Course Description

Enables work in competitive speech activities such as debate, oratory, impromptu speaking, prose and poetry reading, and rhetorical criticism. May be repeated for credit. Variable hours per week. 1-6 credits (May be repeated for up to 6 credits.)

General Course Purpose

This course is designed for students who are members of the college Debate and Forensics Team. This allows them to earn credit while preparing and participating in competitions.

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites

ENG 111 level of proficiency recommended.

Course Objectives

Upon completing the course, the student of debate will be able to:

- Identify various theories of argumentation
- Incorporate critical thinking skills, employing the use of logic and evidence to persuade
- Improve writing, oral presentation, and research skills
- Develop clear, concise, organized, and supported ideas and arguments
- Constructively critique the arguments of others

Upon completing the course, the student of oral interpretation (prose and poetry reading) will be able to:

- Interpret with integrity a literary selection
- Communicate a literary interpretation to an audience with honesty, clarity, and artistry
- Improve listening skills
- Incorporate critical thinking skills
- Constructively accept and give criticism

Upon completing the course, the student of public speaking will be able to:

- Apply the basic principles of communication
- Develop strategies to overcome communication apprehension for more effective speech
- More effectively communicate, both verbally and nonverbally
- Develop clear, concise, organized, and supported ideas and arguments
- Incorporate critical thinking skills
- Constructively accept and give criticism

Major Topics to be Included

- Theories of Argument and Debate
- Various formats for debate, including but not limited to Lincoln-Douglass and Cross-Examination Debate styles
- Parliamentary Procedure
- Forms of oral interpretation, to include prose, poetry, and drama
- Methods of speech delivery, including impromptu, extemporaneous, memorized, and manuscript