



Basic Course Information

Semester:	SPR 2021	Instructor Name:	Dr. Melani Guinn
Course #/Title:	COMM 180 – Argumentation & Debate	Email:	melani.guinn@imperial.edu
CRN:	21093	Office:	Zoom and Pronto
Class Dates:	2/16/21 – 6/12/21	Zoom office hours:	Tues & Thurs 2:30-3:30
Units:	3	Pronto office hours:	Wednesday & Friday 1:30-2:30
Class Times:	Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00 – 2:25 p.m. on Zoom		

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 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. create, critique, and refute arguments;
2. identify fallacious argumentation;
3. 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. participate in formal classroom debates;
5. 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

Textbooks provided on Canvas at no charge to student.

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Lecture, discussion, group work, debates, critiques of debates, quizzes, homework

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Debates	70%
Debate Preparation (group work, homework, assignments)	20%
Debate Critiques	10%



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Course Policies

You must attend Zoom class on the first day of the semester in order to secure your place in the class. If you do not attend Zoom class on the first day of the semester, you will be dropped from the course as per IVC attendance policy. All other policies are described in detail on Canvas.

Other Course Information

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.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Week	Activity and/or Topic
1	Syllabus & Introduction
2	Arguments
3	Evidence
4	Proposition Case Construction
5	Roles in British Parliamentary Debate
6	Debate Round 1
7	Debate Round 1
SPRING BREAK (April 5-10)	
8	Debate Round 2
9	Debate Round 2
10	Debate Round 3
11	Debate Round 3
12	Debate Round 4
13	Debate Round 4
14	Debate Round 5
15	Debate Round 5
16	FINAL

Subject to change without prior notice