The Democracy & Debate Theme Semester features individual events and Signature Initiatives that aim to encapsulate and teach what it truly means to be an active part of our country’s democracy.

Democracy & Debate Theme Semester Events

Fall 2020:

- **Judge Anita Earls**, Movements to Expand the Franchise and Perfect Our Democracy: A Legal Perspective
- **Scientific Espionage, Open Exchange, and American Competitiveness**
- **A Conversation with Filmmaker Ken Burns & Isabel Wilkerson, Author of Caste**
- **Preventing Foreign Influence in US Elections**
- **DAAS in Dialogue: Isabel Wilkerson’s Caste**
- **Maya MacGuineas and Lawrence H. Summers: Is the federal deficit unsustainable?**
- **Poet Dwayne Betts, Democracy and the Carceral State**
- **The Power of Your Vote**
- **Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson with Frank LaRose, Ohio’s Secretary of State**
- **Continuing Challenges to Suffrage in Michigan in 2020: Who Still Can’t Vote**
- **Covering the campaign: A conversation with national political reporters**
- **Penny Stamps Series, Dismantling the Polarization Industrial Complex: Philippa Hughes**
- **Race, Gender, and Rights: Histories of the Practice of Democratic Citizenship**
- **Penny Stamps Series, Nusrat Durrani (American Heartland Series)**
- **Dance 4 Democracy -- Election Eve**
- **Fascism and Anti-fascism since 1945: Virtual Launching of Radical History Review 138**
- **The Next Administration: Post-Election Recap**
- **A Beautiful Country**
- **Martha Jones, author of Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote and Insisted on Equality for All Human Beings**

Democracy & Debate Theme Semester Signature Initiatives

- **Voting Engagement Collaborations**
  - Big10 Voting Challenge
  - SparkVotes - Ten Tuesdays
  - CSG My Votes - Cross campus collaboration for civic engagement
  - Creative Campus Voting

- **Deans Collaborative Signature Events**
  - The Art of Democracy: Sing My Song/The Black Composer Speaks
  - Creative Campus Voting Project
  - Mayors Forum
  - Photocracy: Defining Democracy Through Stories and Art

- **Engagement Activities**
  - I Wish to Say
  - Voters’ Broadcast
  - Democracy Café
  - Star Spangled Banner Lyrics Competition
  - University of Michigan Press: Democracy & Debate Collection
  - Center for Academic Innovation Democracy & Debate Collection

- **Speakers for “Discerning Truth” ALA 264**
  - Evan Brandt (Reporter, The Mercury)
  - Bryan Llenas (Correspondent, Fox News)
  - Barb McQuade (United States District Attorney 2010-2017)
  - Heather Cox Richardson (Professor of History, Boston College)

More Information: Visit #SpeakActVote.edu