COMMUNICATION 3880 —Debate Practicum

### Instructor: Brian Lain, PhD T 5:00pm-6:00pm

### E-Mail: blain@unt.edu GAB 325

### Instructor’s Office: GAB 320D Office Hours: T 11-12:30pm, W 1-2:30pm

### Office Ph. (940) 565-4534 and by appointment

Overview to the Course:

Instruction and practice in competitive debate. Advanced discussion of argumentation theory and debate practice with an emphasis on contemporary intercollegiate debate. Requires participation in debate tournaments and weekly team meetings. May be repeated for credit.

Assignments:

1. Weekly research is expected of you. There are models available on our team dropbox.
2. Practice: You are expected to practice at least once every 2 weeks, and judge a debate once every 2 weeks.
3. Competition: You are expected to participate in the team’s competitive outlet with at least 2 competitive tournaments during the semester.
4. Team meetings: You are expected to attend team meetings. If your class schedule prevents you from making team meetings an accommodation can be made.
5. Regular Check-ins: You must make contact with Dr. Lain at least once a week to discuss how participation is going with the team.

UNT Debate Travel Schedule will be shared on SLack

No one will participate in all of the tournaments, however, most will attend more than 2.

Grading

The graded assignments are designed to allow the student to demonstrate proficiency in these areas. The following scale will be used:

A 90-100 Clearly Outstanding and exceptional work

B 80-89 Above Average Work

C 70-79 Average Work; Meets all the criteria for an assignment

D 60-69 Below Average Work

F Below 60 Fails to Meet Minimal Expectations

**Tentative Class Schedule:**

This schedule indicates class meeting days, items which are due on those days, and items which should be read from the texts in advance of those meetings. This schedule is subject to change.

**Week 1** Topic evaluation- getting to know the resolution: in depth analysis and research on areas of the topic

**Week 2** Affirmative debriefing- advocating the proposition

**Week 3** Negative debriefing- building disadvantages

**Week 4** Negative details- Counterplans and net benefits

**Week 5** Negative details- adding philosophy into debate

**Week 6** Rebuttal strategies

**Week 7**  Cross-Examination Strategies

**Week 8** Learning Political Layout- negotiating policy discussion

**Week 9** Audience adaptation one: Expert Critics

**(F-Sa) 11/7-8 John S. Gossett High School Debate Tournament, Required attendance**

**Week 10** Audience Adaptation two: Public audience adaptation

**Week 11** Judging debates

**Week 12** Debate Outreach: bringing discussion to other community leaders

**Week 13** Reflection Essay: What I have experienced in debate this semester (2 pages)