



DEBATE – ELECTIVES

2023-2024 SYLLABUS

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor	Sarajane Stewart
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Office Hours	3:00-3:30, M, W, Th
Room Number(s)	E-421
Course URL/Moodle Page	http://learn.vcs.net

COURSE OVERVIEW

Course Number	
Traditional or Online Format	Traditional
Credit Hours	1
Course Prerequisites	None.
Course Description	Students will develop their writing and speaking skills as they create and deliver persuasive/argumentative speeches throughout the year. This course will also develop each student's ability to craft arguments and counterarguments in a formal debate setting while reasoning through proposed ideas and perspectives.
Required Textbook(s) or Apps	None.
Additional Materials Needed	None.
Fees	None.

I. PERSONAL NOTE FROM INSTRUCTOR TO LEARNERS

Tips for succeeding in class:

- Be on time and prepared for the day's activities.
- Be an active participant.
- Be willing to try new things with your best effort.
- Accept that trying and failing is part of the learning process.
- Demonstrate a positive attitude towards yourself, others in the course, and challenges in class.
- Be curious.

II. COURSE OVERVIEW

Course Outline/Main Units

- I. Elements of Effective Public Speaking
- II. Logical Fallacies
- III. Formal Debate

Overarching Biblical Theme/Verse

“Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.” Colossians 4:6 (ESV)

Major Assignments

III. CLASS POLICIES

Class Procedure

Each day, students can expect to come into class pray, and engage interactively in the topics being discussed through presentations, teamwork, research, and debate.

Homework Policy

Since this is an elective class, no homework will be assigned. However, students who do not complete their in-class work before the end of the period will be expected to submit their work at the beginning of the following class session.

Discipline Policy

Discipline will be handled as outlined in the Student Handbook on pages 13-20.

Guidelines for Student Behavior:

1. You are expected to treat everyone with respect.
2. Your actions may not cause a problem or an additional problem for anyone else.
3. You will be given the opportunity to make decisions and live with the results, whether the consequences are good or bad.
4. There will be a logical connection between misbehavior and resulting consequences.

Guidelines for Teacher Behavior:

1. I will speak to and/or about as well as treat everyone with respect.
2. If a student's actions cause a problem, they will be asked to solve it.
3. If a student cannot solve the problem, or chooses not to, I will do something. What I do will depend upon the situation and the person involved.
4. I believe that misbehavior is an opportunity for individual problem solving and as preparation for the real world as opposed to a personal attack on the school and staff.
5. I will do my best to ensure that there is a logical connection between misbehavior and resulting consequences.

IV. COURSE REDEMPTION POLICY

The goal is for students to practice self-discipline and responsibility by completing and turning in all assignments on time. As Christian teachers, we also desire to model Christ's love and compassion for our students and therefore, have created the following redemption policy:

–Any work that is not completed during class time will be considered homework. There is no homework assigned in this elective class. All presentations and major assignments must be submitted by the due date.

VCJH SCHOOLWIDE POLICIES

Test Return Policy

Students should be able to learn from test reviews about how to study and how to succeed on future assessments. Teachers must return a copy of all assessments to students for their review. This can occur during the class period with the teacher collecting the tests at the end of class. Test corrections are encouraged when it benefits student learning.

Excused Absence Make-up Work Policy

Students with excused absences will be allowed two class sessions for each day absent to make up missed work. Work includes in-class assignments, labs, quizzes, reviews, and any other activities worth points. Major assignments (such as tests and term papers) assigned weeks in advance may not qualify for any make-up work days. A student absent only on the day of a test may be required to take the test immediately upon return to school.

Homework Over Breaks

No homework should be assigned over major breaks (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Winter and Easter breaks). Also, no major projects or tests should be due the day upon returning to school.

School-Defined Custom Scores in PowerSchool

- E Excused (Counts as Exempt): This assignment has been excused.
- IP In Process (Counts as Exempt): If a teacher collects a large assignment, such as a book report, which may take longer than one week to grade. The teacher will mark IP to indicate it has been collected and it is in process of being graded.
- ABE Absent - Work Excused (Counts as Exempt): If a student has had an excused absence the teacher may choose to excuse the missed work. The teacher will mark ABE to indicate the work is not required.
- AB Absent - make-up work required (Counts as 0%): If a student has been absent and this work is still required, the teacher will mark AB to indicate it is still outstanding. Students have two days to submit this work.
- M Missing - Please submit (Counts as 0%): If a student did not turn in an assignment that the teacher will still accept for partial credit, the teacher will mark it as missing.
- CH Cheating - no credit (Counts as 0%): If a student is caught cheating, he will receive a Referral and the teacher will mark the assignment as CH which receives 0 points.
- NT Not Turned in - no credit (Counts as 0%): If a student did not turn in an assignment that the teacher will no longer accept for credit, the teacher will mark it as NT.
- ATT Attempted - 0 points earned (Counts as 0%): If a student turns in an assignment but it was very poorly done, the teacher will mark it as ATT to indicate that it was received.

Integrity Policies

All students are expected to be familiar with the iPad and Academic Integrity policies found in the Student Handbook.

V. GRADING POLICIES

Late/Make-up Work Policies

Late work: Work that is submitted after the published deadline.

1. *Homework- Late work will be accepted for 70% of earned credit until the end of a clearly identified unit or similar course defined period.*
2. *Projects- Projects will be accepted for 70% of earned credit when collected within one week of the assigned due date. If the assignment is collected between one week after the assigned due date and the course defined end of the grading period, students will receive 60% of earned credit.*
3. *Late work will be graded within two weeks of proper submission to the instructor.*

VI. COURSE FORMAT

Instructional Methods

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Stations |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Student Collaboration | <input type="checkbox"/> Inquiry-based Learning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learning by Teaching | <input type="checkbox"/> Lab |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Student Demonstrations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teacher Demonstrations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Workshops | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peer Tutoring |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | |

Role of the iPad

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Organization |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communication | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Creation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Formative Assessment | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

VII. COURSE ASSESSMENTS

Formative Assessments

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre-Assessment | <input type="checkbox"/> Benchmark |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Written Reflections | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class Deliverables |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Polls/Surveys | <input type="checkbox"/> Checks for Understanding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exit Tickets | <input type="checkbox"/> Homework |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Class Participation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-class Activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quizzes | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

Summative Assessments

Unit Exams

Papers

Speeches

Portfolios

Mid-Term Exam

Projects

Benchmark

Other:

Final Exam

Performances

Presentations

VIII. ACADEMIC CONTENT STANDARDS

VCS ESLRS	http://www.vcs.net/about-vcs/eslrs/index.aspx
Academic Content Standards	
National Education Technology Standards for Students (NETS-S)	http://iste.org