

DEBATE I HONORS Syllabus 2020-2021

Mrs. Harrison (754) 323-2600 Room 253
West Broward High Speech, Interpretation and Debate Teacher/Coach
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Team Website: <http://www.bobcatdebate.com>

Course Objectives:

Welcome to **Debate!** The idea behind this course is not only to learn more about Speech, Debate and Interpretation, as well as other areas of communication, but to learn to increase your organizational, research, and time-management skills. You will also learn about competitive events, and the best ways to work independently to become a success in your event.

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 FFL, SCFL, and NSDA and hosted by high schools and colleges in Florida. Out of state tournaments are optional, but encouraged to increase exposure to forensics.

***** Special Note:*** This course satisfies the graduation requirement for Performing Fine Arts. It also offers multiple opportunities for students to earn community service hours. Parent participation is needed for judging and fund-raising. Tournaments are not held during the school day.

Students are expected to participate in several after school and weekend functions and must provide one judge for every two tournaments attended. Free online training will be provided by the district.

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

Suggested Class Materials:

Blue, black, and red pens, highlighters
Legal Pads for “flowing” debate events
Loose-leaf paper for note-taking and ream of printer paper
Electronic devices (laptops/pads/tablets) are encouraged for research!
USB, cordless mouse and headphones

Students should learn the following from this class:

- How to improve organizational skills
- How to improve time-management skills
- How to make 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

-Basic skills in public speaking, argumentation and interpretation

-Basic instruction in the following competitive events:

DEBATE EVENTS: Congress, Big Questions Public Forum Lincoln Douglas, and World School Debate

SPEECH EVENTS: Original Oratory, Declamation, Informative, Impromptu and Extemporaneous.

INTERPRETATION EVENTS: Humorous, Dramatic, Duo, Poetry, Prose and Program Oral



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 can be found on the team website, or the tournament site for that competition. You will be required to complete two squad practices prior to attending any tournament.

Grading for this class:

*50% Performance (Virtual) at 2 local tournaments a quarter, providing 1 judge for every two attended, and volunteering at any tournaments West Broward is hosting.

25% In class assignments, homework and tournament preparation

*25% Squad Practices (Virtual) - 2 prior to each tournament which equals 4 for each quarter.

Additional squad practices will be given extra credit.

***Note: You can NOT pass this course without attending weekly practice(s) before or after school, at lunch, or virtually with Squad Captain or Mrs. Harrison monthly after school competitions, fulfilling judge requirements and quarterly Saturday tournaments. A tournament calendar was distributed to students and is available on the homepage of our team website.**

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

1. Signed syllabus and Tournament Handbook Acknowledgement Form (by 8/31)

2. Team dues (\$40 online payment). This pays for team t-shirt, judge meal fees, NSDA Team

Membership, tournament registration fees and league membership for 8 local, non-qualifying tournaments (AST, CFL, FFL or Invitational), membership into the distinguished **National Forensics Honor Society**, awards and recognition. Participation in any other tournaments (local 2 day bid tournaments, UF Blue Key, Harvard, Emory, NY Invitational, Minneapple, Regionals, Districts, States, Finals, Champs and Nationals) will require additional registration fee.

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****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 PRIOR TO SIGNING UP FOR ADDITIONAL TOURNAMENT.

Our Team Handbook can be found on Canvas and at BobcatDebate.com, under “Forms and Fees” which 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.

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 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.

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Classroom Rules

*Virtual class expectations are listed in Canvas under “Announcements”.

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

Attached, you will find a form that **MUST** be turned in by August 31, 2020. This syllabus MUST be kept by YOU at ALL times, but the attached form states that your **parents/guardians** have read this packet 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 a great year!!!

GO BOBCATS!

Mrs. Harrison



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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 on Canvas and www.bobcatdebate.com. The REMIND texting app may also be used to disperse information. I am encouraged to register with the team website/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: _____

Work Phone: _____ Work Email: _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

Work Phone: _____ Work Email: _____

Information necessary for Field Trip forms:

No health insurance

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: _____

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Parent Signature _____ Date: _____

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