



2019-2020 COURSE SYLLABUS

COMPETITIVE SPEECH AND DEBATE

(5 credits/semester) ESS230-1

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Term and Year: Fall 2019

Name of Instructor: Brett Williams

Office Number: C-304

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Coach: Quest Sandel

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Assistant Coach: Henry Adkisson

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COURSE OF STUDY

Competitive Speech and Debate begins with an overview of the events for competition and the multiple choices students have for participation in these events. The aspects of logical reasoning and argumentation are studied, as well as the basics of good communication. Students are to research and present arguments on current issues, learn case construction, refutation, and cross-examination techniques. Students will also learn how to make and use visual aids, how to write an effective speech, and how to develop interpretation skills. These studies will lead to participation in tournaments around the country this school year.

TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION

Competitive Speech class gives students the opportunity to travel to other schools and participate in debate and individual tournament events. **Participation in tournaments is a requirement of this course.** Students must compete in **4 or more tournaments** to meet the minimum requirements for this course. It is strongly recommended that students attend three competitions in the first semester, as the second semester tournaments are mostly qualifiers for the state and national competitions. In addition, a minimum of 8 students and 2 parent judges must sign up before we go to a tournament. Failure to attend a tournament or failure to notify 48 hours in advance will result in a \$25 fee. Fees that are not paid will result in inability to compete in future tournaments. Students will arrange their own rides to and from the tournaments.

Each tournament will be worth many points, not including reflections. To receive full credit, you must attend **and participate in** the events you have signed up for. Leaving the tournament before the rest of the team leaves will result in partial or even complete loss of points. We are a team. Let's be there for each other.

FEES & DUES

In order to pay the league membership dues and to defray costs, each student must contribute \$20 per semester to the Speech and Debate Club. Additionally, each student must pay a \$6 registration fee for each tournament. Fundraising will help to minimize the out of pocket expenses for travel tournaments. Please provide all fees and dues to coach Quest Sandel, or talk with Mr. Williams if said payment creates a challenge.

IN CLASS-EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to be self-motivated and driven. The Speech and Debate classroom is unlike a typical classroom in that students will be held accountable for their own progress. Depending on which events students choose to compete in, they will be assigned to an in-class group led by a senior team member. These smaller groups will meet every day. Students are expected to meet with coach or cabinet member prior to competing in a tournament. These coaching sessions need to include at least one with the team coach.

TEAM CAPTAINS



The team captains are very important to our team. Team captains will help facilitate communication between coaches and the class, help prepare your scripts, provide coaching, and guide you through your first tournaments. Get to know your captains; they will be of great help to you!

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

- Participation in class is essential to student success in tournaments. If you are always on time to class and working on your tasks, you will earn all your participation points for the week. On the other hand, if you are frequently tardy or absent, you will lose these points and your grade will be adversely affected.
- Competitors must be cleared by the coach or myself prior to competing in each tournament. During coaching sessions, students will record comments and critiques. These coaching notes will be reviewed and assigned points.
- Any deadlines for specific events must be met before the tournaments.
- Recruitment for Speech and Debate Competitive team and/or participation in outside speech contests (not invitationals, but contests like the Rotary Club or Soroptomist Club host) will earn Tournament Participation points.

GRADING CATEGORIES

As the course will be reliant upon so many different styles of learning it is critical to pull these apart in the grading program to isolate specific strengths and challenges for each student. What is included in each category, as well as the category weights, are indicated below.

Tournament Participation	2+ per semester	45%
Daily Participation	Warmups, Attendance	15%
Classwork	Debate Prep, Script Prep, Coaching sessions, Whole Class Activities	30%
Final Exam	Performing your intended event	10%

GRADING SCALE

A=89.5%+ B=79.5%+ C=69.5%+ D=59.5%+ F=59.4% or below

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to be respectful, courteous, and civil. The following are a few of the more notable expectations students will follow:

1. Be on time physically and mentally.
2. Treat others with respect at all times, especially when confronting ideas different than your own.
3. Be on task, and offer help to others if you finish early (when appropriate).
4. Keep your electronic devices hidden and silent unless the instructor approves use.
5. Adhere to the JFK and PACE expectations of academic integrity.

Plagiarism/Academic Dishonesty

High ethical standards are critical to the integrity of any institution. They bear directly on the ultimate value of academic excellence in grading as well as student success. All students, regardless of their chosen discipline, are expected to contribute to an atmosphere of the highest possible ethical standards. These ethical standards extend to tournaments.



Maintaining such an atmosphere requires that any instances of academic dishonesty be recognized and addressed. If the student is caught cheating, copying, or plagiarizing work, the student will receive a ZERO on the assignment and proper disciplinary action will follow, which could include expulsion from the Kennedy High School Speech and Debate Team.

Code of Honor

“As a member of the National Speech & Debate Association, I pledge to uphold the highest standards of integrity, humility, respect, leadership, and service in the pursuit of excellence.”

Integrity: An Honor Society member obeys the highest ethical standards and adheres to the rules of the organization. Members recognize that integrity is central to earning the trust, respect, and support of one’s peers. Integrity encompasses the highest regard for honesty, civility, justice, and fairness.

Humility: A member does not regard oneself more highly than others. Regardless of a person’s level of success, an individual always looks beyond oneself to appreciate the inherent value of others.

Respect: A member respects individual differences and fosters diversity. They promote tolerance, inclusion, and empowerment for people from a variety of backgrounds, including race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, and ability.

Leadership: A member influences others to take positive action toward productive change. Members commit to thoughtful and responsible leadership that promotes the other core values in the Code of Honor.

Service: A member exercises their talents to provide service to peers, community, and the activity. At all times a member is prepared to work constructively to improve the lives of others.

FINAL NOTE

Please note that after teaching 16 years I have learned that every group of students is different. With that in mind, I reserve the right to change policies indicated above at any time during the semester. Before these changes occur though I will be sure to communicate those changes with the students in advance, and announce those changes using Google Classroom.

I want to end saying what an honor it is teaching you this year. Please consider me your advocate here at Kennedy High School. You have a support system here at Kennedy as well as at home. Remember that and it will be a good year.

JFK Speech and Debate Schedule 2019-2020

CVFL #1 (Debate)	9/21	Ponderosa HS
CVFL #2 (Speech)	10/12	Oakridge HS
CVFL #3 (Debate)	10/19	Mira Loma HS



CVFL #4 (Speech)	11/9	Antelope HS
Glenbrooks Invitational	11/22-25	Chicago, Illinois
CVFL #5 (Debate)	12/14	Davis Senior HS
Martin Luther King Invitational	1/17-/19	James Logan High School
CVFL #6 (Speech)	2/1	Folsom HS
Stanford University Invitational	2/7-2/9	Stanford University
Harvard University Invitational	2/14-2/17	Harvard University(Cambridge)
Speech State Qualifier	2/21-22	Mira Loma HS
Debate State Qualifier	2/28-2/29	Granite Bay HS
Non-Congress NSDA Qualifier	3/20-3/21	John F Kennedy HS
Congress NSDA Qualifier	04/04	Sacramento Waldorf HS
*CHSSA State Championship	4/23-4/26	James Logan HS
*NSDA National Championship	6/14-21	Albuquerque, New Mexico

COMPETITIVE SPEECH AND DEBATE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Please sign below to confirm you have downloaded, read and understand the syllabus provided for this class. The full Syllabus can be found at <https://sites.google.com/site/williamsapgov/>. By signing students and parents



understand that.

- This is a Competitive Speech and Debate course, so you are expected to compete in at least 2 tournaments per semester. Please review the tournament schedule on the previous page to plan accordingly.
- If you want to get good come to far more than the minimum required. Coach Quest has provided numerous opportunities for you. Take a look at the schedule.
- Class time will largely be spent preparing for said tournaments or in team building exercises and activities.
- For those more devoted to speech events your time will largely be spent in class finding a script, cutting (editing it down), rehearsing it and receiving coaching sessions.
- For those more devoted to debate your time will largely be spent researching a variety of different topics, completing the necessary paperwork, debating and receiving coaching sessions.
- When you are not preparing for tournaments you are expected to provide a supportive role for those who are, which will also better prepare you for your next tournament or life experience.
- When the class is not preparing we will be engaging in a variety of class activities from 4 Corners Debates to Impromptu speeches and Mock Congresses on various topics.
- Attendance is critical. Excessive tardies and or absences leading up to a tournament may lead to Mr. W or Coach Quest pulling you from that tournament. We need you here, and on time. The bell rings at 7:18 each morning.
- Parents, you are critical to the success of this team in helping facilitate tournaments by judging, providing carpooling to students who need it, paying tournament fees/dues, and more.
- Be ready to take risks. We're all going to be wrong at some point this semester. Let's grow from that.

Please contact me to provide me any information about your child that might be pertinent to his/her educational experience this semester in A.P. Government (i.e., physical or cognitive limitations, exceptional experiences or capabilities) or if you just have some questions.

I have read, understood, and will abide by all of the provisions of the entire Speech and Debate syllabus, including the Speech and Debate Executive Summary here.

Printed Student Name

Student Signature

Date

Printed Parent Name

Parent Signature

Date

Please **sign** and **return** the following page of the syllabus to Mr. Williams by **Wednesday, January 8th**.

