CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE  
SYLLABUS FOR SPCH 1144  
FORENSICS ACTIVITIES I  

Semester Hours Credit: 1  

Instructor: ________________________  
Office Hours: _____________________  

I. INTRODUCTION  
A. The Forensics Activities course provides study and practice in the nine individual and team speaking events that are commonly a part of forensic competition. The course stresses research of subject matter, performance, and professionalism as a competitive speaker. Will include some travel to area forensic tournaments as a member of CTC’s speech team. Students who wish to take the Forensics Activities course more than once may do so by using one of the following course numbers for which they have not previously earned credit: SPCH 1144, SPCH 1145, SPCH 2144, or SPCH 2145.  

B. SPCH 1144 counts as an elective credit for many degree plans at Central Texas College. Please check your degree plan to determine the status of this course in your program of study.  

C. The Forensics Activities course is useful to students in a number of fields, including Speech, Political Science, Drama, English, Telecommunications, Paralegal, and Pre-law. The course is also useful for students who are planning to transfer to 4-year universities.  

D. Prerequisite(s): None  

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES  

Upon successful completion of this course, Forensics Activities, the student will:  

A. Recall and apply theories related to the oral interpretation of literature and analyze literature according to plot, characters, setting, theme, point-of-view, language style, and adaptability for oral performance. (C5, C6, C7, F1, F2, F7, F10)  

B. Perform literature aloud with variety in voice, facial expressions, gestures, posture, and movement, and analyze the literature to support their performance choices. (C1, C5, C6, C7, C8, C9, C14, F1, F2, F5, F6, F7, F10, F13, F14, F15, F16, F17)
C. Prepare and present platform speeches using research, organization, and delivery skills. (C1, C5, C6, C7, C8, C9, C12, F1, F2, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12, F13, F14, F15, F16, F17)

D. Learn parliamentary procedure and participate in Parliamentary Debate rounds. (C1, C4, C5, C6, C7, C9, C12, C13, C14, C15, C16, F1, F2, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12, F13, F14, F15, F16, F17)

III. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

A. Required Text: None

B. Other Instructional Materials: The instructor will provide hand-outs to the students for each of the lessons. Students will be required to provide texts for performance, 5 ½” x 8 ½” black binders for competition, note pads, pens, and other materials as announced by the instructor.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Reading Assignments: Students should read all of the hand-out materials provided by the instructor.

B. Projects, Research Papers, Assignments:

1. Students will be required to attend all scheduled forensics tournaments announced by the instructor at the beginning of the semester. The CTC forensics team typically travels to 3 – 4 tournaments each semester. Students are not allowed to miss a tournament for any reason and should make plans to travel on the designated weekends at the beginning of the semester. Failure to travel to a forensics tournament will adversely affect the student’s grade.

2. Students will be required to meet with the instructor outside of class each week to prepare for competition. The instructor will announce the length and/or location of these meetings.

2. Students will complete a number of homework and in-class assignments to be assigned by the instructor.

3. Students will participate in practice performances in and out of class.

4. Students will compose and type a paper analyzing their performance at each of the forensics competitions.
C. Class Performance

1. Attendance is necessary for a successful performance-oriented course. Attendance means coming to class on time and prepared. Roll will be taken every class period, and students whose absences (excused or unexcused) exceed a total of three (3) class meetings will become liable for administrative withdrawal from or failure in this course.

2. Students are responsible for lecture notes, homework assignments and other information missed by not attending class, including any changes in the schedule or assignments. The schedule may need to be rearranged during the term.

3. Students are expected to complete all assignments on time.

4. Students are expected to know and observe all college regulations.

5. Students are expected to follow the syllabus and keep up with all required reading and assignments.

6. While presentations are in progress, students are expected to behave as a courteous audience. They should not talk, enter or leave the room, work on homework, answer a cellular phone or pager, or do anything that might distract the speaker during her/his speech.

D. Class Participation

1. Students are expected to participate constructively in class discussions and projects.

2. Failure to participate in class activities will reduce the student’s grade for those activities.

V. EXAMINATIONS

There will be one exam in this class. The final exam will be comprehensive and will be worth 20 percent of the student’s final grade. The format of the exam will be explained in class.

VI. SEMESTER GRADE COMPUTATIONS

A. Attendance at forensics tournaments 40% of course grade

B. Weekly Meetings and Assignments 40% of course grade

C. Final Examination 20% of course grade
VII. NOTES AND ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE INSTRUCTOR

A. Course Withdrawal: It is your responsibility to officially drop a class if circumstances prevent attendance. If you desire to, or must, officially withdraw from a course on or after the first scheduled class meeting, file an Application for Withdrawal and, if during the refund period, an Application for Refund with the CTC Records/Business Offices or with the CTC representative at your location. During the official add/drop period, which is through the 12th class day for a 16-week course, a student may use a schedule change request form to drop a course.

B. Administrative Withdrawal: If a student has not attended class by the 12th class day of a 16-week semester class, that student will be dropped by the instructor with a grade of “W.” A student may be administratively withdrawn from any class when that student’s absences exceed a total of four class meetings for a spring or fall semester or three class meetings for an eleven-week, eight-week, or six-week semester; and in the opinion of the instructor, that student cannot satisfactorily complete the course. The final decision rests solely with the instructor.

C. Incomplete Grade: An “IP” grade (“In Progress”) may be assigned by an instructor if a student has made satisfactory progress in a course with the exception of a major quiz, final exam, or other project. The “IP” grade may also be assigned for extenuating circumstances beyond a student’s control such as personal illness, death in the immediate family, military orders, or in the case of distance learning courses, technology failures and mail delays. Notice of absences with supporting documentation may be required by the instructor. Students should notify instructors in advance of absences whenever possible. The instructor makes the final decision concerning the granting of the incomplete grade. The instructor may set a deadline for completing the remaining course requirements. In no case will the deadline exceed 120 days after the scheduled end of the course. It is the student’s responsibility to arrange with the instructor for the assignment of work necessary to complete the course and to change the “IP” within the time specified. An “IP” grade cannot be replaced by the grade of “W.” At the end of the 120 days if the student has not completed the remaining coursework as required by the instructor, the “IP” will be converted to an “FI” and appear as an “F” on the student’s official transcript. Special conditions may apply to students enrolled in courses paid through financial aid, scholarships and VA benefits; military tuition assistance; or other third-party contractual agreements. Incomplete grades of “I” are no longer given.

D. Cellular Phones and beepers: Cellular phones and beepers will be turned off while the student is in the classroom or laboratory.

E. American’s with Disabilities Act (ADA): Disability Support Services provides services to students who have appropriate documentation of a disability. Students requiring accommodations for class are responsible for contacting the Office of
Disability Support Services (DSS) located on the central campus. This service is available to all students, regardless of location. Review the website at www.ctcd.edu/disability-support for further information. Reasonable accommodations will be given in accordance with the federal and state laws through the DSS office.

F. Instructor Discretion: The instructor reserves the right of final decision in course requirements.

G. Civility: Individuals are expected to be cognizant of what a constructive educational experience is and respectful of those participating in a learning environment. Failure to do so can result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

VII. COURSE OUTLINE

A. **Lesson One**: Forensics Competition Overview

1. **Learning Outcomes**: Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will be able to:
   a. Know the policies and procedures for intercollegiate forensics competition.
   b. Be aware of the requirements of the CTC Forensics Team Commitment Pledge.

2. **Learning Activities**:
   a. Students will study the constitutions of Phi Rho Pi (national forensics organization) and the TCCSTA (Texas Community College Speech and Theater Association). (C5, C6, C7, C9, C12, C15, F1, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12, F13, F14, F15, F16, F17)
   b. Students will read, discuss and sign the CTC Forensics Team Commitment Pledge. (C5, C6, C7, C9, C12, C13, C14, C15, F1, F2, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F12, F13, F14, F15, f16, F17)

3. **Lesson Outline**:
   a. Introduction to Forensics
      (1) Oral Interpretation Overview
      (2) Platform Speaking Overview
      (3) Parliamentary Debate Overview
   b. Introduction to Intercollegiate Competitions
      (1) Tournament Basics
      (2) Organizations: TIFA, TCCSTA, and Phi Rho Pi
      (3) CTC Requirements
      (4) CTC Commitment Pledge
(5) Travel Procedures
Lesson Two: Oral Interpretation of Literature

1. **Learning Objectives:** Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will be able to:
   a. Perform literature aloud with variety in voice, facial expressions, gestures, posture, and movement.
   b. Analyze literature to support your performance choices.

2. **Learning Activities:**
   a. Students will follow the instructor’s directions regarding movement, voice, facial expressions and gestures in practice sessions. (*C5, C6, C7, F1, F5, F7, F10*)
   b. Students will perform literature with variety in voice, facial expressions, gestures, posture, and movement. (*C5, C6, C7, C9, F1, F2, F6, F7, F10*)
   c. Students will compose and type a paper analyzing the choices of voice, facial expressions, gestures, posture, and movement. (*F2, F8, F9, F10*)

3. **Lesson Outline:**
   a. Discovering and Developing Your Voice
      (1) Levels of Meaning in Selections
      (2) Speech Intelligibility
      (3) Time
      (4) Volume and Force
      (5) Pitch in Performance
      (6) Vocal Quality
   b. Training Your Sense Memory for Oral Interpretation
      (1) Coming to Your Senses
   c. The Interpretation of Prose
      (1) Oral Interpretation as Storytelling
      (2) Many Voices
      (3) Why is the Narrator So Important?
      (4) Performer’s Journal
      (5) A Narrative Prose Trip
      (6) Introductions
      (7) Cutting a Piece or Program
   d. The Interpretation of Poetry
      (1) Rhythm
      (2) Meter
      (3) Tempo
      (4) Other Language Tools
      (5) Figures of Speech
      (6) Introductions
      (7) Cutting a Piece or Program
   e. Duo and Ensemble Approaches to Interpretation
(1) The Nature of Ensemble Reading
(2) Cutting a Duo Piece
(3) Introductions

g. The Interpretation of Drama
   (1) Introductions
   (2) Conflict
   (3) Character - - Who’s involved?
   (4) Clues For Performance
   (5) Setting and Time
   (6) Styles of Drama

h. Program Oral Interpretation
   (1) Selecting a Theme
   (2) Cutting your Pieces
   (3) Non-verbal Transitions
   (4) Introductions

C. Lesson Three: Platform Speaking

1. Learning Objectives: Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will be able to:
   a. Prepare and present platform speeches using research, organization, and delivery skills.
   b. Analyze their own speech performances and those of the other members of the forensics team.

2. Learning Activities:
   a. Students will research current events for extemporaneous speaking and will work on the team research file. (C1, C5, C6, C7, C8, C9, C12, F1, F2, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12, F13, F14, F15, F16, F17)
   b. Students will perform a variety of platform speeches. (C5, C6, C7, C9, F1, F2, F6, F7, F10)
   c. Students will compose and type a paper analyzing their performance and the performance of the other team members. (F2, F8, F9, F10)

3. Lesson Outline:
   a. Research Basics
      (1) Using Online Databases of Journals
      (2) Finding Current Events Information
      (3) Maintaining a Research File
   b. Composing and Performing a Platform Speech
      (1) Basic Speech Outline
      (2) Impromptu Speeches
      (3) Informative Speeches
(4) Persuasive Speeches
(5) After-Dinner Speeches
(6) Communication Analysis Speeches
(7) Extemporaneous Speeches

C. **Lesson Four**: Parliamentary Debate

1. **Learning Objectives**: Upon successful completion of this unit, the student will be able to:
   a. Understand the procedures of Parliamentary Debate.
   b. Compete in Parliamentary Debate.

2. **Learning Activities**:
   a. Students will learn Parliamentary Debate procedure. (C1, C5, C6, C7, C8, C9, C12, F1, F2, F5, F6, F7, F8, F9, F10, F11, F12, F13, F14, F15, F16, F17)
   b. Students will perform Parliamentary Debate practice rounds. (C5, C6, C7, C9, F1, F2, F6, F7, F10)
   c. Students will compose and type a paper analyzing their performance and the performance of the other team members. (F2, F8, F9, F10)

3. **Lesson Outline**:
   a. Parliamentary Debate Procedure
      (1) Role of the Government
      (2) Role of the Opposition
      (3) Resolutions/Topics
      (4) Using Prep Time Effectively
      (5) Building/Refuting a Case
      (6) Time Limits
   b. Stock Issues
      (1) Topicality
      (2) Inherency
      (3) Solvency
      (4) Significance
      (5) Harms
   c. Interruptions
      (1) Points of Order
      (2) Points of Information
      (3) Points of Personal Privilege
      (4) Protected Time