

## Basic Course Information

Semester:	<b>Spring 2019</b>	Instructor Name:	<b>Bret Kofford</b>
Course Title & #:	<b>COMM 180</b>	Email:	<b>Kofford@roadrunner.com</b>
CRN #:	<b>21094</b>	Webpage (optional):	<b>None</b>
Classroom:	<b>315</b>	Office #:	<b>None</b>
Class Dates:	<b>Feb. 12. – June 4</b>	Office Hours:	<b>None</b>
Class Days:	<b>Tuesdays</b>	Office Phone #:	<b>760-353-3711</b>
Class Times:	6:30-9:40 p.m.	Emergency Contact:	<b>760-353-3711</b>
Units:	3		

## 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 students 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 the commonly debated topics (gun control, capital punishment, legalization of prostitution, animal rights, euthanasia, animal rights, etc.)

## Course Objectives

The student will be able to:

- Create, critique and refute arguments
- Identify fallacious arguments
- Be familiar with the mostly commonly debated topics and the arguments that are typically made in these debates.
- Participate in formal class debates.
- 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,” IDEA Press Books, 2003; Editors of IDEA, “The Debatabase Book, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, A Must Have Guide for Successful Debate”, IDEA Press Books, 2013

### **Course Requirements and Instructional Methods**

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

### **Course Grading Based on Course Objectives**

#### EVALUATION

Debate participation – 600 points

Debate critiques – 100 points

Debate participation (knowledge of fallacies, homework completion, group work) –300 points

#### SCORING

900-1,000 – A

800-899 - B

700-799 – C

600-699 - D

Below 600 - F

### **Attendance**

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online 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. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and 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** are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed by the instructor.
- **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](#).
- **Children in the classroom:** Due to college rules and state laws, no one who is not enrolled in the class may attend, including children.

## Online Netiquette

- What is netiquette? Netiquette is internet manners, online etiquette, and digital etiquette all rolled into one word. Basically, netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online.
- Students are to comply with the following rules of netiquette: (1) identify yourself, (2) include a subject line, (3) avoid sarcasm, (4) respect others' opinions and privacy, (5) acknowledge and return messages promptly, (6) copy with caution, (7) do not spam or junk mail, (8) be concise, (9) use appropriate language, (10) use appropriate emoticons (emotional icons) to help convey meaning, and (11) use appropriate intensifiers to help convey meaning [do not use ALL CAPS or multiple exclamation marks (!!!!)].

## 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 important 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** is taking and presenting as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You 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, you must ask for help.
- **Cheating** is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, or 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 provide 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**

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 Department](#) provides numerous [Information Literacy Tutorials](#) to assist students in this endeavor.

## Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Feb. 12 – Introduction to course, introductions of course and students

Feb. 19 – Read pp. 11-17 and 153-154 in OTP, do exercise 2, p. 17 (must be typed)

Feb. 26 – Read pp. 83-86, 97-102 in OTP; read pp. 3-12 in Debatabase, watch Oxford debate

March 5 – Read arguments about gay adoption in Debatabase, pp. 92-94; construct arguments about gay adoption

March 12 – Practice debates on gay adoption

March 19 – Watch IVC debate on beauty pageants and critique; read chapter 6, 12 and 13 in OTP

March 26 – Read pp. 251-254 in OTP; read gun control arguments in Debatabase, pp. 107-109; prepare for gun control debate

April 2 – Gun control debates

April 9 – Read arguments about capital punishment, pp. 41-43 in Debatabase; prepare for capital punishment debate

April 16 – Capital punishment debates

April 30 – Read arguments about legalization of prostitution in Debatabase, pp. 175-178; prepare for legalization or prostitution debate

May 7 – Legalization of prostitution debates

May 14 – Read arguments about animal rights in Debatabase, pp. 29-31; prepare for debate on animal rights

May 21 – Debate on animal rights

May 28 - Read arguments about hate speech on campus in Debatabase, pp. 111-113; prepare for debate on hate speech on campus

June 4 – Final; hate speech on campus debate

**Syllabus is tentative, subject to change without prior notice\*\*\***