

UTEP FORENSICS PROGRAM

We're UTEP Forensics—The Talk of Texas!

Spring 2018 COMBINED 2201-2202 MASTER SYLLABUS

This syllabus presents an overview and specific details of the two Forensics Team courses, and is subject to change to fit student needs and/or alterations in the team travel schedule.

Any changes will be announced and posted as soon as possible.

NOTE: In addition to this Master Syllabus, updates on team travel schedule and other important materials will be both announced in class or posted online, often in BOX.

Instructional, Coaching and Support Staff

<u>Coach</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>email</u>	<u>Office Hours</u>
Director of Forensics				
Dr. Mary Trejo	Cotton 102	915-747-5431	mtrejo@utep.edu trejome@gmail.com	MW 7:20-8:20 PM; by appointment
Assistant Director of Forensics				
Dr. Carlos Tarin	Cotton 102		catarin@utep.edu	MW 3:00-4:20 PM
Debate Coach				
Michael E. Brooks	Cotton 100	915-747-6202	mebrooks@utep.edu	MW 8:30 AM-12 PM & 1-4:00 PM; F by appointment
Graduate Teaching Assistant				
Matthew Minnich	Cotton 103	915-525-9751	matthewminnich@yahoo.com	MW 2:30-4:00 PM & by appointment

UTEP FORENSICS PROGRAM OFFICE: COTTON MEMORIAL BUILDING, RM. 102

UTEP FORENSICS TEAM SQUAD ROOM: COTTON MEMORIAL BUILDING, RM. 103

Any Team member is welcome to use the squad room for quiet study at any time except when in use for Forensics classes or by team coaches. This is YOUR squad room!

UTEP Forensics Program Classes

COMM 2201, Forensic Debate, MW 4:30-5:50 PM, Cotton 103, Michael Brooks, Instructor

COMM 2202, Forensic Individual Events, MW 6:00-7:20 PM, Cotton 103, Mary Trejo, Instructor

UTEP Forensics Website: <http://organizations.utep.edu/forensics>

SEMESTER SCHEDULE—BASED ON PROJECTED TOURNAMENT TRAVEL

NOTE: The proposed tournament travel schedule will be issued and posted separately from this syllabus.

The two Forensics classes share a semester calendar which is dictated by our tournament schedule. Unlike standard lecture-oriented classes, in the two Forensics Practicums, **instruction and practice dominate each class day without variation; therefore, the only pertinent calendar is the tournament calendar (see below).** Last minute changes may be made to the team tournament travel schedule to respond to student needs, inclement weather, etc., so be sure to be aware of all information announced in class! Beyond days committed to travel to intercollegiate tournaments, all other class days are occupied by two activities: instruction and practice. To avoid creating a calendar with the same activity description, “team instruction and practice” repeated for each day, this syllabus will not list each day of the semester repetitively; rather, students are advised to be alert to important dates of team travel, which will be announced clearly and often. Please consult the University academic calendar to be aware of dates of interest, holidays, etc. **NOTE: Always come to class prepared to practice your events!**

IMPORTANT NOTE: See this syllabus for a detailed discussion of an essential element in the primary mission statement of the UTEP Forensics Program: civility and mutual respect. Without these key factors, there can be no cohesive Team culture. The UTEP Forensics Program is dedicated to maintaining appropriate and positive behaviors and a positive Team environment as fundamental to the personal achievement and growth of all its members.

For a more specific discussion, see the Team Handbook, which is now under revision, and will be issued shortly.

UTEP FORENSICS PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

Forensics training at UTEP is an outstanding educational experience that benefits the student, the university, and the community. The enduring legacy of forensics training in Debate, Public Speaking and Oral Interpretation of Literature is the ability to conceptualize and communicate ideas clearly, effectively, and with lasting resonance. The rigorous academic emphasis of forensics training serves the student and the university because it complements that offered in other academic programs and helps to produce better educated students who are more likely to succeed in undergraduate and graduate university studies in all fields.

Further, the contribution of an academically oriented and rigorously ethical forensics program to its sponsoring university lies also in its enhancement of the good reputation of that institution, for intercollegiate forensic competition is unique in that it provides a traditional and well recognized medium for measurement and comparison of a university's academic excellence. Forensics tournaments, which may be likened to classroom laboratory experiences in communication, have the virtue of being public events, with a great potential for generating positive publicity for the university and the community.

The UTEP Forensics Program is dedicated to the community of care model and to maintaining civility and mutual respect in an affirmative and enabling environment, providing positive encouragement and support to all. Participation in a strong and unified team of talented students, taught by benevolent and positive coaches, in which all adhere to the principles of civility and mutual respect, and who support and encourage each other, has been seen to promote intellectual endeavor, inspire creativity and, ultimately, can be a life-enhancing experience.

COMM 2201 & 2202 COMBINED MASTER SYLLABUS

I. RATIONALE AND OVERVIEW FOR FORENSICS CLASSES

WELCOME! You've chosen to enroll in one or both of the unique classes which support UTEP's competitive speech team! We're glad you've enrolled in Communication 2201, Debate, and/or Communication 2202, Individual Events. The two Forensics classes, Communication 2201 and 2202, are unique in several ways. These classes exist to instruct and train students in competitive level Debate, Public Speaking and Oral Interpretation of Literature, with a focus on intercollegiate competition. **Always come to class prepared to PRACTICE.**

TEXTBOOKS, TESTS: There are no text books, and no tests, although you will be given suggestions for supplemental readings as well as assignments depending on what events you choose to master. (See discussions of events, below, under specific details for each class.) The 2 Forensics classes are termed PRACTICUMS, because they are not lecture-based, but focus on instruction and PRACTICE. **Grading is 1 on 1, based on evaluation of each individual's progress.**

FORENSICS CLASSES MAY BE REPEATED FOR CREDIT, typically for 8 SEMESTERS: Because team members are allowed to earn credit while repeating these classes for the 8 long semesters of their national competitive eligibility, many in the class are returning members. We encourage our many newcomers who enroll each semester to ask experienced team members as well as our multiple coaches for information and help. Most mainstream team members enroll in both classes each semester; team captains and scholarship and other financial awards recipients customarily enroll in both classes. You are encouraged to enroll in both classes as well, for a total of 4 credit hours of Forensics per semester, although enrollment in one 2- credit hour class is sufficient to allow you to work to qualify to compete for UTEP on the UTEP Speech Team.

MULTIPLE INSTRUCTORS: Each class has one Instructor of Record; in practice, you will be coached not only by the Instructor of Record but multiple instructors, including our graduate teaching assistant, peer coaches and guest experts, for each course, making the instructor/student ratio very high. Having the luxury of multiple coaches/instructors gives you as a student a better chance at learning.

HONORS CREDIT: Both classes may be taken for honors credit. Request guidance on enrolling for honors credit from the University Honors Program, and then seek approval and supervision from the course Instructor of Record, either Dr. Trejo for Individual Events, or Coach Michael Brooks for Debate.

COMMUNICATION 2201 & 2202; SHARED COURSE OBJECTIVES

Instruction will be centered on idea creation, research, idea development and presentation. You will learn how to create ideas, research them, develop them, organize your speech or presentation, write and revise it, and polish your delivery.

You will be instructed in many skills which enhance your communication of ideas, such as:

- idea focusing and development
- use of supporting ideas, specific details and analysis
- enhanced research skills
- design of organizational structure using classic structural patterns
- logical strategies

- effective wording, both written and spoken
- smooth and powerful spoken delivery skills
- mastery of the rules of intercollegiate forensic competition

LIBRARY RESEARCH is a must; the library should become one of your go-to places on campus. Also, you will be encouraged to expand your knowledge of on-line research from legitimate sources.

DESIRED OUTCOME OF FULFILLMENT OF COURSE OBJECTIVES

First, the projected outcome for each of the forensics courses is focused on the shared course objectives cited. Each student is expected to master the skills listed above. Please keep these shared course objectives in mind as you learn and develop your skills and become a more powerful communicator. In the short range, learning the skills listed above will prepare you to compete in intercollegiate speech tournaments, if you choose to try out to add competition to your educational experience. However, even if you do not want to compete, you can become a more organized thinker and a more effective writer and speaker after you learn the skills taught.

In the long term, the learning objectives of the forensics classes, when achieved, tend to be life-changing. The impact of forensic training on students is both positive and powerful. Forensics is often a route to better grades, increased motivation for success, and refinement of skills for success in college; a majority of our students go on to graduate school or other advanced training. Forensics training serves not only our campus but also the community in that it is an historic and recognized pathway to success in business and in public life. It is an important goal of the UTEP Forensics Program to prepare its students in the best way possible to become the fine future teachers, administrators, and leaders who will empower the local, national, and world communities in years to come.

NOTE: Please see specific listing of projected student outcomes in the more detailed discussions of each forensics course later in this syllabus.

MULTIPLE INSTRUCTORS PROVIDED

In both Forensics Team classes, instruction will be conducted by multiple faculty members, coaches or peer coaches, often several all on the same day, with instruction and practice being conducted in the Squad Room, the Director's office, Mr. Brooks' office, the hallway, and various empty classrooms. The list at the top of this course description gives you an overview of some of the trained persons who will be involved in instruction, with their contact information and office hours specified.

COACHING TEAM: All the instructors/coaches/guest coaches and the faculty coaches (Trejo, Brooks, Tarin) function as a coaching team. Supervision and coordination over all Program instruction and activities will be provided by the Director of Forensics, Dr. Mary Trejo, whose responsibilities include the following: (1) to guarantee equal instructional opportunities to all Program students, (2) to ensure transparency in sharing Program activity and records, and (3) to promote productive collaboration among the various coaches for the benefit of all the students. Any problem with an individual instructor should be brought to Dr. Trejo for investigation and resolution.

Because we customarily offer our students multiple teachers, this syllabus and course description statement is designed to give a good overview of the course and guidelines to go by, with more detailed information and instruction often being covered by individual instructors. Beyond this document, as the semester progresses, there will be some distribution of information in class, and a

good deal more will be posted online for all students to view. Instructions on accessing online posting will be announced in class and otherwise made available to all.

CHOICE OF TRACKS: COMPETITIVE FORENSICS TRACK OR EDUCATIONAL FORENSICS TRACK

The Forensics Program classes, COMM 2201 and 2202, have two missions:

- To instruct and train speech and debate competitors; and
- To instruct and familiarize students who do not wish to focus on competition with the forensic activity and its intellectual underpinnings.
- Therefore, if you want to be a college level speech competitor, a pathway to help you reach that goal will be designed for you on a 1-on-1 basis.
- If you have enrolled not to compete, but to learn and advance your understanding of the communication skills which make forensic training such a powerful resource, you will also be given a course of study designed for your needs.
- Class size is limited to make it possible to design a plan for each student.

Students choosing the **Competitive Forensics** track must try out for at least two intercollegiate tournaments during the semester. Students who are ready to compete in multiple events will be given preference.

- In COMMUNICATION 2201, as a rule, the team focus is on either the IPDA (International Public Debate Association) or on NPDA (National Parliamentary Debate Association) style, with the exception of some special opportunities when attending competitions such as the Pi Kappa Delta National Tournament.
- In COMMUNICATION 2202, three prepared Individual events, practiced to competition level, is the customary minimum for selection to attend tournaments.

Students choosing the **Educational Forensics** track are not required to travel out of town and may choose not to compete but to focus on learning solely. Alternate practical and written assignments will be given.

BASIS OF GRADING

The Instructor of Record is the final authority on grading for each class. However, the UTEP Forensics Program coaching team collaborates and shares information which is intended to contribute to improved instruction and to enhanced assessment of student performance.

Each semester UTEP Forensics enrolls students who have a wide range of training in Forensics competition, from novices to experienced competitors. The members of the class, and of the Team, thus have a wide range of background and experience in Forensic competition. Therefore, grading is done on a 1-1 basis, with strong consideration being given to experience level and degree of improvement. **By utilizing one-on-one evaluation, novices are not compared against experienced students and may earn high grades for progressing significantly at their own level. A beginner can thereby earn an A in the course by being judged at a beginner's level without being compared to a more experienced speaker.**

With grading being done on an individual student-by-student basis, your coaches, in collaboration, will evaluate each individual's learning and growth in the discipline throughout the semester. In every case, the decision of the Instructor of Record is the final authority.

NOTE: INSTRUCTION AND GRADING ARE DONE ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS, WITH MANY CHOICES PROVIDED FOR THE STUDENT.

CREATING A POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT IN CLASS AND ON THE ROAD

The UTEP Forensics Program is dedicated to maintaining a positive learning atmosphere characterized by **civility** in all facets of our activities.

The website maintained for the Dean of Student Affairs, UTEP, has an excellent statement of mission pertaining to civility and mutual respect, which is cited below. This serves as a model for the UTEP Forensics Team as it does for all UTEP students.

The Division of Student Affairs believes that there should be civility and mutual respect amongst all members of the Miner Community. The UTEP Community of Care program was developed to encourage positive, respectful behavior of our students, encouraging reciprocity (treating others as we wish to be treated), and other behaviors that create a positive environment in which to excel academically, professionally and socially. The program includes activities and initiatives to encourage positive behavior and/or awareness about important issues facing college students.

Student Affairs website, <http://sa.utep.edu/dean/community-of-care/>

ON CAMPUS: Our classroom and discussion boards will be a safe place for all ideas. Interpersonal communication is based on the concept that we are all unique individuals entitled to our own opinions and beliefs. If we want others to respect our individuality and uniqueness, we must respect theirs.

Therefore, any comments, jokes, or remarks that denigrate the worth of an individual's physical or mental ability, body size, genetic information, veteran's status, religion, race, creed, ethnic background, sexual orientation, or gender identification are inappropriate and detract from your effectiveness as a speaker/writer and from your credibility as a member of society. Our in-class and online interactions must be conducted in a courteous and professional manner.

Consider adopting an "ethic of reciprocity" for your interpersonal communication, whatever the medium. Please be courteous to others. Practice civility in all instances.

If you are late for normal class meetings, come in and take your seat. If you arrive late during student presentations, please wait outside of the classroom until the presenter has finished or you hear applause. To promote Team unity, **CIVILITY RULES!**

ON THE ROAD; TOURNAMENT TRAVEL IS PART OF THE CLASSROOM: While most fields of university study are oriented toward lecture-intensive theoretical classroom instruction, forensics is dominated by the practical experience of competition between peers in settings removed from the home classroom and campus. Travel to intercollegiate tournaments is the central activity of any forensics program, and may be defined as the fundamental and distinguishing characteristic of forensic training. Travel to intercollegiate forensics tournaments is therefore a central, rather than peripheral, part of a student's participation as a member of the UTEP Forensics Team.

Student travel to any forensics tournament may thus be seen as analogous to a business trip, in which the individual employee represents the employer; it must correspondingly be seen as a practical laboratory extension of class instruction in one or both of the two Forensics practicums: COMM 2201, Practicum in Forensic Debate, and COMM 2202, Practicum in Forensic Individual Events. In this important analogy, the student while traveling as a member of the UTEP Forensics Team is participating in a practical laboratory experience which is directly a part of UTEP class enrollment and activity. The considerable educational benefit derived both significantly and sufficiently rewards the student for the effort invested. No portion of such travel should be seen as *personal* recreational time. **In addition to complying with state and federal laws, UTEP Forensics team members are expected to act in accordance with UTEP conduct standards while traveling to represent the University.**

GOOD WILL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNIVERSITY: Every UTEP Forensics Team member, like members of other specially selected campus groups, is considered a good will representative of the University and is expected to maintain a standard of conduct higher than that expected of other students. Any action or statement which negatively impacts the good reputation of the University is unacceptable.

CONDUCT AND SOCIALIZING: Socializing at the tournament and at the tournament hotel is an accepted and attractive part of tournament travel. However, behavior must remain within the standards of appropriate and acceptable conduct, and must in no way bring embarrassment to the University. Be positive in your interactions with teammates and members of the teams of other colleges. Offending, denigrating or criticizing any student, coach or college is contrary to the culture of intercollegiate forensics and reflects poorly on our team and our University. Conduct must always reflect positively on the University. If any Team member brings dishonor to the University, that is a violation of conduct standards and will be dealt with accordingly. See the Team Handbook or ask any coach for more information on conduct requirements.

YOUR PERSONAL BEHAVIOR REFLECTS ON UTEP

Squad members are reminded that their behavior and language use reflects on the reputation of our university. Courteous, appropriate behavior is not only important, but directly contributes to competitive acceptance, not only for you, but for your teammates.

COURTESY TO ROOMMATES, HOTEL GUESTS AND EMPLOYEES

Students must sleep in the rooms assigned to them. Courtesy to roommates is required. Conflict with roommates should be reported to coaches. A sensible effort to get enough sleep must be supported by all roommates. This means low noise volume, and lights out early enough to allow all approximately eight hours of sleep a night. Do not keep roommates awake by staying up after hours, even to practice. To allow all roommates undisturbed sleep, friends and family should be told not to telephone after hours. Curfews set by coaches must be observed.

GROOMING

Clothing, although it need not be expensive, should be neat, clean and appropriate to tournament travel or competition norms. Personal cleanliness is required. Be sure to pack needed toiletries. Roommates must plan time to allow each person to shower and prepare. Daily showers are a must!

PROMOTING TEAM UNITY THROUGH PRACTICING CIVILITY: Travel is tiring. Tempers can grow short; teammates can be offended or injured by casual words or actions. Friendships can be broken irrevocably, sometimes by thoughtless behavior. Common sense and the practice of civility are key to creating more team unity and a stronger team. Civility means to use courtesy and politeness, to choose polite actions or expressions, and ultimately to show that you have been brought up correctly

to show graciousness and consideration toward others. Negatively framed aggressive or simply insensitive behavior is counter to team unity. Some examples include the following: smoking in non-smoking areas, like hotel rooms, when others rooming there are non-smokers; ignoring other's needs or personal space in van travel or rooming; taking over a shared hotel room and keeping others from sleeping or studying; noisy behavior or music which prevents others from sleeping or studying in the team van; making negative comments about a team mate's appearance, ideas, or preferences; being verbally aggressive; and simply being controlling and/or rude to teammates.

NOTE: if any team member, whether a student or a coach, is so lacking in civility or so inappropriate in behavior toward you and/or other teammates that you are uncomfortable, please take this problem to Dr. Mary Trejo, Director of Forensics, for investigation and resolution. Don't hesitate to take your problems to other coaches or team captains who may be traveling with you or who may be more convenient to approach at the time of the incident; it is their responsibility to inform Dr. Trejo of the problem, but in the meantime they may be able to take steps to resolve the situation and/or protect you. You deserve to be treated fairly and with respect, and you have the right to complain. If you feel your rights under Title IX have been violated, you have the option of taking your concerns to the Office of the Dean of Students or the EEOC office. The familiar advice, "See something; say something," works to protect team standards and uphold the reputation of UTEP Forensics.

POLICY ON ALCOHOL USE

As travel to forensics tournaments is considered to be a practical laboratory experience as an extension of enrollment in UTEP Forensics classes, UTEP Forensics observes a no-alcohol policy. Regardless of their age, team members are expected to consume no alcohol while representing UTEP in university-sponsored travel. No alcoholic beverages are permitted at any time in hotel rooms assigned to students and rented by the UTEP Forensics Program regardless of the age of the student occupants.

REPRESENTING THE UNIVERSITY IN A PROFESSIONAL MANNER:

Many aspects of behavior have impact on team morale and performance, as well as on how the team is perceived by students and faculty from other colleges. Professional behavior will serve team goals best. Some components of professional behavior deal with promptness and preparedness. Some examples include the following: Respecting scheduled times such as departure times set for tournament travel, and, during tournaments, waking up early enough to be dressed, groomed and ready to leave at the time set for departure to campus are very important examples of professionalism. Unpreparedness or poor time management can hurt the team's image in the eyes of others, as well as actively deter other team members in their ability to be fully prepared. Roommates are negatively impacted if a team member does not manage time for showering and getting ready in such a way to give roommates an equal and fair chance to use the facilities. All roommates need to show respect and courtesy to their teammates and not "hog" time and facilities. A late departure caused by tardy team members has the potential to rob competitors of sufficient time to warm up properly for performance. NOTE: There are often good reasons for lateness, ranging from illness to wardrobe malfunctions; however, no matter what the reason, it is up to the person who missed the van to arrange to get to the tournament. It is in the interests of all team members to stick to announced departure times. Therefore, if a team member is not ready by the time of the announced departure time, rather than delay and impede other team members, that individual will need to make arrangements to travel to the tournament; i.e., take a taxi. Such alternate transportation arrangements will be paid for by that individual.

Arrival at the tournament prepared and in time for rounds is mandatory. The image of the team is hurt by unprofessional behavior such as not being completely groomed upon arrival at the

tournament. Finishing grooming, make-up or hair dressing at the tournament raises red flags, suggesting to other teams that UTEP competitors are unprofessional. Professionalism makes us look like winners.

TOURNAMENT ROUNDS, TIMING:

It is necessary to be on time for rounds. Be sure to know the tournament schedule, and watch for changes to that schedule, which should be announced, but often are not announced or posted as clearly as we might like. Check postings, watching for breaks and for schedule changes.

SPECIFIC NOTES ON COMMON SENSE IN VAN TRAVEL: Many hours will be spent in van travel to tournaments. The team van is to be primarily a rolling study hall. Speech team folks are typically high achievers academically with high grade point averages to keep up. The largest percentage of van travel time should be quiet time in the van so that teammates can study, work on pieces or practice. Some very good practice of events occurs on vans! If you like loud music, use head phones. Don't force your musical taste on others via the van sound system. Occasionally the team may enjoy sharing music on a trip, but for most of the time, keep the van time focused on study and practice.

Your job is to make the team a positive experience for all. Be helpful and courteous with your teammates. These simple guidelines are just good common sense!

CLASSROOM ACCOMODATIONS

Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, mandates the University's support for students with access and accommodations. UTEP requires students needing accommodation then to contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services. If you have a condition which may affect your ability to perform successfully in this course, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or the director of the Center for Accommodations and Support Services. You may call 915.747.5148 for general information about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the rights that you have as a UTEP student with a disability. Individuals with disabilities have the right to equal access and opportunity.

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in Forensics classes are encouraged to contact the office of the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS), Room 106, Student Union East, 915-747-5148, as soon as possible to ensure that any necessary accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

REPRESENTING UTEP WITH GOOD ETHICAL PRACTICES AND HONOR

UTEP FORENSICS PROGRAM POLICY ON RESPONSIBILITY AND ETHICS: Along with all institutions of higher learning, The University of Texas El Paso prides itself on its standards of academic excellence; students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, submitting work for credit that is attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and any act that gives or attempts to give unfair advantage.

Your work is to be your own. On-campus academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, submitting work attributable to another person, taking an exam for another person, or any act that gives a student unfair advantage over another) will be dealt with according to standard University procedures which

often includes being reported to the Dean of Students and having your work examined. Possible outcomes may include a failing grade on the assignment and/or in the course, probation, suspension or dismissal. Please be familiar with university policy regarding academic dishonesty.

SEE:

<http://sa.utep.edu/oscar/academic-integrity/>

<http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?alias=admin.utep.edu/hoop>

Do not hesitate to ask coaches to help you understand these important ethical standards.

For intercollegiate speech and debate competition, there are clearly stated rules and ethical guidelines which are mandatory for all competitors. As these rules are quite specific and lengthy, you are asked to read them as posted on the websites of the forensic organizations listed below.

It is the responsibility of each person who is selected to represent UTEP as a member of the UTEP Forensics Team to be aware of and in full compliance with all policies on ethical competition and appropriate behavior, including UTEP team policies, University regulations, and rules and guidelines set out by national forensics organizations. Team coaches may be consulted for guidance, but each competitor is urged to read, and understand, the ethical responsibilities which pertain both to class work and to intercollegiate speech and debate competition. SEE IMPORTANT LINKS BELOW.

American Forensic Association:

<http://www.americanforensics.org/>

and

<https://sites.google.com/site/afanietnew2/products-services/afa-code-of-standards>

AFA-NIET: <https://sites.google.com/site/afanietnew2/>

NPDA: <http://www.parlidebate.org/>

IPDA: <http://www.ipdadebate.info/>

UTEP FORENSICS PROGRAM SERVICE AWARD/SCHOLARSHIP POLICY

All students enrolled in Forensics Practicums 2201 and 2202 are encouraged to submit applications for financial aid each semester. Financial assistance is awarded in compliance with stated policies and after consultation between instructors/coaches. UTEP Forensics offers equal opportunities to all students. To apply for assistance:

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- (1) Write a letter of application for aid addressed to Dr. Mary Trejo, Director of Forensics, UTEP.
 - (2) Include a resume or list of achievements, both in forensics and other areas.
 - (3) Include all college transcripts; if you are a first-term freshman, high school transcripts are required. Online transcripts are acceptable.
 - (4) Also remember: if you submit formal applications to the UTEP Scholarship Office and the Office of Student Financial Aid, include photocopies of these applications in your application to Dr. Trejo, who will maintain records.
 - (5) Dr. Trejo will share all applications with the coaching team for collaboration on decision making.
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CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY

Forensics classes are each scheduled to meet twice a week for a total of fifteen scheduled class meetings for the semester. Missing one class represents missing one half week of instruction and work. While zero absences are desirable, as a general rule, **no more than three unexcused or undocumented absences will be excused without penalty.** Those hoping to earn service awards should have **no** unexcused absences. After the first three unexcused absences, each successive unexcused absence has the potential to result in the lowering of the semester grade by up to one letter, or the coach may choose to exercise the faculty drop procedure. FOR SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES: Reasonable excuses covering unavoidable absences which are due to causes which are serious in nature *and are clearly documented* will be reviewed and decided on a case-to-case basis by the Director of Forensics in consultation with the other two faculty coaches: the Assistant Director of Forensics and the Debate Coach. As in all cases, the decision of the Instructor of Record for each of the two classes takes precedence.

TOURNAMENT ATTENDANCE IS AN EARNED PRIVILEGE, NOT MANDATORY

Although the primary focus of Forensics practicums is to attend and compete at intercollegiate tournaments, tournament competition is not necessary to earning course credit. For those students who either do not qualify or do not wish to travel to tournaments, alternate assignments or modifications of existing assignments will be made on a case-to-case basis, if necessary. Please see the discussion of the Competitive Forensics track and the Educational Forensics track.

DOCUMENTATION AND RECORDS REQUIRED FOR COMPETITIVE EVENTS

American Forensic Association rules require that all prepared events must be documented.

- for Oral Interpretation, a copy of the original literature including title page, publication information, website information when applicable AND a full copy of the cutting must be submitted to all coaches prior to tournament departure.
- For Public Address, a full copy of the speech WITH clear citations of references used (MLA in-text citation format is best) plus a Works Cited Page or Bibliography AND photocopies of all research sources used must be submitted to all coaches prior to tournament departure.
- **SUBMIT ALL EVENTS, ALONG WITH DOCUMENTATION, TO ALL FACULTY COACHES.**

REMINDERS ON YOUR CHOICE OF TRACKS

COMPETITIVE FORENSICS TRACK OR EDUCATIONAL FORENSICS TRACK:

Students choosing the **Competitive Forensics** track are expected to try out for at least two intercollegiate tournaments during the semester, although exceptions may be made by the Director of Forensics, the Assistant Director of Forensics, and the Debate Coach, in consultation, with decisions being made on a case-to-case basis. Students who are ready to compete in multiple events will be given preference in selection of traveling squads to tournaments. Three prepared events is the customary minimum for experienced competitors for selection to attend tournaments. In COMM 2201, assignments regarding number of events expected for travel will be made by the debate coach in consultation with the Director and the Assistant Director of Forensics. In the case of COMM 2202, the Individual Events class, the student must prepare at least three tournament ready events. The student's level of experience will be considered in both classes. Some modifications may be available for 1st semester beginners.

Students choosing the **Educational Forensics** track are not required to travel out of town. Alternate practical and written assignments will be given. Please see your Instructor of Record (Trejo or Brooks) for specific assignments. In some cases, field trips to speech tournaments held at secondary schools in the local area may be assigned, with students being asked to learn from to observing and/or judging in these tournaments.

GRADE POINT REQUIREMENTS

While emphasizing excellence in competition, high academic achievement remains a top priority for UTEP Forensics. At least a 2.5 overall grade point average is necessary to qualify to represent the university in intercollegiate competition. A 3.0 GPA is required for scholarship eligibility, and is desired in the determination of Student Activity Awards, often called service awards.

SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATIONS

In recognition of the demands of travel in terms of time and energy, as a general rule, students whose goal is tournament competition are urged not to enroll in more than twelve, or in exceptional cases, thirteen credit hours for the semester. Tuesday-Thursday classes should be chosen over a Monday-Wednesday-Friday class schedule, as tournament travel usually requires missing Friday and some Monday classes. Some trips begin Thursday morning and end Monday night, so you will want to have your academic classes well in hand so that missing some class meetings will not endanger your grade. When consulting the projected tournament schedule, remember to add travel days to the scheduled official dates listed. As always, The UTEP Forensics Program will pay for travel, lodging, and tournament entry fees and will issue a modest daily food stipend.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON TRAVEL PLANS: Firm commitments to travel need to be made early so that hotel contracts can be arranged and airfare booked (when applicable). Some hotels have stiff penalties for dropping reservations, so we must plan well in advance. **Your commitment to each trip is needed ASAP!** After the semester's tournament schedule is announced, notify both **FACULTY COACHES** of which trips you wish to qualify for in writing, preferably by email. After you request to be included on a trip, you may need to audition to be selected to compete. Competition readiness and number of events prepared will be a factor in choosing travel squads. Of course,

common sense dictates that sometimes serious schedule or health emergencies will make changes necessary. The goal is to make sincere commitments to travel, and not to drop frivolously.

MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH YOUR PROFESSORS: Discuss tournament travel plans with your professors SOON! Do this in order to determine whether each your professors will honor University-sponsored travel excuses (you will be provided official excuses from the Dean of Students), and if they will allow work missed while you represent the University in intercollegiate competition to be made up. Let coaches know if you have any problems. **Your academic performance should never be sacrificed.**

PI KAPPA DELTA: JOIN OUR NATIONAL HONORARY SOCIETY!
“The Art of Persuasion, beautiful and just.”

The UTEP Forensics Program hosts a chapter of the national honorary society, Pi Kappa Delta. Our local chapter is the **Texas Psi Chapter**; we are a part of the **PKD Province of the Lower Mississippi**.

UTEP’s local Chapter Sponsor is Michael Brooks, UTEP Debate Coach.
 Immediate past Chapter Sponsor is Dr. Mary Trejo, Director, UTEP Forensics Program.

From the PKD website:

“Pi Kappa Delta is the oldest national collegiate forensic organization in the United States.

. . . The name Pi Kappa Delta was chosen because it comprised the first letters of the Greek phrase Peitho Kale Dikaia, "The art of persuasion, beautiful and just." The essential purpose of the organization was to bestow an honorary key on orators, debaters, and coaches. Through jewels, they showed the distinction of each member in terms of their order and degree.”

<http://www.speechanddebate.org/pkd>

Joining PKD gives you the membership required to compete in the PKD National and National Comprehensive tournaments. **Further, one payment buys you a lifetime membership in an organization which is a plus on your resume. AND, like any honorary society, members of PKD can wear PKD honor cords at graduation!**

II. SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMUNICATION 2201 & 2202

COMMUNICATION 2201, DEBATE

COMMUNICATION 2201, DEBATE; MW, 4:30-5:50; Instr.: Michael Brooks

Forensic Practicum: Debate (0-4) May be repeated for credit. 2 Credit Hours; 4 Total Contact Hours.

OVERVIEW OF DEBATE COURSE REQUIREMENTS

DEBATE COURSE OBJECTIVE: The objective of this course is to master the theories associated with argumentation and debate. Students will research and construct arguments and will be afforded practical lab experience in the oral presentation of debate; competitive experience will be provided for those whose level of preparation results in their selection for tournament travel.

EVALUATION OF THE COURSE:

- Participation, Attendance--10%
- Research--20%
- Case construction--20%
- Negative/Affirmative Blocks--20%
- Practice Debates--30%

NOTE: While the various forms of debate share common logical practices and argumentative methods, this class will be tailored to the focuses of either the IPDA (International Public Debate Association) or on NPDA (National Parliamentary Debate Association) style, with the exception of some special opportunities when attending competitions such as the Pi Kappa Delta National Tournament. Team focus will adapt to the strengths of the students enrolled in a given semester and to the type of debate offered in the tournaments we plan to attend.

The goal of this course is to offer instruction and practice aimed at making you skilled at logical, convincing argument, as you advocate for or against issues of public importance. You will be instructed in the following life skills: to learn to listen, understand, and respond to ideas you both agree and disagree with; to assess and analyze the quality and ultimate validity of arguments, both yours and the arguments of others; to evaluate information and statistics accessed in research, with attention given to evaluating the value of information found on the Web. Further, you will be taught how to engage in debate with strength tempered with civility, and to structure and organize arguments that will achieve your purpose, which is to convince your audience of the truth of your position.

As you progress as a debater, you should be able to determine what potential role a skill to present logical arguments can have in your personal life and in your interaction with society at large; also, you are expected to benefit from an increase in self-confidence, as you will be on the road to becoming a more trained and practiced communicator and debater.

Some specific information covered will be the accepted principles and skills of argumentation and debate, including reasoning, evidence, refutation, and briefing. Argumentation is often defined as the study of practical reasoning, the process of justifying decisions, in the presence of opposition, made under conditions of uncertainty (usually lack of complete information and conflicting values). Debate is an academic and political tool for helping audiences understand the difference between competing factual, legal, value, and policy positions.

Key course objectives include: 1. Learn the skills of argumentation, debate, and critical thinking. 2. Teach students to develop practical and effective methods of communication. 3. Prepare students for speaking situations in all aspects of life. 4. Assist students to advance their research and presentation skills.

PROJECTED STUDENT OUTCOMES: Desired student learning outcomes include: 1. Students will be able to construct appropriate factual, value, and policy claims. 2. Students will be able to research and evaluate evidence. 3. Students will be able to discriminate between valid and fallacious arguments. 4. Students will be able to build and advocate positions effectively.

IPDA & NPDA DEBATE STYLES: AN OVERVIEW

IPDA STYLE DEBATE: SEE <http://www.ipdadebate.info/>

FROM IPDA WEBSITE:

The Mission & Philosophy of IPDA

Founded in 1997, the International Public Debate Association is one of the fastest growing interscholastic debate associations in the nation with competitive programs ranging from California to Florida, from Texas to Michigan. Our mission is to provide an opportunity for individuals to develop their advocacy skills in a forum that promotes appropriate and effective communication.

Since its founding, IPDA has grown to include not only individual debate but also two-person team debate. It maintains three distinct divisions, allowing competitive opportunities for anyone who chooses to test their skills in this competitive arena. The Novice Division allows individuals to learn competitive debate with others with little or no experience. Our Varsity Division tests the more skilled and experienced debaters against one another while our Professional Division is accessible to collegiate alumni, members of the community and other individuals who retain the competitive spirit long after their scholastic careers have come to a close.

Complete eligibility requirements can be found in our **Constitution and Bylaws**.

NPDA STYLE DEBATE: SEE <http://www.parlidebate.org/>

FROM NPDA WEBSITE:

“The National Parliamentary Debate Association is the largest national intercollegiate debate organization in the United States, with between 200-250 schools attending at least one tournament during the course of the year. The NPDA is about encouraging extemporaneous two-on-two debate. The styles of debate vary across the country, from traditional public-centered debate to more policy-oriented debate. We believe that no matter where a debate occurs, students need to be prepared to debate about a variety of topics. We also believe that parliamentary debate fosters more knowledgeable and engaged citizens.”

Students are encouraged to consult forensic organization websites, specifically their bylaws and other governing documents, for more detailed information.

COMPARISON OF IPDA AND NPDA DEBATE FORMATS

IPDA DEBATE FORMAT

INDIVIDUAL DEBATE FORMAT

5 minute 1st Affirmative
2 minute Cross Examination (CX)

6 minute 1st Negative
2 minute CX

3 minute Affirmative Rebuttal
5 minute NEG Rebuttal

3 minute Affirmative Summary

IPDA TEAM DEBATE FORMAT

4 minute 1st AFF Constructive
2 minute 2nd NEG CX

5 minute NEG Constructive
2 minute AFF CX

4 minute 2ND AFF CONSTRUCTIVE
2 minute 1ST NEG CX

3 minute NEG Rebuttal
3 minute 1ST AFF Rebuttal
4 minute 2ND NEG Rebuttal
3 minute 2ND AFF Rebuttal

NPDA DEBATE FORMAT

7 minute 1st AFF speaker Constructive
8 minute 1st NEG speaker Constructive
8 minute 2nd AFF speaker Constructive
8 minute 2nd NEG speaker Constructive
4 minute 1st NEG speaker Rebuttal
5 minute 1st AFF speaker Rebuttal

COMMUNICATION 2202, INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

COMMUNICATION 2202. Individual Events; MW, 6-7:20 PM; Instr.: Mary Trejo

Forensic Practicum: Individual Events (0-4) May be repeated for credit. 2 Credit Hours; 4 Total Contact Hours.

OVERVIEW OF INDIVIDUAL EVENTS COURSE REQUIREMENTS

UTEP Forensics competes in the eleven standard events defined and sanctioned by the AFA-NIET. These may be subdivided into three categories: Extemporaneous, including Impromptu and Extemporaneous Speaking; Platform Speaking, including Informative, Persuasive, After-Dinner Speaking and Communication Analysis; and Oral Interpretation of Literature, including Prose, Drama, Poetry, Dramatic Duo, and Program Oral Interpretation.

COMM 2202 ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS AND CHOICE OF TRACKS

The minimum course requirement for COMM 2202, PRACTICUM IN FORENSIC INDIVIDUAL EVENTS is to prepare, practice, and perform at least three separate events. Students will choose either the Competitive or Educational tracks. Whether the Competitive or the Educational track is chosen, all students will be graded on the written and practical performance of these three events. In addition, students in the Educational track will be given other assignments designed to instruct them and enhance their understanding of the activity. Modifications to these requirements in the case of beginners will be made on a case-to-case basis.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS COURSE OBJECTIVE: The objective of this course is to prepare students to perform at competition level in intercollegiate forensics individual events. This high level of preparedness is expected for students on either the competitive or educational tracks.

Course goals are, first, to familiarize the student with the 11 individual events as sanctioned by the AFA-NIET. Then, to offer instruction and examples and encourage the student to conceptualize and create a minimum of three prepared events, which will be researched, prepared, refined and practiced in memorized and polished oral delivery. In the case of the **limited preparation events**, students will be instructed in keeping an impromptu notebook and in researching for the team extemporaneous speaking files. For **oral interpretation events**, the elements of oral interpretation will be presented for the student to practice and master; guidelines for theme performances vs. single author performances will be presented. For **public address events**, idea creation, focusing, research, development, organization, composition, revision, and delivery will be taught.

EVALUATION OF THE COURSE: Grading will be based on

- Participation and Attendance-- 10%; and
- Three prepared events, each-- 30%; to be performed fully memorized and at competition level by semester's end.
- See below for information on limited preparation events.

You will choose your events from the AFA-NIET events description list included in this syllabus and with the advice of one of our coaches. Also, you will choose whether you want to prepare to

compete, or to concentrate on learning and expanding your knowledge without traveling out of town. Experienced competitors are customarily expected to prepare at least 3 events per semester to competition level. Beginners are not always held to the 3 event standard, with requirements being set by the Instructor of Record on a 1-on-1 basis, depending on their level of experience and mastery.

Choose in consultation with your coaches **a minimum of three events** to prepare and work with during the semester. To promote training in public speaking skills necessary in interpretation as well as in speaking events, interpreters are encouraged to prepare at least one public speaking event during the semester. Similarly, public speakers are encouraged to attempt interpretation events, but the special nature of interpretive talent is recognized in that these recommendations are not mandatory. Beginners: start with ONE event. Wait till you have mastered that, and then move on.

DETAILS ON EARNING THE SEMESTER GRADE IN COMM 2202

In addition to the 10% participation and attendance grade, your achievement in each event will earn 1/3 of the remaining 90% of your grade. To give specifics on evaluation, please note the following:

Each of the three events will be evaluated on two criteria: quality of text preparation including meeting deadlines and complying with recommendations for revision, 50%, and performance quality, including communication with the audience, memorization, vocal variety, polish, and body language, 50%.

If you earn a "leg" to the AFA-NIET in a given event, you will be considered to have earned an A in that event, and thus in that 1/3 of your grade. Events in which you have not earned "legs" will be performed for a grade *at the end of the semester*. The final evaluation date will be announced well in advance.

Experienced competitors who choose to compete in more than three events may choose the three on which they wish to base their course grade. Successful multiple event preparation may be rewarded in the selection of tournament competitors and in Student Activity/Service Awards.

LIMITED PREPARATION EVENTS NOT COUNTED: In order to enhance serious concentration on chosen events, Impromptu Speaking will *not* count as one of the three graded events unless an extensive Impromptu Speaking Notebook is submitted (an Impromptu notebook form will be provided to those interested). Extemporaneous Speaking will constitute *one* event for 1/3 of an individual's grade only if extensive work has been done by that individual on the squad Extemp file. At the end of the semester, students should communicate by email with the Instructor of Record and all coaches which events they will use for grading purposes.

COMM 2202: PROJECTED STUDENT OUTCOMES

Students will be presented with the instruction and resources to do the following:

- Think critically, organize thoughts, and write well
- Speak at a nationally competitive level
- Organize thoughts and create presentations of the following types:
 - Platform Speaking: informative, persuasive, after dinner, and communication analysis
 - Limited Preparation Speaking: impromptu and extemporaneous
 - Oral Interpretation of Literature: prose, poetry, dramatic and duo interpretation
- Compete in Intercollegiate Individual Events at scheduled competitions

- Listen actively and employ critical thinking skills in order to do the following:

- create meaningful dialogue,
 - refute arguments, and
 - contribute to classmates' learning by offering feedback of theme and choice of topic
 - evaluate speakers for quality, insight and delivery

Please consult the AFA-NIET and the AFA websites carefully for additional information. The official event descriptions supported by the American Forensic Association-National Individual Events Tournament organization can be found on the final page of this syllabus. All individual events will adhere to the standards set out by the AFA-NIET, and will comply with the ethical standards of the AFA.

Ask your faculty coaches/ instructors of record for clarification of any instructions you do not understand.

NOTES: