writing and rewriting speeches and/or debate arguments, reading debate files, practicing speeches out loud, updating an impromptu journal, etc. This work should be recorded in your Weekly Progress Report (online) as it is difficult to remember what exactly you did at the end of the semester.

This will be reviewed at the end of the semester. This weekly work may entail a lot in one week and very little in others, but over the course of the semester, you should be able to show proof of an average workload that is appropriate for the number of units and learning goals you have as a student in this class.

SERVICE-LEARNING/ROOKIE TOURNAMENT (25 points): Service-learning is defined as “A teaching technique in which students participate in a community service activity that is clearly related to the academic objectives of a course and/or major field of study. As a result, students gain relevant, hands-on experience while improving the quality of life of citizens in our region.” (Northwestern University).

ROOKIE TOURNAMENT (15 points): Each student is REQUIRED to attend and assist at the Rookie Tournament on Saturday, May 5. You will work as a judge, runner, or tab room helper throughout the tournament. Missing the Rookie means the highest grade you can achieve in the class is a B–.

ADDITIONAL SERVICE LEARNING (10 points): You can choose something off the following list of service-learning opportunities or you should feel welcome to design your own service learning experience, but it must involve providing a service to an organization on campus or in the community and the service must be directly tied to Speech and Debate in some way. Each unit requires two hours of service learning over the course of the semester.

Service Learning Opportunities:

- Presenting demonstration speeches in CMST 131 (public speaking) small sections. (30 min credit)
- Presenting demonstration debate in CMST 255 (argumentation and debate) sections. (1 hour credit)
- Peer coach students from public speaking and/or argumentation and debate and/or small group classes prior to their in-class presentations/speeches/debates.
- Moderating sessions at the Great Debate.
- Performing as a debater at Great Debate (will require some preparation beforehand – can be combined with the prior item). Two hours credit minimum.
- Judging at a high school speech and/or debate tournament. Time credit varies.
- Judging at a Service club speech competition (e.g. Rotary club, 4H, etc.). Time credit varies.
- Volunteering to perform and/or assist in Chico High School Speech and Debate class. Time credit varies.
- Volunteering to judge at the regional Academic Decathlon competition.
- Moderating Candidates Forum for Chico State AS elections in the Spring.

One unit requires two presentations, the Rookie Tournament, plus two additional service hours over the course of the semester.

Two units requires three presentations, the Rookie Tournament, plus four hours of service learning during the semester.

Three units requires four presentations, the Rookie Tournament plus six hours of service learning during the semester.
University Policies and Campus Resources

Academic integrity
Students are expected to be familiar with the University’s Academic Integrity Policy. Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at California State University, Chico, and the University’s Academic Integrity Policy requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. The policy on academic integrity and other resources related to student conduct can be found at: http://www.csuchico.edu/sjd/sja.shtml

In addition to the University’s policy, anyone competing in Speech and Debate is bound by the national organizations’ code, which can be accessed at http://www.americanforensics.org/book/code-standards.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act
If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case of travel or performance, please make an appointment with the Director as soon as possible. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the ARC Office (Accessibility Resources Center) to establish a record of their disability.

Title IX: Confidentiality and Mandatory Reporting
As a Chico State instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment for Chico State students. It is my goal that you feel able to share information related to your life experiences in classroom discussions, in your written work, and in our one-on-one meetings. I will seek to keep information you share private to the greatest extent possible. However, I am required to share information regarding sexual misconduct with the University.

Students may speak to someone confidentially by contacting the Counseling and Wellness Center (898-6345) or Safe Place (898-3030). Information about campus reporting obligations and other Title IX related resources are available here: www.csuchico.edu/title-ix

Student Computing
Computer labs for student use are available http://www.csuchico.edu/stcp located on the 1st floor of the Merriam Library Rm 116 and 450, Tehama Hall Rm.131 and the BMU Rm 301. In addition, if you sign a Squad Room Access form and fill out information for access cards at the beginning of the semester, your student ID will be coded to allow you entrance into the Tehama building and Tehama 350 for access to computers, printer, and copier. Please check your card to see if access is being granted in the fourth week of the semester to insure we get any problems fixed early in the semester.

With this access comes responsibility. The printer and copier come with a cost to the team, so please be reasonable in your usage. Because of past abuses of this right and responsibility, there will now be usage logs next to the printer and copier for people to record what they are printing and/or copying (e.g. what it is, number of pages, number of copies, etc.) and paper will need to be accessed from the Director’s office. If records are not being kept and paper/copies are still being used than I will require people to check out paper from the Director’s office for printing and/or will not give out copy codes to students for use. So, be responsible and keep the right to print and copy!

Squad Room Usage
The squad room is open to any member of the Speech and Debate team 24 hours a day unless a meeting is scheduled (these will be posted on the white board in the room). To continue to receive access you are expected to:

1) Clean up after yourself. There are faculty meetings in the room on a regular basis and the room and table need to be clean.

2) Be appropriate with computer use. Do not risk adding new viruses by clicking on unknown links or downloading random programs. Do not save all of your files on the computer – save them on your USB drive. Do not use the computer for unnecessary things (Facebook, playing games, etc.) if there are other people in the room who may be waiting for the computer. Do not print out book length materials on the printer because it’s “free”. Use recycled paper when printing out things you are going to throw away after use.
3) Be appropriate in behavior and language. This room is on a floor with faculty offices. Some are Teaching Assistants, but some are full professors and they are having meetings with students, talking to administrators, etc. So, screaming and yelling and running up and down the hallway and foul language coming out of our room can not only be a distraction but a poor reflection on the team as a whole.

4) Be smart about inviting friends to the room/scheduling meetings in the room. Do not give your card to people who are not on the team and allow them access to the room without you accompanying them. YOU are provided access, not others. If you would like to have a group meeting in the room and other team members are in the room, you should check with Sue first as the room may be scheduled for something else. It is not YOUR room, it is the TEAM’S room.

5) Finally, do not use the room as a storage garage for your clothes, materials for exercising, etc. If you need to leave something in the room, find a place out of the way to leave it (not in the middle of the table or the couch) and make sure to pick it up and take it home as soon as possible. There are anywhere between 30 and 40 people using the room in a semester – if all of you bring your stuff and leave it lying around, we will be buried! So, we will function under the rule that NONE of you should do that. There are cabinets, shelves, etc. where things can be put temporarily. Just keep it temporary!

Tournament Travel Basics

All costs for hotel, tournament fees and transportation will be covered by the team through the use of Instructionally Related Activities funding. In order to insure we have budget moneys available, we ask that students tentatively plan their semester travel at the beginning of the semester. We realize that changes may happen, but ask that you prioritize this plan by taking off work, scheduling events with friends and family at other times, etc.

Departures will vary according to tournament location and what events you are doing, but they may require you to miss classes. If this is the case, the Director can provide you with an excuse letter for your instructor, but this should be provided in addition to YOU giving them notification of tournament travel early in the semester as well. Most instructors are supportive of your academic endeavors in Speech and Debate, but need you to communicate with them directly about absences.

When we travel, you will share hotel rooms, eat as a team and travel in vans with other team members. Our goal is to make the travel as comfortable as possible for everyone, but realize that we are on a budget and traveling as a large group, so we can’t always meet every request for room sharing, food preference, etc. Flexibility goes a long way in making Forensics travel enjoyable and bearable.

Tentative Tournament/Event Calendar

Participant Contract – Due Week Three of Semester