**BEGINNING DEBATE SYLLABUS**

**SEMESTER:** Fall 2018 – Black 2

**INSTRUCTOR: Mr. Jeff Sand ASSISTANT DEBATE COACHES: Melissa Miller and Rebecca Millan**

**Mitchell High School – Room 143**

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[www.mrsand.weebly.com](http://www.mrsand.weebly.com)

**TEXT:** *Basic Debate by Fryar, Thomas, and Goodnight – Third Edition*

**DESCRIPTION:**

Lifelong skills in the areas of speaking, listening, thinking, organization, research, and writing are emphasized in this course. Students will learn how to support two or more sides of a controversial question. Beginning students are encouraged to develop leadership, teamwork, cooperation, and dependability in debate tournament preparation. Students have numerous opportunities to implement their new skills and **are required to participate in a minimum of three debate contests**.

**MATERIALS:**

-Dress clothes for tournaments (see below). This will also be discussed in class.

-Laptop/Charger (Please bring to class every day.)

-Notebook

-Expandable File Folder

-Pens/Pencils/Highlighters

**GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Students will:

* acquire research skills
* demonstrate public speaking skills
* employ electronic resources for research and data management
* comprehend and practice argumentation theory
* comprehend and practice debate theory
* understand effective communication techniques
* develop leadership skills
* apply human relations skills when collaborating with others
* adjust/adapt performances based upon written and oral critiques
* develop the ability to give and receive appropriate constructive criticism
* HAVE FUN AND BE A PART OF A COMPETITIVE TEAM ATMOSPHERE!

**ELECTRONIC USE POLICY:**

1. Respect- Phones should be put away at the beginning of class. Leaving your phone on your desk during class is a distraction, temptation, and can be considered disrespectful to anyone speaking, including me. Although we will be using the laptops frequently, we will not use them all of the time. If someone is speaking, please show respect by lowering your laptop lid and focusing your attention on the speaker.
2. Responsibility- You also must be responsible and proactive in terms of taking care of your laptop (keeping it charged, not leaving it behind, etc.), but also making sure you download any attachments before leaving school as you may not have internet access at home. You are responsible for taking notes, writing assignments down in a planner or electronic calendar, and LISTENING in class. Do not expect every detail from class to be available online.
3. Reality- technology is now, more than ever, a part of our culture. I think we all should embrace this, but this will present challenges and temptations. There may be times when you are given time to work on assignments and multi-tasking or internet distractions may tempt you. Ultimately, you are responsible for your education, so do not expect extensions or leniency if you choose to not use class time appropriately.

**TOURNAMENT DRESS AND CONDUCT:**

You are required to compete in 3 speech/debate tournaments. This is the largest component of a student’s debate grade because of the time they give up on weekends debating. **While you are not evaluated on your record at tournaments, there are certain expectations of all MHS debaters, mainly in terms of etiquette and behavior.** You do not automatically receive credit for the tournament grade simply by signing up. Any of the following occurrences will result in receiving a “0” for a tournament, finding a replacement partner/team, paying for the cost of your entry fee and travel expenses.

* Disrespect to coaches, competitors, judges, or host school
* Inappropriate behavior or inappropriate attire (dress will be discussed in class)
* Missing rounds
* Showing up late for the bus
* Canceling or backing out after registering for a debate tournament
* Lack of any effort or forfeiture of rounds
* Criticizing your partner and other teammates
* Poor sportsmanship

**AFTER SCHOOL PRACTICE:**

**Students must complete one after school practice debate to be judged by one or two advanced debaters PER QUARTER.** A sign-up sheet will be posted for various times and nights throughout each quarter that should accommodate students with work/practice schedules, etc. The benefit of these debates is that the students get to learn from the advanced debaters and get some information from current competitors’ perspectives. This is also beneficial for novices to be acquainted with the varsity debate squad. Students will receive full credit for the round if the advanced debaters sign off on the ballot that the debaters used their full speech times, evidence, and made an honest effort. Students who are interested in more competitive opportunities are especially encouraged to work with advanced students and coaches even more often after school.

**ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:**

Assignments and activities will include, but are not limited to worksheets, quizzes, tests, case writing, brief writing, research, team debates, and attendance at tournaments. You will be given specific explanations of each assignment when it is made.

**Grade Eligibility Requirements:**

**A = Compete in 2 IE Tournaments and 3 Debate Tournaments**

**B = Compete in 2 IE Tournaments and 2 Debate Tournaments**

**C = Compete in 1 IE Tournament and 2 Debate Tournaments**

**D = Compete in 1 IE Tournament and 1 Debate Tournament**

**F = Compete in only 1 IE or Debate Tournament**

**GRADING SCALE: A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = 0-59**

* Cumulative point totals and participation in tournaments will determine your grades. Quizzes and tests are worth more points than daily work.
* Your semester grade will be composed of the following: 40% first nine weeks, 40% second nine weeks, and 20% semester exam.

**LATE WORK/MAKE-UP WORK/ABSENCES**

* Expected Absences: If you know that you will be gone for an activity, doctor’s appointment, etc., you are required to make up the work you will miss **before** the absence.
* Unexpected Absences: If you are absent without prior knowledge, you are expected to find out what your assignments/obligations are and complete them before the next class period. So if you are sick on Monday and cannot come to class, you need to visit **mrsand.weebly.com** to determine what you missed. If you still have questions after visiting the class website, then please stop in and see me during SRB or before or after school.
* Whether the deadline is the end of the class period or nine weeks hence, submit work on time.
* Late work is only eligible for half credit, but even if an assignment is late, turn it in because half credit is better than no credit.
* After one week from the assignment’s due date, you may no longer turn it in for credit.

**BEGINNING OF THE CLASS PERIOD/END OF THE CLASS PERIOD PROCEDURES:**

* There will be a bell ringer activity or instructions displayed on the board at the beginning of every period.
* You will be expected to be in your seat working quietly on this activity or assignment when the bell rings.
* The last portion of class will oftentimes be dedicated to the completion of an individual activity or beginning work on homework assignments for the day. Whatever the activity, continue working quietly until the bell rings.
* Do NOT congregate at the door at the end of the period. You are expected to remain in your seat working diligently until the bell rings. Failure to do this will result in the holding the class after the bell rings.

**CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:**

**Expectation #1:** **R-E-S-P-E-C-T**. You must treat each of your teammates, opponents, guests in our room, etc. with the same level of respect with which you expect to be treated. You may do only those things that do not interfere with your learning or the learning of anyone else.

**Expectation #2: Focus on learning.** Treat your space as both a classroom and a learning environment. Debate is a co-curricular activity because there is a class component as well as a tournament component and each is equally important. You must be willing to learn, participate, and improve each and every class period.

**Expectation #3**: **Time-Management**. Use class time productively. Because of the nature of this class, you will be given an adequate amount of time to prepare for debate tournaments. When you are given time to work individually or with a partner, take advantage of this! Remember that if you are called on to debate, you must be prepared. If you choose not to make full use of class time, you will get no flexibility from me. Do not expect extensions on assignments, early dismissals for tournaments, or passes out of other classes to prep for tournaments.

**Expectation #4: Don’t be late!** Just as I expect everyone to be on time for debate tournament departures, I also expect everyone to arrive to class on time, both because I am responsible for you and because you miss valuable class time when you are late. I take daily attendance and will mark you tardy if you are not in your seat and working on the bell ringer activity when the bell rings.

**Expectation #5: Go beyond your comfort zone!** “The only real failure in life…is the failure to try.” Please don’t be afraid to make mistakes, try something new, and get out of your comfort zone. Let’s make it a great year by giving it a 100% in all we do!

**\*\*\*SEE DEBATE CONTRACT BELOW\*\*\***

**Beginning Debate**

**Acknowledgement of Co-Curricular Activity Requirements and Classroom Expectations**

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Debate is classified as a co-curricular activity. There are required components outside of class that impact a student’s grade. These requirements have specific due dates and times and cannot be made up. Grading is based upon participation and completion of these assignments. The requirements outside of class are as follows:

1. Students are required to compete in speech and debate tournaments outside of school hours. The grade eligibility requirements are listed below:

Grade Eligibility Requirements:

**A = Compete in 2 IE Tournaments and 3 Debate Tournaments**

**B = Compete in 2 IE Tournaments and 2 Debate Tournaments**

**C = Compete in 1 IE Tournament and 2 Debate Tournaments**

**D = Compete in 1 IE Tournament and 1 Debate Tournament**

**F = Compete in only 1 IE or Debate Tournament**

1. Students are required to complete 1 out-of-class practice debate each quarter with a member of the varsity debate team (either during SRB or after school).

I am aware of the co-curricular requirements listed above and understand my commitment to MHS Debate and this course.

I am also aware of the expectations, procedures, and practices associated with MHS Debate as outlined in the attached syllabus.

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Student’s Signature Date

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Parent’s Signature Date