



Welcome to COMM 180!

Semester:	Spring 2025	How to contact your professor:	Students are welcome to contact me outside of class time. You may e-mail me, message me via Pronto, or call my office and leave a message.
Course Title & #:	COMM 180 - Oral Argumentation & Debate		
CRN #:	20537	Instructor Name:	Dr. Elvinet Piard
Classroom:	Bldg 300 Rm 302	Email:	elvinet.piard@imperial.edu
Class Dates:	Feb 10 – June 6, 2025	Office #:	230-A1
Class Days:	T/Th	Office Hours:	MW 1:00p-4:00p
Class Times:	11:20a – 12:45p	Office Phone #:	(760) 355-6150
Units:	3	Class Format/Modality:	In-person

Course Description

An introduction to debate, with emphasis on the creation and refutation of arguments concerning current social, political, and legal issues. (C-ID: COMM 120) (CSU/UC)

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

None.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. write a case for an argumentative debate;
2. write and submit five properly worded debate propositions;
3. use logos to support their arguments during the debate process.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate effective verbal and nonverbal delivery skills while managing speaking anxiety in a variety of faculty-supervised and faculty-evaluated oral presentations in the English language
2. Compose and deliver sound and compelling oral arguments tailored to diverse audiences in a variety of settings and contexts, demonstrating rhetorical sensitivity to equity, inclusion, belonging, and accessibility
3. Apply rhetorical strategies and principles of logic to analyze and evaluate historical and contemporary public discourse
4. Refine the use of ethos, pathos, and logos (i.e., the three Aristotelian appeals) while applying rhetorical organizational strategies to create and arrange oral arguments in the English language
5. Evaluate the relevance and reliability of primary and secondary sources; skillfully select, summarize, and employ different types of evidence to support arguments in oral debate
6. Critically listen to classmates' oral arguments and provide constructive feedback in the English language
7. Demonstrate ethical communication strategies when preparing and participating in live oral presentations and debates, employing honesty, accuracy, active listening, credible sources, unbiased terminology, and sound reasoning while avoiding condescension, distortion of information, use of fallacies, and degrading and/or intimidating language.



Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

1. John Meany and Kate Shuster. 2003. *On That Point! An Introduction to Parliamentary Debate. Discipline Classic International Debate Education Association*. ISBN: 978-0972054119 PDF Version: <https://tinyurl.com/On-That-Point> to prepare for quizzes, prepare for debates, and participate in lecture/discussions.
2. OER Textbook: Various. 2023. The Debatabase Book. International Debate Education Association. URL: <https://idebate.net/resources/debatabase> for debate preparation.
3. Britannica ProCon: <https://www.procon.org/> for debate preparation.
4. Opposing Viewpoints – comprehensive coverage of a wide range of topics; database available via IVC library.
5. CQ Researcher – provides summaries and in-depth analysis of current topics; database available via IVC library.
6. *Inherit the Wind* (1999) feature film - <https://youtu.be/NYCfo4hVolQ> - Based on a real-life case in 1925.

To be successful in this course...

All of us in the class, you, me, and your peers, have a responsibility to create an environment in which we can learn from each other. I expect everyone to participate in class so that we can all benefit from the insights and experiences that each person brings. Active participation is crucial to your success in this course. To ensure a productive learning environment, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- **Engagement with Course Materials:** Regularly engage with all course materials, including readings, videos, homework and interactive activities assigned during class. Your understanding of these materials will directly impact your ability to participate meaningfully in the course.
- **Class Discussion:** Participation in class discussion is expected. Your shares should be thoughtful, respectful, and contribute to the classroom conversation. Class surveys will use the Canvas Discussion Board.
- **Attendance and Timely Submission:** While attendance is measured by physical presence, your participation is also tracked through timely submission of homework and in-class assignments, participation in discussions, and interactions with your peers.
- **Regular Effective Contact:** Regular communication with your instructor and peers is expected. This includes checking announcements, responding to emails within 48 hours, and attending required class meetings or office hours.
- **Classroom Etiquette:** Maintain a respectful and professional tone in all course communications. Be considerate of others' opinions, and support your statements with evidence when applicable. *Please identify which course and section you are enrolled in to facilitate your e-mail communications with your professor.*

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Lecture, discussion, group work, debates, debate cases/position papers, critiques of debates, quizzes, homework.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Final Grades: Your final grade in class will be determined based on how many points you have earned on all the assignments combined. However, if you do not complete the assigned mandatory debates, you will not pass the class, regardless of whether you scored above a certain percentage. The grade breakdown is as follows:

A=89% - 100%

B=79% - 88%

C=69% - 78%

D=59% - 68%

F=below 59%

SPEECH WORK:

Category (Possible points)	Speeches (200)	Speech Outlines (200)	Peer and Self Evals (120)
Debate Speech #1	50 points	50	30
Debate Speech #2	50	50	30
Debate Speech #3	50	50	30
Debate Speech #4	50	50	30



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ALLOCATION OF POINTS

Assignments	Point Value	Weighted Value
Debate Speeches (includes Peer/Self Evaluations)	320 points	32%
Speech outlines	200 points	20%
Position Papers x 2	50 points	5%
Midterm	50 points	15%
Attendance	150 points	5%
Quizzes & Other Coursework	220 points	23%
Total	990 points	100%

Plagiarism, Cheating and the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

IVC prioritizes critical thinking, communication skills, and academic integrity. Using AI tools to replace your own thinking and writing contradicts our mission and academic honesty policy and will be deemed academic dishonesty unless instructed otherwise by your instructor. If you have questions about using AI tools ethically, please consult your instructor. Submitting any academic work where outside sources are presented as your own constitutes academic dishonesty. This includes: (1) plagiarism, such as copying or paraphrasing without citation; (2) submitting another's work, including a tutor's or your own from a different course; and (3) using AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT or CourseHero) without attribution. All forms of cheating violate IVC's Academic Integrity policies and may result in sanctions including but not limited to failing the assignment or failing the course.

All submitted work should reflect your own critical thinking and voice, with all sources clearly cited. Use outside sources and tools appropriately, without substituting them for your learning.

Accessibility Statement

Imperial Valley College is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students, regardless of course modality. Every effort has been made to ensure that this course complies with all state and federal accessibility regulations, including Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. However, if you encounter any content that is not accessible, please contact your instructor or the area dean for assistance. If you have specific accommodations through DSPS, contact them for additional assistance. We are here to support you and ensure that you have equal access to all course materials.

Course Policies

Attendance/Drop Policy: A student who fails to attend the first class is automatically dropped from the course. The course has 32 class meetings for Spring 2025. Each class meeting is valued at 5 points. Students are granted 2 excused absences in a semester. Any class missed after the first 2 will result in -10 points for each scheduled class meeting missed, which will affect not only points for attendance but overall course grade. It is the student's responsibility to drop all classes they are no longer attending. However, a student may be withdrawn after the add/drop deadline due to excessive absences. Students who remain enrolled in a class beyond the published withdrawal deadline, will receive an evaluative letter grade in this class (A, B, C, D, F).

Late Work Policy: Any assignment submitted after the due date published on Canvas will be considered late. Should you submit an assignment late, your final grade on the assignment will be penalized by 10%. After that, late work will be penalized at an additional 10% per day. Late work will only be accepted up to 5 days from the day it is due for a maximum 50% deduction. **Only emergencies are acceptable exceptions to this rule.**



IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.

College Policies	Disability Support	Technical Support
Food and Housing Support	Tutoring	Career Services
IVC Library	IVC Happenings	Student Health and Wellness
Financial Aid and Scholarships	Academic Counseling	Admissions and Records
Child Care	Bookstore	Military/Veterans Success
English as a second language	IVC Cares	Request Support

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 1 Feb 11, 13	Syllabus <i>Inherit the Wind</i> (1999)	Argumentativeness Scale Assessment
Week 2 Feb 18, 20	No class on 2/17 (Washington Day) Introduction to Debate	Practice "A.R.E." Practice Refutation – "I Disagree" Chapter 1-2 (Quiz 1)
Week 3 Feb 25, 27	Taking Notes and Topic Interpretation Developing a Case Outline	Flowing Exercise Word Economy Exercise Chapter 3-4 (Quiz 2) Position Paper #1 due (2-3 pages)
Week 4 Mar 4, 6	Research & Evidence (Support) Opposition Strategy	Public Speakers Discussion (original post due 3/5) APA Quiz Chapter 5-8 (Quiz 3)
Week 5 Mar 11, 13	Debate Round 1	
Week 6 Mar 18, 20	Debate Round 1	
Week 7 Mar 25, 27	Debate Round 1	
Week 8 Apr 1, 3	Debate Round 2	
Week 9 Apr 8, 10	Debate Round 2	
Week 10 Apr 15, 17	Debate Round 2	
Week 11 Apr 22, 24	No classes – Spring Recess	
Week 12 Apr 29, May 1	Debate Round 3	
Week 13 May 6, 8	Debate Round 3	
Week 14 May 13, 15	Debate Round 3	
Week 15 May 20, 22	Debate Round 4	



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Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 16 May 27, 29	Debate Round 4	
Week 17 June 3, 5	Debate Round 4	Position Paper #2 due (3-4 pages)

*****Subject to change without prior notice*****