

**Methods of Coaching Forensics**  
**Spring 2016**  
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**TEXTBOOK:**

The articles for the course are available online and are posted in the weeks in which we will use them. The MSHSL Speech website (with separate pdf of the rules) is also available online on our course website.

**COURSE OVERVIEW, PURPOSE, AND LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

This course fulfills secondary licensure requirements for Communication Arts and Literature. The course covers methods and techniques in the development of competitive speech programs in grades 5-12. In this course, you will develop a knowledge of the events, coaching strategies, and program management. The purpose of this course is to help you prepare to teach and coach speech and forensics activities in secondary schools. After completion of this course, you will be able to:

- describe the Minnesota State High School League forensics events and their rules.
- evaluate performance in different forensics events
- develop a coaching philosophy that includes strategies and goals
- advocate for the value of forensics activities for secondary education students.

Successful completion of this course signifies that a student has demonstrated specific components of the Standards for Effective Practice for Initial Teacher Licensure in Communication Arts and Literature. The specific components of the Standard which are demonstrated in this course include: A16, B3b, B3d, C7.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

**1. Attendance (100 points):** Class attendance is expected and is critical to be successful in this course. You will get points based on how many classes you attend. For example, there are 15 class days; thus, if you miss 3 days (and attend 12 classes), you will receive 80% of the points allotted since you attended 80% of the classes. If, however, you miss no more than 1 class throughout the semester, I won't deduct any points--incentive to attend class!

**2. Speech Category Assignment (100 points):** With a partner, you will be assigned a MSHSL speaking category. With your category, you will be responsible for describing it, explaining the rules, and providing the class with an example (lots of example speeches on youtube!). You should be prepared to explain the rules and characteristics and to point out examples in the video speech you share. You should also provide a quiz (verbal or written) to the class following your presentation. Your presentation should be 8-10 minutes, with the video clip you share no longer than 5 minutes total.

**3. *Speech Advocacy Paper (100 points)*:** You will write a 2-3 page essay (with support) advocating for support of forensics programs as co-curricular activities in secondary schools. You may quote from the panelists and/or from the articles provided on D2L or from any other research you use; please cite properly.

**4. *Judging/Practice Reflection Paper (100 points)*:** You will have the opportunity to attend a high school speech team practice. At the practice, you will get the chance to see how a practice is run and to give feedback to the speakers as they practice. Following the practice, you will write a 2-3 page reflection paper on the experience.

**5. *Speech Tournament Experience (Reflection Paper, 100 points; Volunteer, 30 points)*:** You will have the opportunity to attend a high school speech tournament to learn about how one is run. At the tournament you will complete a service learning component, in which you will volunteer where needed (i.e. setting up, as a runner, in the ballot room, etc.). You will also watch at least 2 rounds with another classmate, “judge” using a ballot, discuss your ballot comments and rankings with your classmate, and write up a reflective paper on the speech tournament experience. The paper is worth 100 points, and fulfilling the volunteer requirement is worth 30 points.

**6. *Exam (70 points)*:** There will be an online exam on the MSHSL rules for high school forensics on the last day of class.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:**

<i>Class 1:</i> Intro to Course, Course Syllabus, Icebreakers	<i>Class 2:</i> The Value of Forensics; Guest Panel Read: “Forensics Can Change Lives,” “Changing School Culture through Speech and Debate,” “The Value of Speech and Debate in the Middle School Years,” & “Advocate for Speech & Debate: Write your Team History”
<i>Class 3:</i> No Class: University Closed for Holiday	<i>Class 4:</i> Speech Event Categories Read “Decoding Forensics Slang” & “Speech Coaching Handbook” (p. 5 & pp. 15-24) & “MSHSL Speech Rules” <b>Speech Category Partner Assignment Due</b>
<i>Class 5:</i> Guest Lecture Roxy Janke: Veteran Speech Coach Read: “The First Year Coach” & “Starting a Program” <b>Speech Advocacy Paper Due in Dropbox</b>	<i>Class 6:</i> Guest Lecture: Dan Cronn-Mills on Judging Read “Speech Coaching Handbook” (pp. 9-24) & “Confessions of a Lay Judge”
<i>Class 7:</i> Guest Lecture: Melanie Schmidt on Hosting & Running Speech Tournaments Read: “Hosting a Tournament”	<i>Class 8:</i> Speech Team Logistics Read: “The Art of Establishing a Practice Schedule,” “Building Relationships with Administration,” “I Don’t Run a Debate Club, I Run a Business: The Delegation of Leadership,” & “Program BUDGETing: Six Keys to Success”
<i>Class 9:</i> Mini-Tournament w/MSU speech team members Be prepared to judge!	<i>Class 10:</i> Attend speech team practice at Mankato East Be prepared to judge!
<i>Class 11:</i> Guest Lecture: Jody Saxton-West, Veteran Speech Coach on the “Nuts and Bolts of Coaching” Read “Speech Coaching Handbook” (pp. 1-4 & 6-8)	<i>Class 12:</i> Guest Lecture: Pam Wycoff, Vice President of NSDA <b>Judging/Practice Reflection Paper Due in Dropbox</b>
<i>Class 13:</i> Guest Lecture on Speechwire Read “The Coach as Mentor”	<i>Class 14:</i> Guest Lecture: Cadi Kadlecek & Kristofer Kracht on Building a Positive Speech Culture Read: Building Team Cohesion: Becoming “We” Instead of “Me” & “(Re)Building a Team Culture”
<i>Class 15:</i> Ethics/Plagiarism Read: “Forensics Education: How the Structure and Discourse of Forensics Promotes Competition”	<i>Class 16:</i> <b>Online Exam on MSHSL Rules</b> <b>Speech Tournament Reflection Paper Due in Dropbox</b>