

ADVANCED DEBATE (II, III, AND IS) SYLLABUS

2024-2025

Dr. Ryan Nassif, Instructor (pronouns: he/him/his)

Classroom: 6003

Conference Period: 7th period

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Course Description

This course serves to help the student refine and further develop the skills learned in Debate I through increasing levels of difficulty of competition and more and varied tournament opportunities. Additionally, students in Advanced Debate will be trained to become mentors of less-experienced debaters and take up leadership positions on the CLHS Speech & Debate team.

Organization

The Advanced Debate class is highly student-driven and -centered. Students will have a menu of options available for them to pick from, with all options geared toward allowing them to be better prepared to compete at tournaments in their particular event(s). Students will have weekly assignments of their choosing they must complete. Class and after school practice will be open for them to work on their various projects, with instructor input and direction as appropriate. In order to be successful, students will need to be self-motivated, keep aware of deadlines, and organized. All due dates for each nine weeks will be announced at the beginning of the nine weeks, so students should utilize a calendar or task tracking method to ensure they do not forget.

Objectives

After successful completion of the course, the learner will:

1. Begin to master their public speaking abilities;
2. Hone their understanding of proper research methodology;
3. Be comfortable achieving in a student-centered environment; and,
4. Compete and succeed at local, state, and national speech and debate tournaments.

Grading

Grades will be earned as follows:

- Minor (in-class participation, research checks, speech outlines, etc. – quizzes count as two minor grades): 35%
- Major (throughout - formal performance evaluations, projects, tournament participation): 60%
- District-required Reading/Writing Component (reflections): 5%

(over)

Class Policies

- Per district policy, students have the number of days they are absent to make up their work. Also per district policy, late work will be accepted up to two days after the due date at a maximum score of 75%; any work three days or more late will receive a zero.
- **You must bring your charged laptop to class EVERY SINGLE DAY.** Access to the team's online files and Canvas page are a daily need, so students should have an Internet-enabled device (preferably their laptop) with them every day. Failure to have their device will not excuse them from required deadlines. This is absolutely vital, as the vast majority of our work is done online!
- CLHS policy dictates that classrooms are cellphone-free zones. Students, you are expected to keep your cellphone in your pocket, backpack, purse, etc. and should not have it out without permission during class.
- Academic dishonesty can and will have grave consequences. Any instance of academic dishonesty will result in various penalties as described by the district in its Academic Honor Code. For daily assignments, this can include a zero on the assignment with no ability to retake. For major assignments, this can include a zero on the assignment with no ability to retake, reporting on your transcript for college applications, In School Suspension, and loss of exam exemptions.
- You are expected to write your assignments in your own words – assignments that are obviously generated by an AI (such as ChatGPT) will receive no credit. Failure to adhere to this expectation is considered academic dishonesty and will be treated as such.
- **Advanced Debaters are required to go to a minimum of six tournaments over the course of the entire year, at least two of which must be hosted by a CCISD school and at least one of which will be either NSDA or UIL District.** A major grade will be assessed in the 4th nine weeks for this requirement. Additionally, there will be major grades assessed for participation and attendance at our CLHS-hosted tournament at the beginning of December.
- At times, topics debated in class or at tournaments may be controversial in nature. Regardless of a student's personal beliefs or opinions, the beliefs and opinions of others should be respected in-class and out.
- Much like an athletic or fine arts class prepares students to participate in games, concerts, etc. so too does the debate class prepare students to participate in the CLHS Speech & Debate team. As such, all policies from the CLHS Speech & Debate team handbook, available online, also apply in-class where applicable.