

DEBATE II - VI HONORS Syllabus 2020-2021

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West Broward High Speech, Interpretation & Debate Coach Team Website: <http://www.bobcatdebate.com>

Course Objectives:

Welcome back to **Debate!** The idea behind this year is not only to learn more about Speech, Debate and Interpretation, as well as other areas of communication, but to learn to increase your leadership, research, organizational and time-management skills.

FURTHER - The class is designed for students wishing to apply what they have learned in speech and/or debate courses, and compete in performance events at speech and debate tournaments, sanctioned by AST, FFL, CFL, and NSDA and hosted by high schools and colleges in Florida. Tournaments are not held during the school day, so individual transportation arrangements must be made. **Students are expected to participate in several after school and weekend functions and must provide a judge once a quarter.** Out of state tournaments are optional, but encouraged to increase exposure to forensics.

You will also be given a Team Handbook, and are responsible for all of the guidelines and expectations of team competition. BEST OF LUCK!!

Required Texts: All texts will be provided to students by the instructor.

Suggested Class Materials: ***NEW: Small white board and marker for Virtual E-Learning**

blue, black and red pens and highlighters

legal pads for “flowing” debate events or loose-leaf paper for note-taking

electronic devices (laptops/pads/tablets) are encouraged, USB, cordless mouse and headphones

As varsity students you will assist novices in the following areas:

- How to improve organizational skills
- How to improve time-management skills
- How to improve their persuasive arguments
- How a speech tournament is run
- How to prepare for performance and competition
- Protocol, etiquette, and professionalism
- Working independently toward deadlines
- How to research and write cases and speeches
- Healthy objectivity and competitive spirit

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General Course Design:

-Improving skills in public speaking, argumentation and interpretation

-Mentoring novices in the following competitive events:

Debates: Congressional, Big Questions, World School, Public Forum, and Lincoln Douglas

Speeches: Original Oratory, Informative, Declamation, Extemporaneous and Impromptu Speaking

Interpretation of Literature: Humorous, Dramatic, Poetry, Prose, and Program Oral Interpretation

Please understand that even though there is a lot of **independent** work in class, there will also be a mix of instruction, blocking, and coaching. It is VERY important that students understand that this class is not by ANY means, a free-for-all time. I expect everyone to be working **every** day. It can be a struggle to meet before and after school, so use this class time as your opportunity to write, research, read, analyze critiques and material, practice speeches, create introductions, and improve your performances. Because this class will contain students with different event backgrounds, and because it is an independent-work course, a definite schedule of expected goals will be set as the year begins. All tournament information will be found on the team website or on the tournament site for that competition. You will be required to complete a squad practice prior to attending any tournament.

Grading for this class:

50% Performance at 2 local tournaments a quarter, providing 1 judge for every two attended, judge/mentor at AST, MAST or EAST, and volunteer at any tournament that West Broward is Hosting. (All areas will count for community service hours except if you are competing) 25% In class assignments, weekly practice, and tournament preparation 25% Attending 2 squad practices a quarter. Extra credit will be offered for those who attend more.

***Note: You can NOT pass this course without attending weekly practice(s) before or after school, at lunch or virtually with Squad Captains or Mrs. Harrison, competing at 2 tournaments and fulfilling your judge requirement per quarter. A tournament calendar was distributed and is available on the team website.**

To join the Team, you must bring the following to class:

1. Signed Syllabus Parent Signature Form and Tournament Handbook Acknowledgement Form (by 9/12). Team dues \$200 paid using Broward County E- Store online payment. This pays for one team t-shirt, NSDA team membership, judge meals, registration fee for 8 local, non-qualifying tournaments (CFL or Invitational), membership into the distinguished **National Forensics Honor Society**, awards and recognition. Participation in any other tournaments (local 2 day bid tournaments, Regionals, Districts, States, Finals or those out of county will require additional registration fee and coach approval.

- **NEW: Or, students can pay \$100 for dues if they agree to judge at least once a month for local EAST, MAST**

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and AST tournaments.

****Note: Lunch is part of the registration fee and is provided at weekend or qualifying tournaments. ANY TOURNAMENT LATE OR DROP FEES MUST BE PAID IN CASH TO TREASURER OR MRS. HARRISON.**

The Team Tournament Handbook is located under “Forms and Fees” at the BobcatDebate.com website and must be signed by student and parent. You are responsible for all of the guidelines and expectations of team competition.

Homework: Because of the nature of the class there may be extensive homework to include: library/internet research, reading, performance practice, and writing. Many activities planned are paired activities, therefore it is imperative that students complete their portions of assigned homework. Some collaboration will take place virtually through secure web sites.

Attendance and Tardy Policy: Students are encouraged to be in class every day due to the nature of the class and new material covered each day. See the Student Handbook for attendance policy and adhere to posted classroom rules. When a student is absent, it is his/her responsibility to read, write, and practice his/her selection for class presentation.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism is defined as the act of stealing and passing off the ideas or work of another as one's own; to commit literary theft. When plagiarism is committed, it is handled per Broward County school board policy as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. Cheating - copying another student's work, quizzes or tests, is unacceptable and is handled per Broward County school board policy as outlined in the student handbook.

Discipline Policy: *See WBHS Discipline Policies for more specific information.*

This should be a VERY enjoyable class for everyone, even though it is hard work. However, it is NOT, by any means, a “blow-off” time. This is a very fun, but very organized class. There are just a couple of things to remember so that you will not have to worry about this section of the syllabus.

Some students get the idea that because this is a “speech” class, that it means everyone may speak whenever they wish. Or because this is a “debate” class, anyone can argue whenever they want. This is incorrect, however. **NO TALKING** will be tolerated while I am talking or while other students have the floor, **especially** during performances, speeches, debates, or while questions are being asked and answered. Other than the fact that it is improper, you will also be responsible for hearing the information presented. You will have plenty of class time to work on projects, etc., but listening to instruction beforehand is **VERY IMPORTANT**.

Because I need to be able to work individually with students on performances, speeches and other things, there is a lot

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of independent work in class instead of a lot of homework. For this reason, it is necessary to **insist on MATURE** behavior during class work time. There will be occasions when you will have the opportunity to practice in the hallway, therefore I must be able to trust your integrity. No unnecessary walking around or off-task behavior will be tolerated. Consequences will be given, and the privilege of practicing in the hallway may be revoked. It is important to create a relaxed atmosphere in a performance class, and there are props and other things around the room for this reason. **No destruction or defacing of school or classroom property**, will be tolerated.

Classroom Rules

Please be sure you are **respectful** of our classroom, school, your Coach, and your peers. Be sure to clean up after yourself each day, and help keep the room tidy. Remember, the teacher dismisses you, not the bell.

NO CELL PHONES are allowed to be used during our class time without teacher permission.

Please be sure you are familiar with the WBHS “**Acceptable Use Policy**” as pertains to **computer use** in the classroom. This policy will be strictly enforced in the classroom!! Inappropriate use of classroom laptops will result in computer privileges being revoked.

Be sure you are **prepared** for class. Bring all supplies to class. Calling home for field trip forms or tournament fees delivered to you at the last minute makes more work for others.

Water bottles must be CLOSED when using laptops. Please do not bring any other food or drinks to class. No gum chewing. You will be speaking in front of your peers often.

Participate and take notes. Effective listening and participation are essential to learning.

Tutorials

If, at **ANY** time, you feel that you need extra help with anything, I am always in my classroom before and after school. During class, if you would like to come and set up a time for a tutorial, please do so. Video conferencing is an additional option.

Parent Signature

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Please complete and return the Parent Signature Form by September 12, 2020. This states that your **parents/guardians** have read this syllabus and have been informed of the policies explained above.

You should also bring the list of suggested class supplies as soon as possible.

Let's have another great year!!! GO BOBCATS!

Mrs. Harrison

Parent Signature Form (This is your first homework assignment!)

I understand that grades are posted on Pinnacle, assignments are listed on Canvas, and class resources/information are accessible at www.bobcatdebate.com. I am encouraged to register with team websites/apps and call Mrs. Harrison's cell (954) 802-6074, or email her at diane.harrison@browardschools.com if I ever have questions or concerns. I also understand that I will be notified of any behavior or academic difficulties as they arise, and I can be reached at:

Parent/Guardian Name:

Cell Phone:

Email:

Parent/Guardian Name:

Cell Phone:

Email:

Information necessary for Field Trip forms:

_____ **No Insurance** **or** **Name of Health Insurance:**

Policy Number:

Phone Number:

I have read and agree to abide by the policies of this class stated in the syllabus.

Student Name:

Cell:

Signature _____

Date: _____

Parent Signature _____

Date: _____

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