



## COMM 2080

**Division:** Humanities

**Department:** Communication

**Course:** COMM 2080

**Title:** Intercollegiate Forensics

**Catalog Description:**

Intercollegiate Forensics is a class designed to give credit to participating members of the speech and debate forensic team. Participants will be expected to create polished, competitive speeches for competitions. Students must have instructor approval in order to obtain credit. The class is repeatable for up to 12 credits.

**General Education Requirements:** N/A

**Semesters Offered:** Fall, Spring

**Credit/Time Requirement:** Credit: 3; Lecture: 1; Lab: 4

**Clock/Hour Requirements:** 0

**Offered for Non-Credit:** Yes

**Credit/Clock Comments:** Repeatable for up to 12 hours credits. Grading pass/fail only

**Prerequisites:** Sign in by instructor only.

**Justification:**

Comm 2080 is designed to serve as an elective course for communication majors or specifically for those interested in speech competition on the forensic speaking circuit. This class may serve as a transfer course to colleges or universities that have intercollegiate speech programs. It will also be a valuable elective for students to use on resumes and scholarship applications as demonstration of their public speaking and analysis skills.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Students will know how to do the following:

- think critically, organize thoughts, and write well
- speak at a nationally competitive level
- organize thoughts and create presentations of the following types: informative, persuasive, impromptu, extemporaneous speaking, prose, poetry, program oral interpretation, communication analysis, duo interpretation, dramatic interpretation, after dinner speaking, readers theatre, IPDA debate, and Parliamentary debate
- compete in intercollegiate debate or individual events at scheduled meets
- plan and participate in a public relations (PR) activity for the team and local high school speech and debate programs
- listen actively and employ critical thinking skills to create meaningful dialogue or refutation of

arguments

- evaluate speakers for quality, insight, and delivery

### **Content:**

Comm 2080 is a discussion based, skill building class. It will require individuals to prepare speeches and assignments both during and outside of class. Students will prepare a minimum of three polished speeches for competition in intercollegiate debate or individual event tournaments. Coaches will be available to help research, write, and critique speeches during each class period. Students will plan and participate in a team PR event in coordination with local high schools.

### **General Education Outcomes:**

2) Write clearly, informatively, and persuasively.

This course will require extensive research of current events and of literature selections in preparation to write effective competitive speeches. All platform and interpretive speeches will be written, polished, and spoken word for word with feedback from the instructor, coaches, and peers.

3) Speak effectively in a variety of contexts.

Students will prepare speeches for performance, and practice speaking in front of instructors, students, faculty, and/or community members. A panel will evaluate a minimum of one speech prior to each tournament in order to determine competition readiness and provide feedback to the speaker.

### **Key Performance Indicators:**

- This course will be graded pass/fail based on performance and attendance throughout the semester. Students will be graded primarily on the amount of work they have put into their presentations. Panels before speech meets will determine the level of preparation of participants. Students will also be assessed on preparedness for and execution of the semester PR event. Class and PR event attendance will be a significant factor in grading.
- **PASS:** A passing grade will be given to all students who have made significant progress toward meeting the competition and PR event requirements and have attended class and events on a regular basis.
- **FAIL:** A failing grade will be given if there are excessive absences, lack of individual work during and outside of class, a repeated failing of panel reviews, lack of reasonable effort to attend all tournaments, and/or any other disregard of coaching guidelines given during the semester.

### **Representative Text and/or Supplies:**

Students participating in the class are expected to have access to appropriate competitive attire. A recommended media list of books, periodicals, websites, and other resource materials will be made available to students. This list will be updated every semester because of the importance of knowledge of current events.

**Optimum Class Size: 12**  
**Maximum Class Size: 15**

**Signatures:**

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

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Elaine Compton, MS, Assistant Professor

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Communication Department:

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Elaine Compton, MS, Assistant Professor, Chair

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Humanities Division:

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Sheryl James Bodrero, PhD, Associate Professor, Dean

I have discussed the need for library resources related to this class with the person submitting the syllabus:

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Lynn Anderson, MLIS, Technical Services Librarian (Main Campus)

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Michelle Olsen, MLS, Campus Librarian (Richfield Campus)