

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2016	Classroom:	201	Professor:	Dr. Melani Guinn
Course:	COMM 180	Class Dates:	8/15-10/5	Email:	melani.guinn@imperial.edu
CRN:	11107	Class Days:	Mon & Wed	Office:	2790
Title:	Argumentation and Debate	Class Time:	2:00 – 5:10	Phone:	355-5705
Units:	3			Office Hours:	Mon-Thur 12:55-1:55

Course Description

An introduction to debate, with emphasis on the creation and refutation of arguments concerning current social, political, and legal issues

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- 1) recognize and make sound and complete arguments;
- 2) demonstrate an understanding of the responsibilities of the proposition and opposition teams, as well as the role of each speaker on the team;
- 3) compile arguments and evidence to support various sides of commonly debated topics (e.g., gun control, capital punishment, legalization of prostitution, animal rights, euthanasia, etc.).

Course Objectives

1. The student will be able to create, critique, and refute arguments.
2. The student will be able to identify fallacious argumentation.
3. The student will be familiar with the most commonly debated topics (i.e., gun control, capital punishment, legalization of prostitution, animal rights, euthanasia, etc.) and the arguments that are typically made in these debates.
4. The student will participate in formal classroom debates.
5. The student will understand the responsibilities of the proposition vs. opposition as well as the role of each speaker on the proposition and opposition teams.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Meany, John, and Kate Shuster. *On That Point!* New York: IDEA Press Books, 2003.

Editors of IDEA. *The Debatabase Book, 6th edition: A Must Have Guide for Successful Debate*
New York: IDEA Press Books, 2013.

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Lecture, discussion, group work, critiques of student debates, quizzes, homework (e.g., debate preparation notebook, argument development exercises, etc.)

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

1. Debate participation	70%
2. Debate critiques	10%
3. Debate preparation (knowledge of fallacies, completion of homework, group work)	20%

Attendance

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See General Catalog for details.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

Classroom Etiquette

- Electronic Devices: Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class, unless otherwise directed by the instructor.
- Food and Drink: prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception.
- Disruptive Students: Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the General Catalog.
- Visitors in the classroom: Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another's work and recognize the importance of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property. There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct.

- **Plagiarism:** taking and presenting as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. Students should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to "cite a source" correctly, ask for help.
- **Cheating:** fraud, deceit, and/or dishonesty in an academic assignment; using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an 'F' in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the General Catalog for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) using a commercial term paper service.

Additional Student Services

Imperial Valley College offers various services in support of student success. The following are some of the services available for students. Please speak to your instructor about additional services, which may be available.

- **Blackboard Support Site.** The Blackboard Support Site provides a variety of support channels available to students 24 hours per day.
- **Learning Services.** There are several learning labs on campus to assist students through the use of computers and tutors. Please consult your Campus Map for the Math Lab; Reading, Writing & Language Labs; and the Study Skills Center.
- **Library Services.** There is more to our library than just books. You have access to tutors in the Study Skills Center, study rooms for small groups, and online access to a wealth of resources.

Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. The DSP&S office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313. Please contact them if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

Student Counseling and Health Services

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee.

- **Student Health Center.** A Student Health Nurse is available on campus. In addition, Pioneers Memorial Healthcare District provides basic health services for students, such as first aid and care for minor illnesses. Contact the IVC Student Health Center at 760-355-6128 in Room 1536 for more information.
- **Mental Health Counseling Services.** Short-term individual, couples, family, and group therapy are provided to currently enrolled students. Contact the IVC Mental Health Counseling Services at 760-355-6196 in Room 2109 for more information.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Imperial Valley College Course Syllabus – COMM 180

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and to due process of law. For more information regarding student rights and responsibilities, please refer to the IVC General Catalog.

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to helping students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. The IVC Library provides numerous Information Literacy Tutorials to assist students in this endeavor.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar*

Week	Monday	Wednesday
8/15-8/17	Introduction to Argument ARE: Assertion Reasoning Evidence HW: Read pp. 15-17 in <i>OTP</i> ; Add reasoning to each of the ten assertions and bring 2 copies to Wed. class	Group work on reasoning, discuss most persuasive arguments; introduce types of evidence HW: add evidence to 10 arguments created in HW#1; Read pp. 83-86; 93-105 and Chapter 8 in <i>OTP</i>
8/22-8/24	Watch CP speech and analyze evidence; Introduce Case Construction – Watch Oxford Debate and analyze case construction HW: Choose a policy issue in <i>Deatabase</i> and create a proposition case for it.	Best arguments from homework Team work on case construction HW: prepare for team presentation
8/29-8/31	Team Presentations of Cases HW: Read chapters 10 & 11 in <i>OTP</i> !	Build Cases Against Gambling Watch & critique 2006 IVC debate video, focusing on roles in parliamentary debate HW: read Chapters 6 & 12 and 251-254 in <i>OTP</i> !
9/5-9/7	HOLIDAY – NO CLASS	Practice Debates HW: Preparation Notebook
9/12-9/14	Debate Round 1 & 1 HW: Preparation Notebook	Debate Round 1 & 2 HW: Preparation Notebook
9/19-9/21	Debate Round 2 & 2 – Fallacies HW: Preparation Notebook	Debate 3 & 3 HW: Preparation Notebook
9/26-9/28	Debate 3 & 4 HW: Preparation Notebook	Debate 4 & 4 HW: Preparation Notebook
10/3-10/5	FINAL	FINAL

*This schedule is subject to change. Do not rely on it if you miss a class; contact a classmate to catch up on what you missed.