

# CMST 339 A,B & C Spring 2024

## Intercollegiate Speech and Debate (Forensics)

**Class days/time:** T/Th 3:30 - 5 pm

**Classroom:** Thma 113

**Prerequisites:** NA

### Coach Contact Information

**Instructor/Director:** Sue Peterson  
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**Assistant Coach:** Brett Butler-Camp  
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**Assistant Coach:** Kristina Sanville  
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### Class Description

Supervised preparation for participating in intercollegiate contests in limited preparation speaking, limited preparation debate, platform speaking, oral interpretation and evidence-based debate. Students will be taught to apply new knowledge and skills to improve individual and team performance. Participation includes researching, writing and presenting information in a public and/or competitive forum.

The class can be taken for one-, two-, or three-units. Units are based on outside of class tournament competitions and community/campus presentation. Students are expected to keep track of their hours through an online portfolio.

No more than 8 units of Forensics (CMST 339) may be counted toward the total University unit requirement.

### Expectations

Be present. Be engaged. Be willing to respectfully challenge your own ideas and the ideas of others. Be willing to hear and attempt to understand a variety of perspectives. Keep in mind, this is not just a class, you are joining a team. You will often be asked to give feedback on the performances of your teammates and you will often receive feedback from your teammates. The overarching goal of this activity is to help you become the best speaker/performer/debater that you can be, which takes hard work. That being said, also be prepared to have fun.

### My Teaching/Coaching Philosophy for this Class

Each of you comes to this class for different reasons. Some of you have competitive aspirations, some of you are majors looking for elective units, some of you have a fear of public speaking you wish to overcome, and some of you may not know exactly why you are here at this point. It is my goal to serve all of you by providing what you want from the class.

That means that students should not be comparing themselves to each other, but only looking at whether they are doing the things that will allow them to achieve what they want from the class. The coaches will try to get to know you and what you want from the class – be honest with them, be honest with yourself.

Coaches may spend more time with individuals who identify themselves as having competitive aspirations, not because they like them more, but because that type of coaching takes more time than does the coaching for those who are just looking for elective units. Some students may spend hours upon hours in the Squad Room working on their speeches and debate arguments, others may choose to come to class and maybe a coach's meeting every once in a while. Both of these individuals may achieve an A in the class if they meet the requirements outlined in the syllabus. Both of these individuals will be allowed to travel to tournaments. But, one of these individuals will probably be competitively more successful than the other, and that is okay.

Speech and Debate offers each person a variety of experiences and provides a variety of benefits. When you try to MAKE others have the same goals and desires you have in speech and debate, you may become frustrated and unhappy. So, focus on YOUR goals and desires, what YOU can do to make those happen, and what the coaches can do to help you make those happen and leave others to their own experiences in Speech and Debate.

## **Student Learning Objectives**

This course aims to:

1. Familiarize students with competitive speech and debate events and tournament procedures.
2. Enhance writing and critical thinking skills through the drafting and editing of original work, the arranging of literary works to highlight and form arguments, and developing arguments from a myriad of angles on a myriad of topics to engage in debates.
3. Enhance vocal fluidity through limited preparation practice and competition.
4. Enhance the ability to assess and incorporate feedback on content and performances through the lens of audience adaptation and analysis.
5. Enhance leadership and teamwork skills through participating in peer-led practice sessions and providing support to the team and peers, including assisting in the organization and execution of The Rookie Tournament.
6. Enhance performative speaking ability through group and individual workshops as well as competitive exposure and feedback from coaches and judges from a myriad of institutions and backgrounds.
7. Compete in a minimum of two intercollegiate competitions in a minimum of two different events.

**Sue's goals for everyone in the class:**

- Choose two or more of the national competitive speaking events: prose, poetry, drama, program oral interpretation, dramatic duo, informative speaking, persuasive speaking, communication analysis, after dinner speaking, impromptu speaking, extemporaneous speaking, Lincoln Douglas debate, IPDA Debate
- Prepare a minimum of two of these events for competition
- Participate in at least two tournaments with the two or more events; learn from your experience, your ballots and watching others
- Evaluate and critique live performances of your peers to help them get ready for competitions and improve between competitions
- Assist in the organization and management of an on-campus tournament (Rookie Tournament) and performance (Speech Showcase)
- Assist in coaching and mentoring other students (for experienced students)

## **Tournament Competition Requirements**

In order to compete representing Chico State, one must:

- (1) enroll in at least one unit of CMST 339 and
- (2) be approved by a coach for competition in the event(s) you want to enter no later than the a week before the competition begins.

Those competing 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/>. 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**

**Rather than assigning grades via a point system, everyone in this course will begin the semester with an A. The grade will decrease if certain expectations are not met. This approach is meant to help ensure that students are held to an appropriate standard and to ensure the integrity of the team overall.**

### **ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION - 20% of grade**

You are responsible for attending weekly team class meetings and/or coaching appointments. You are allowed two absences with no lowering of this portion of your grade. Three absences will result in a lowering this portion of the grade to a B. Four or five absences = C; Six or seven = D and eight or more will result in a failing grade in this area.

### **TOURNAMENT AND COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE - 20% of grade**

All students are **REQUIRED** to perform in competitions during the semester: all students are required to compete in at least one tournament and be prepared to perform a minimum of two events. Preparation and practice for these performances are the focus of the weekly classes. So, students must arrive to class prepared to work with peers and coaches on practice performances and presentations.

1-unit requires attending two tournaments and/or one community/campus presentation.

2-units requires attending three tournaments and/or one community/campus presentation.

3-units requires attending three tournaments and/or two community/campus presentations.

### **RESEARCH, WRITING AND PREPARATION - 20% of grade**

Each student will have weekly assignments to complete that will be focused on preparing for competition through research, writing and/or recording practice speeches. All students will be required to write at least one platform speech/literary interpretation piece OR a debate case in the **first 4 weeks** of the semester and be prepared to perform that speech no later than Week 5. The speech does not need to be perfect at this point, but the sooner the speech is written, the sooner the coaching staff can begin helping with editing and polishing delivery.

### **ROOKIE TOURNAMENT - 20% of grade**

Each student is **REQUIRED** to help judge or administrate at the Rookie Tournament on **Saturday, May 4, 2024**. You will work as a judge, runner, and/or tab room helper throughout the tournament. Missing the Rookie Tournament means the highest grade you can achieve in the class is a B-.

### **FEEDBACK, REFLECTION AND LEADERSHIP - 20% of grade**

Each student will be responsible for reflecting on and incorporating feedback from coaches and tournament judges in a meaningful way, providing feedback to peers in a constructive and meaningful way, and taking leadership roles as requested by coaches. These feedback, reflection and leadership experiences should be kept track of in the student's online portfolio.

# 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 coursework. 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:

<https://sites.google.com/site/afanietnew2/products-services/afa-niet-charter>

<https://nationalforensicassociation.files.wordpress.com/2023/01/nfa-bylaws-january-2023-1.pdf> (pg. 20)

## 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 and appropriate accommodations.

## 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](http://www.csuchico.edu/title-ix)

## Tournament Expectations

Competing is a core part of this course, but it is also a privilege. As a university, a college, a department, and a team, there is a lot of time and resources invested into your competitive experience. **We expect you to treat travel and competition with respect.** Even when you are competing online, we will still be paying tournament entry fees for students to participate and your performance and behavior will still reflect on Chico State Speech and Debate. So, here are the minimum expectations:

- Never talk negatively about other schools, coaches, competitors, or judges while at or near the tournament (including team meals, etc.). You never know who is listening.
- Never discourage your teammates or competitors; uplift them or celebrate with them. What we do is difficult. We need each other to succeed and enjoy the experience.
- Win and lose with dignity.
- When observing other speech competitors, be an engaged audience member—no stone faces, texting, or looking around the room! Don't hesitate to laugh at your competition if they are funny. Even if your opponents do not respect you the way you deserve to be respected, you must respect them.

- Remember that all of your actions are a reflection of not only yourself, but also your coach, teammates, and school!

## **TENTATIVE TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE**

### **Spring 2024**

#### **JANUARY**

**22-26 OATS Online Tournament #5 - Asynchronous**

#### **FEBRUARY**

**2-4 Talk Hawk Invitational - Las Positas CC - All events and levels**

**23 - 25 NCFA Spring Championships - Butte CC/Chico State - All events and levels**

**26-3/1 OATS Online Tournament #6 - Asynchronous**

#### **MARCH**

**7-11 Pi Kappa Delta Conference and National Tournament - Glendale AZ - All events and levels  
- Must have at least four events - requires membership to PKD (team will pay for those attending the tournament)**

**14 - 17 National Online Forensics College Championships**

**22-24 Nick Burnett Debates - Sacramento State University**

#### **APRIL**

**5-8 AFA National Speech Tournament - Eau Claire, Wisconsin (qualifiers only)**

**18-22 NFA National Tournament - Central Michigan University (qualifiers only)**

**25 Speech Night Showcase**

**27 Rookie Tournament (Required attendance for all team members)**

#### **MAY**

**4 NCFA Spring Fling (experienced students judge; new students compete)**