

Syllabus for
COM 400—Debate and Forensics Team
3 Credit Hours
Fall 2012

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course focuses on researching and creating debate plans and/or forensic scripts for intercollegiate competition. The students will be doing extensive research in preparation for creating cross-examination debate plans, Lincoln/Douglas debate plans, extemporaneous speaking, etc. The students will also compete within the class to earn the right to represent the university in CEDA , NDA and AFA tournaments.

II. COURSE GOALS

This course is designed to provide the student with a variety of communication experiences including planning and participation in debate/forensic tournaments. The course will enable the student to do the following:

- A. Perfect speaking skills by participation in class debates/competitions.
- B. Develop better research skills
- C. Utilize logical reasoning skills in analyzing and creating debate plans
- D. Develop better flowing skills when following arguments.
- E. Perfect skills in working with others and creating teams.
- F. Become fluent in argument and assessment presentation skills.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

- A. Terminal Objectives
Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to do the following:
 - 1. Become more socially conscious of current events.
 - 2. Develop possible solutions to help in eradicating the social problems discovered.
 - 3. Create and defend arguments with greater insight and skill.
 - 4. Adapt scripts for use in forensic competition.
 - 5. Prepare, present, and critique extemporaneous speeches.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

Required Materials

Textbooks – No texts are required for this class.

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
2. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
3. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
 - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
 - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
 - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
 - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.

By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.
4. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
5. Students are to be in compliance with University, school, and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the Whole Person Assessment handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
 - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an artifact is a zero for that assignment.
 - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

B. Department Policies and Procedures

1. **Attendance**—At Oral Roberts University, students are expected to attend all classes. Understanding that there are sometimes unavoidable circumstances that prevent perfect attendance, each student is allowed to miss class the number of times per week a class meets. This allowance is for illness, personal business, and personal emergency. Students may consider this personal days or sick leave. If a student has absences in excess of this number, the earned grade for the course will be reduced one letter grade for each hour's absence above those allowed. A student missing class due to illness must take an unexcused absence. Extended illnesses are handled on an individual basis and require a doctor's excuse.
2. **Administratively Excused Absences**—Students who must miss class for University sponsored activities must follow these procedures:

- a. Inform the professor before the event.
 - b. Arrange to complete missed work within one week
 - c. Not commit to class performance (oral reports, speeches, television taping, group presentations, etc.) on a date the student will be gone. Makeup work will not be permitted if the student voluntarily commits to a performance on the date of an administratively excused absence.
 - d. Present an excuse, signed by the Dean of Arts & Cultural Studies, the class session the student returns.
3. **Tardies**—Tardies are an inconvenience to the other class members and the professor, and they prevent the late student from obtaining maximum value from the class. Therefore, tardies are calculated in the attendance provision for this course. Three tardies will equal one absence and will be included in the absences when determining the course grade. It is to the student's advantage to make sure that the professor is informed immediately following the close of the class that the student was tardy and not absent. It is not the professor's responsibility to stop the class to mark the student late; the student is the one responsible to convey that information following that class. Students' do not expect to be credible the following class session concerning a late arrival on a previous day.
 4. **Late Work**—The student is responsible for obtaining class assignments and material covered during an absence. All work must be completed as scheduled. An absence is not an excuse for turning in late work or for being unprepared with assignments for the class following the absence. If late work is accepted, a substantial penalty will be assessed.
 5. **Literacy**—The Communication, Arts, and Media Department does not accept for credit any written assignment that contains more than an average of three grammatical and/or typographical errors per page.
 6. **Whole Person Assessment**—Refer to the Communication Arts WPA handbook for WPA policies at (<http://oru.edu>), click on **Academics**, then **WPA**, then **Department Resources**, then **Communication Arts Handbook HTML**.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures
 - a. Attend each lecture--discussion session.
 - b. Participate in planning and management of tournaments.
 - c. Prepare and present several communication messages (speeches, interviews, group discussions).
 - d. Evaluate communication practices of other class members.
 - e. Recommended/Required Portfolio Items: The objectives and plan for personal communication improvement, adapted reader's theatre script, cross-examination and Lincoln/Douglas debate cases and plans, research paper on events in forensic competition.
2. Attendance Policy

Since many of the objectives in classes in Communication, Arts, and Media depend upon participation and performance, satisfactory work is impossible without regular attendance. Absences without compelling reason, in excess of the number of times the class meets per week, will be considered excessive and will adversely affect the course grade.
3. Whole Person Assessment Requirement

None.

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

Week 1- Introduction to class
Week 2 – Research due
Week 3 – Debate plans due, Choosing of teams
Week 4 – Debates
Week 5 – Debates
Week 6 – New plan due
Week 7 – Debates
Week 8 – Debates
Week 9 – New plan due
Week 10 – Flow notebook due
Week 11 – Revised debate plans due
Week 12 – Paper of assessment of personal debates
Week 13 – Debates
Week 14 – Debates
Week 15 – Debate critiques due

Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes

COM 400—Debate and Forensics Team Fall 2012

This course contributes to the ORU student learning outcomes as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

No Contribution – Does not address the outcome.

The Student Learning Glossary at <http://ir.oru.edu/doc/glossary.pdf> defines each outcome and each of the proficiencies/capacities.

OUTCOMES & Proficiencies/Capacities		Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
1	Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive Proficiencies/Capacities				
1A	Biblical knowledge				X
1B	Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit				X
1C	Evangelistic capability				X
1D	Ethical behavior		X		
2	Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert Proficiencies/Capacities				
2A	Critical thinking	X			
2B	Information literacy		X		
2C	Global & historical perspectives	X			
2D	Aesthetic appreciation	X			
2E	Intellectual creativity	X			
3	Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined Proficiencies/Capacities				
3A	Healthy lifestyle				X
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle				X
4	Outcome #4 – Socially Adept Proficiencies/Capacities				
4A	Communication skills	X			
4B	Interpersonal skills			X	
4C	Appreciation of cultural & linguistic differences		X		
4D	Responsible citizenship		X		
4E	Leadership capacity	X			