

CMST 339 A,B & C Fall 2021

Intercollegiate Speech and Debate (Forensics)

Class days/time: MW 4:00 – 5:15 p.m.

Classroom: THMA 113

Prerequisites: NA

Coach Contact Information

Instructor/Director: Mark Faaita
Telephone: (530) 898-4629 (office), (310) 803-7452 (cell)
Email: mfaaita@csuchico.edu, mgfaaita@gmail.com
Office hours: MW 2:00-3:30 p.m. Tu

Teaching Assistant: Alex Wilson
Telephone: (209) 426-7420 (cell)
Email: cwilson2@csuchico.edu
Office: THMA 377
Office hours: Tu 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., W 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Teaching Assistant: Kristina Sanville
Telephone: (530) 521-7271
Email: kmsanville@csuchico.edu
Office hours: M 3:00-4:00 p.m., Tu 9:00-10:00 a.m.

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 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 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.

Student Learning Objectives

The aims of this course:

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 with the intention of highlighting and forming arguments, and developing arguments from a myriad of angles on a myriad of topics with the intention of engaging 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.

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:** Watch at least two competition “rounds” in a live or virtual environment to understand the performance norms and expectations in the competitive context. Complete an Observation Reflection on each of the rounds.
- **ENGAGE:** Attend a tournament as a competitor in one or more events (one can be limited prep). Complete a ballot review after receiving the ballots from the tournament. In addition to competing, watch at least one other event and complete another Observation Reflection. Again, in the virtual environment, you may have to do the last part through a recorded round from the tournament or a final round that is streamed for viewing.
- **EXPAND:** Attend a second tournament as a competitor in the same event as the first tournament plus one additional event. Students will complete a ballot review on both events’ ballots.

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.

“I don’t like sand. It’s coarse, and rough, and irritating and it gets everywhere.”
-Anakin Skywalker

Team Competition Requirements

In order to compete representing Chico State, one must:

- (1) enroll in at least one unit of 339 and
- (2) be approved by a coach for competition in the event(s) you want to enter.

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

The class is graded on a 500 point scale:

94 – 100% = A, 90-93% = A-, 87-89% = B+, 84-86% = B, 80-83% = 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 (100 points): You are responsible to attend weekly team class meetings and/or coaching appointments. You receive 10 points for attending and fully participating each week.

PERFORMANCE (100 points): All students are expected to attend and/or perform in competitions during the semester – one unit has a requirement of two competitions, two units has a requirement of three competitions and three units has a requirement of four competitions. Assignments related to this include attending the tournament, competing in the tournament and reviewing ballots after the tournament.

RESEARCH, WRITING AND PREPARATION (150 points): Each student will have weekly assignments to complete that will be focused on preparing for competition. All students will be required to write at least one platform speech in the first 4 weeks of the semester and be prepared to perform that speech. 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 (100 points): Each student is **REQUIRED** to help judge at the Rookie Tournament on **December 4th 2021**. 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-.

CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT (50 points): Each student is **REQUIRED** to participate in at least two events on campus that have been approved by the coaching staff. You will be made aware of these opportunities as they arise. An example of an on campus event that would be approved: participating in a workshop for CMST 131 students and providing feedback on delivery and content.

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 <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

Tournament Expectations

Because tournaments are online this semester, the expectations are a little different (no travel, no hotels, etc.), but there still are some important expectations. 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:

- If you sign up for a tournament competition, you are expected to attend ALL rounds of the tournament in the event for which you registered. If there is a serious and compelling reason (illness, emergency, etc.) for not making it to a tournament or a round of competition at a tournament, you are expected to contact the coaching staff ASAP and let us know. We will alert the tournament staff.
- While competing in a tournament, you are expected to follow the norms of competition. Do not leave a round unless the judges give you permission. Be sure to know the schedule and arrive at your competition rounds early so as not to interrupt competitors or put the tournament behind.
- Communicate with coaches throughout the tournament day. We are usually on a campus together so this can't be avoided, but in these virtual settings it is upsetting when students seemingly "disappear". We will have Remind groups, hangout rooms online (usually via the tournament, but sometimes we may set up our own Zoom room to hangout in during the tournament), and you will have our numbers to text. Just check in periodically and let us know how things are going, check in when you "arrive" for your part of the competition and check out when you "leave" the tournament!
- Always do your best to plan ahead and be ready to problem solve. We realize these are strange times and sometimes your internet goes out or slows down, your laptop or phone suddenly restarts, etc. So, have some backup plans if possible.
- Dress for success. Although you are at home, these are tournament competitions. That means you need to be dressed for tournament competition! Business casual for debate, business professional for IE.
- Eat and drink lots of water! At tournaments, I can check on you and make sure you're eating and drinking water, etc. and we feed you sometimes. This is a little more difficult since you are at home! Be sure to eat well and drink lots of water to stay hydrated.