

POL378 / USA312 / SMC301 H1F: Trump and the Election

POL378 / USA312 / SMC301:	Trump and the Election
Section:	LEC0101
Instructor:	Prof. Tanenhaus
Teaching Assistants:	Robert Bertuzzi and Alessandra Cicci
Administrative Support:	Mike Czobit
Office Hours:	Thursdays 1:00-2:30 pm (remote by appointment)
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Lecture schedule and delivery mode:

Weekly two-hour lecture. Lectures will be livestreamed Thursdays, 3 to 5 pm, and delivered per the meeting schedule. Recordings of the lecture will be made available 24-48 hours after the scheduled meeting time. Attendance and participation during the synchronous lecture is a component of the course's assessment.

Student requirements:

Students require a high-speed Internet connection and access to a microphone.

Calendar Description

Various topics are taken up each year, the content of which depends on the instructor. Students should check the college website for details.

Information Specific to the Fall 2020 Course:

The 2020 presidential election will be one of the most important in modern U.S. history, as the public decides whether to give President Donald Trump a second term after a first term marked by controversy and partisan dispute that has been reflected in and indeed intensified by media responses. The election, and the sharp conflict between and within the Republican and Democrat parties, and between their nominees for President, is sure to increase the pressures on political media and its role in reporting, interpreting, and even shaping events in a democracy of more than 300 million citizens. In this course, we will examine various aspects of the relationship between Trump and the Media across the full range of platforms – from legacy print media (books, magazines, newspapers) to cable TV and radio as well as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Our goal is to gain a better understanding of Trump and Trumpism and of American media in the 21st century, in the context of the 2020 presidential election.

Required Texts

All readings will be available through the Quercus course-shell available via the University of Toronto Learning Portal (<https://weblogin.utoronto.ca>).

Quercus

This syllabus, the readings for the course other than those provided directly to students in class, and other important information on assignments and deadlines will be posted on Quercus. Students should regularly consult the course-shell for scheduling changes, relevant assigned readings and assignments pertaining to the lecture.

Assessment

Assignment	Due Date	Value
Participation	All term	10%
“Tweet Like Trump” Assignment	Sept. 17	5%
Q&A Assignment #1	Sept. 21	5%
Debate Assignment #1	Sept. 28	7.5%
Debate Assignment #2	Oct. 6	7.5%
Debate Assignment #3	Oct. 14	7.5%
Debate Assignment #4	Oct. 21	7.5%
Q&A Assignment #2	Nov. 2	5%
Q&A Assignment #3	Nov. 9	5%
Q&A Assignment #4	Nov. 23	5%
Essay (Op-ed)	Nov. 26	35%

Description of Assignments

More detailed information will be provided in advance of each submission date; here is a brief explanation of each assignment.

- **“TWEET LIKE TRUMP” (5%):** You are required to submit a total of five “tweets” related to the lecture/class content. Submit assignment on Quercus.
- **Q&A ASSIGNMENTS #1-4 (5% per assignment):** You will be assigned a single question to answer in 300 words based on lectures before the due date. You will be assigned the question at the end of lectures on September 17, October 29, November 5 and November 19.

- **DEBATE ASSIGNMENTS #1-4 (7.5% per assignment):** You will be assigned a debate assignment based on the scheduled presidential and VP debates. You will receive more information specific to the assignment a week prior to each scheduled debate.
- **ESSAY (35%):** This exercise (details soon to follow) presumes that a basic understanding of and reflection on the course material to that point (gleaned from readings, videos, lectures, and discussion) has been attained and put to use in its research and writing, and that it strictly adheres to guidelines and instructions provided for the assignment. All written assignments in this course are graded in alignment with the FAS "Statement on What Grades Mean":
<http://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/general/grading-policy/>
- Participation involves your weekly attendance to the synchronous weekly lecture; attendance is recorded through Blackboard Collaborate. Marks will be recorded as such:
 - 1% per full lecture attended (Blackboard Collaborate records the duration a participant spends in a lecture).
 - If you attend more than 10 lectures, you will receive a 1% bonus mark for each additional lecture you attend.

Note: Attendance marks will not be given for watching the recorded lecture.

There is no final assessment in this course.

Learning Resources and Student Support

Please consult the Faculty of Arts and Science's extensive information regarding Academic Advising and Support for Current Students, available via this link:
<http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/>

For more information about Accessibility Services, please follow this link:
<https://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as>

For more information about Academic Integrity, please follow this link:
<http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/students>

For information about the University of St Michael's College Library and the services and resources it offers students, please follow this link: <https://stmikes.utoronto.ca/kelly/>

Other Course/Instructor Policies

This course, including your participation, will be recorded on video and will be available to students in the course for viewing remotely and after each session.

Course videos and materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other sources depending on the specific facts of each situation, and are protected by copyright. Do not download, copy, or share any course or student materials or videos without the explicit permission of the instructor.

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If absent from class, please log your absence in ACORN using the absence declaration online tool. This tool should be used in all cases of absence from academic participation if you require consideration of missed academic work. After using this tool, please contact the instructor and course staff to request specific accommodation.

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Emails will be answered between 9 AM and 5 PM, Monday-Friday.

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Assignments must be submitted via Quercus. Late penalties are 3% per day. No extensions.

**POL378 / USA312 / SMC301 H1F: TRUMP AND THE ELECTION
FALL 2020 SCHEDULE OF REQUIRED READINGS AND TOPICS**

Recommended reading:

<i>New York Times</i>	<i>Five Thirty Eight</i>
<i>New Yorker</i>	<i>Politico</i>
<i>Washington Post</i>	<i>New York Review of Books</i>

Throughout the term, articles related to the U.S. election news cycle will be posted on Quercus. Students are expected to read these articles and watch the presidential debates and election night coverage (see schedule below).

Week 1 September 10 Lecture 1

- Assigned “Tweet Like Trump” Assignment after Lecture 1.

Week 2 September 17 Lecture 2

- Assigned Q&A Assignment #1 after Lecture 2.
- Assigned Debate Assignment #1 after Lecture 2.
- “Tweet Like Trump” Assignment due – Thursday September 17.
- Q&A Assignment #1 due – Monday September 21.

Week 3 September 24 Lecture 3

- Assigned Debate Assignment #2 after Lecture 3.
- Debate Assignment #1 due – Monday September 28.
- *First Presidential Debate – Tuesday September 29.*

Week 4 October 1 Lecture 4

- Debate Assignment #2 due – Tuesday October 6.
- *VP Debate – Wednesday October 7.*

Week 5 October 8 Lecture 5

- Assigned Debate Assignment #3 after Lecture 5.
- Debate Assignment #3 due – Wednesday October 14.

Week 6 October 15 Lecture 6

- Assigned Debate Assignment #4 after Lecture 6.
- *Second Presidential Debate – Thursday October 15.*
- Debate Assignment #4 due – Wednesday October 21.

Week 7 October 22 Lecture 7

- Assigned Essay (Op-Ed) Lecture 7.
- *Third Presidential Debate – Thursday October 22.*

Week 8 October 29 Lecture 8

- Assigned Q&A Assignment #2 after Lecture 8.
- Q&A Assignment #2 due – Monday November 2.
- *Election Night – Tuesday November 3.*
- *Election Night Event – 9-11 pm; more details to be shared closer to the date.*

Week 9 November 5 Lecture 9

- Assigned Q&A Assignment #3 after Lecture 9.
- Q&A Assignment #3 due – Monday November 9.

Week 10 November 19 Lecture 10

- Assigned Q&A Assignment #4 after Lecture 10.
- Q&A Assignment #4 due – Monday November 23.

Week 11 November 26 Lecture 11

- Essay (Op-Ed) due – Thursday November 26.

Week 12 December 3 Lecture 12