

POLS 227 A Debate

The debate will discuss the following **question**:

Is the recent rise of xenophobia, populism, and authoritarianism in both Sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere in the world a spontaneous expression of popular disaffection, or a product of divide-and-rule tactics that those in power use to weaken popular demands for justice?

The two teams will advance the following **arguments**:

Team 1: The recent rise of xenophobia, populism, and authoritarianism in both Sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere in the world is a spontaneous expression of popular disaffection.

Team 2: The recent rise of xenophobia, populism, and authoritarianism in both Sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere in the world is a product of divide-and-rule tactics that those in power use to weaken popular demands for justice.

Debate structure:

1. The first speaker on Team 1 presents the argument (~5 minutes).
2. The first speaker on Team 2 presents the argument (~5 minutes).
3. The second speaker on Team 1 identifies areas of conflict, defends the argument from Team 2's counterargument, and answers questions that may have been raised by the Team 2 speaker (~5 minutes).
4. The second speaker on Team 2 identifies areas of conflict, defends the argument from Team 1's counterargument, and answers questions that may have been raised by the Team 1 speaker (~5 minutes).
5. ~3-minute-break to prepare rebuttals.
6. Team 2's rebuttal and summary (preferably by the third speaker if available) (~3 minutes).
7. Team 1's rebuttal and summary (preferably by the third speaker if available) (~3 minutes).

Debate rules:

Team members may speak either from their desks or from the podium, as they desire. Audiovisuals may (but do not have to) be used at any time, including, but not limited to, handouts, flipcharts, transparencies, slides, audio and videotapes, etc. While a team is not required to use all of the time allocated to each debate component, speakers must stop immediately when the allocated time runs out. Team members are prohibited from speaking to the opposing team except at the times specifically allocated to them. Thus, there can be no immediate, reciprocal interchange of comments between the teams. The sequence of the position summaries will be determined by a random procedure at the conclusion of the final work period. Note that no new information may be introduced during the summary. Doing so may result in disqualification of the offending group. If either team feels that their opponents are introducing new information during the summary, they may challenge them immediately and request a ruling from the professor.

Debate preparation recommendations:

- Review your class notes and prepare logical arguments based on appropriate topics covered in the course.
- Gather supporting evidence and examples for position taken.
- Anticipate counter arguments and prepare rebuttals.
- Plan order and content of speaking with team members.