

PS167a: Advanced Policy Debate

Syllabus for Fall 2001

Professor McCubbins


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SSB 392

Office hours: Wednesday 3-4:30pm; Thursday 1:00-2:30pm

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Real Video of Debate on Genetically Engineered Foods   
[food\\_debate.rm](#) (warning 24.3 MB)

Real Video of Debate on Assisted Suicide   
[assisted\\_suicide\\_debate.rm](#)  
(warning 26 MB)

Description

[9/26 & 10/3] Review of the logic of argument, economic decision making, political decision making, and introduction to debate format.

Assign teams for first two debates.

*[Debate Topic 1] The US Should Ban Genetically Engineered Foods.  
Yes or No?*

[10/10] Formal Strategy Session.

[10/17] Debate. Next topic assigned.

[10/19] Food ban papers due (3-5 pages).

*[Debate Topic 2] Should the Government Allow Physician-Assisted  
Suicide? Yes or No?*

[10/24] Formal Strategy Session.

[10/31] Debate. Next topic assigned.

[11/2] Suicide papers due (3-5 pages).

*[Debate Topic 3] True or False: The U.S. House of  
Representatives Needs More Blacks in its Membership?*

[11/7] Formal strategy sessions.

[11/14] Debate. Next topic assigned.

[11/16] Diversity papers due (3-5 pages).

*[Debate Topic 4] Medicare: Leave it Alone or Means Test? Yes or  
No?*

[11/21] Formal Strategy Session.

[11/28] Debate. Next topic assigned.

[11/30] Medicare papers due (3-5 pages).

### Responsibilities

- I. All students are expected to attend all sessions.
- II. The class will be split into two teams for each debate.
- III. Each student will participate in one of the first two debates.
- IV. All students will participate in both of the last two debates.

### Discovery procedure.

- 1. Two copies of all evidence that will be presented in the debate is due to me 48 hours prior to the beginning of the debate.
- 2. Evidence submitted after that time is inadmissible.
- 3. The evidence submitted must be legible and properly cited.
- 4. For any debate, a team may submit no more than 50 single sided pages of evidence.

### HOW YOUR GRADE WILL BE DETERMINED:

Component Percent of Grade Type of Grade

Each Debate 20 Team

First 2 papers 10 Individual

Last paper 20 Individual

### Debate Format

Organization, seating arrangements, displays and so forth - 15 minutes.

Pro-Team Opening Statement - 5 minutes

Anti-Team Opening Statement - 5 minutes

Question and Answer - Part I - 30 minutes In this round, the teams ask each other questions supplied in the discovery packet. Pro-team asks the first question.

Each team will ask three questions.

The total time for each question is 5 minutes.

Answer - 3 minutes.

Response - 1 minute.

Response to response - time remaining, at least 30 seconds.

Break - 10 minutes

True-False Questions - 10 minutes

The teams can ask each other 5 true or false questions. These questions will not be in the discovery packet. The Anti-Team will ask the first set of questions. For one of the five questions it is asked, each team can elect to take up to 3 minutes to clarify its position. For the other four questions, it can answer only true or false.

Questions from the Audience - 30 minutes

The audience asks each team a question. The total time for each question is 8 minutes.

The team to whom a question is asked has up to one minute to:

- i. choose a person to answer the question
- ii. answer the question
- iii. redirect by asking a *related* question (permissible only after a satisfactory answer to the asked question is given).

We will go back and forth until the thirty minutes are up.

Break - 10 minutes

Pro-team Closing Statement - 3 minutes

Anti-team Closing Statement - 3 minutes

Clean up, seating rearrangement, and so forth - 10 minutes.

Time: approximately 145 minutes