

# Presidential Primary Debates 2020

## SYLLABUS

**COS 591/691**

### **Presidential Primary Debates 2020**

#### **January Intersession**

##### Class meeting Schedule

Thursday	Jan. 2	6:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Monday	Jan. 6	6:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Tuesday	Jan. 7	6:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Jan. 8	6:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Thursday	Jan. 9	6:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Friday	Jan. 10	6:00 - 10:00 p.m.
Saturday	Jan. 11	9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Sunday	Jan. 12	9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Prerequisites: none Materials/Fees: none

Instructor: **David L. Steinberg**, Wolfson 3015  
305-284-5553 (office/voice mail)  
305-284- 2265 (receptionist)  
305-284-5216 (fax)  
786-351-3813 (cell)  
e-mail: [Dave@Miami.Edu](mailto:Dave@Miami.Edu)

Office Hours: Class Days (except Saturday and Sunday), 5:00 – 5:30 pm, and by appointment

Texts/  
Resources: Commission on Presidential Debates <https://www.debates.org/>  
FiveThirtyEight <https://fivethirtyeight.com/>  
FiveThirtyEight Politics Podcast <https://fivethirtyeight.com/tag/politics-podcast/>  
Real Clear Politics <https://www.realclearpolitics.com/>  
Aaron Kall (Ed.). (2016). *Debating the Donald*. Amazon.  
[https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01LP9XUT2/ref=rdr\\_kindle\\_ext\\_tmb](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01LP9XUT2/ref=rdr_kindle_ext_tmb)

Course Description: This course will investigate the history, importance, impact, content and coverage of Presidential Primary Campaign Debates with a focus on the 2020 debates.

Course Objectives: Some learning objectives will be to enhance the student's:

- Ability to recognize the components of an argument as presented in presidential primary debates, and to evaluate its strengths and weaknesses
- Knowledge of the history of presidential primary debates
- Understanding of the role of primary debates in the larger political campaign
- Familiarity with the candidates, issues and contexts unique to the 2020 campaign

Course Activities: The course will involve limited lecture/discussion, with maximum focus given to experiential learning through classroom participation. The course grade will

be based on quantity and quality of in-class participation, preparation for class, an exam, and by an project to be completed after the intersession concludes.

1. Participation.
  - a. Student reports on candidates and issues
  - b. Role playing: in-class debates
  - c. Discussions and in-class exercises
2. Projects  
Students will track a candidate or an issue still involved in the primaries, and prepare appropriate briefs
3. Exam
4. Graduate Students will complete a term paper to be planned in consultation with the instructor. APA format, 10 pages of content, minimum 10 citations, about some aspect of the 2020 Presidential Primary Debates

**Grading:**

The COS 591 course grade will be distributed as follows:

Exam	30%
Project	40%
Participation	30%

The COS 691 course grade will be distributed as follows:

Exam	20%
Participation	20%
Term Paper	60%

**University Standard Grade Scale**

A +	97 to 100	C	74 to 76	A = exceptional work and performance
A	93 to 96	C -	70 to 73	B = a range from average to above average
A -	90 to 92	D+	67 to 69	C = adequate, but below average
B+	87 to 89	D	64 to 66	D = barely acceptable
B	84 to 86	D -	60 to 63	F = unacceptable, incomplete
C +	77 to 79			

**Attendance:**

Prompt attendance is expected. The student's participation score will be based in part on the percentage of class meetings attended. Classes missed, when the instructor is informed in advance, can be made up by attendance and/or participation in other approved debate activities. The student is responsible for all information presented in the classroom regardless of his or her presence. It is also assumed that students will behave appropriately and professionally during class meetings and will turn off cell phones, arrive on time, depart at the completion of class time as noted by the professor, and do not distract or disturb persons speaking before the class.

**Participation:**

Attendance and participation in class exercises, discussions, and homework will be monitored and will impact the course grade.

**HONOR CODE AND PLAGIARISM STATEMENTS :**

Students enrolled in this course are expected to abide by the University of Miami Honor Code. The purpose of the Honor Code is to protect the academic integrity of the University by encouraging consistent ethical behavior in assigned coursework. Academic dishonesty of any kind, for whatever reason, will not be tolerated. The honor code is available at <http://www.miami.edu/honor-council/fullcode.htm>

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No honest student wants to be guilty of the intellectual crime of plagiarism, even unintentionally. Therefore, we provide you with these guidelines so that you don't accidentally fall into the plagiarism trap.

Plagiarism is the taking of someone else's words, work, or ideas, and passing them off as a product of your own efforts. Plagiarism may occur when a person fails to place quotation marks around someone else's exact words, directly rephrasing or paraphrasing someone else's words while still following the general form of the original, and/or failing to issue the proper citation to one's source material.

In student papers, plagiarism is often due to...

- turning in someone else's paper as one's own
- using another person's data or ideas without acknowledgment
- failing to cite a written source (printed or internet) of information that you used to collect data or ideas
- copying an author's exact words and putting them in the paper without quotation marks
- rephrasing an author's words and failing to cite the source
- copying, rephrasing, or quoting an author's exact words and citing a source other than where the Material was obtained. (For example, using a secondary source which cites the original material, but citing only the primary material. This misrepresents the nature of the scholarship involved in creating the paper. If you have not read an original publication, do not cite it in your references as if you have!)
- using wording that is very similar to that of the original source, but passing it off as one's own.

The last item is probably the most common problem in student writing. It is still plagiarism if the student uses an author's key phrases or sentences in a way that implies they are his/her own, even if s/he cites the source.

*All work submitted for this course should be the original work of the student(s) completed during this semester. Work must be original to this course and only this course and completed independently without outside assistance except when openly attributed. Previously completed work, work completed as a part of a team except as assigned in the course, work completed for other courses or activities including intercollegiate debate or other competitions are not acceptable for the requirements of this class. The consequence for violation may be a failed grade on an assignment up to course failure.*

*In-Class behavior. Treat all fellow students and the Instructor with **respect!** Please **turn off cell phones** and any other non-essential electronic devices except when devices are engaged in class activity. **Laptops may not be on-line.** (exceptions to these rules may be offered when technology is utilized for class exercises.) No headphones. Ethical behavior includes using **appropriate** and **inclusive language**, cooperative behavior, and supportive and open communication habits whenever in class or in interaction with class members.*

### Tentative Course Schedule

Jan 2	Introduction/Review of Argumentation and Debate in the Public Sphere and Introduction to The Presidential Selection Process	Lecture/discussion
Jan 6	Stages in Presidential Campaigns and the role of debates	Table Debates
Jan 7	A History of Presidential Primary Debates	Case Presentations/Debates
Jan 8	The 2020 Candidates	Debates, Moderated Discussions
Jan 9	The 2020 Issues	Debates, Moderated Discussions
Jan 10	A review of 2019 Primary Debates	Debates, Moderated Discussions
Jan 11	A preview of 2020 Primary Debates	Debates, Moderated Discussions
Jan 12	What to Expect: remaining 2020 Primary Debates, The Future of Primary Debates and Presidential Campaigns, EXAM	Debates, Moderated Discussions
March 20	Term Papers Due	

University Events Causing Cancellations or Other. Students, employees, and parents can call the University of Miami Rumor Control Hotline for the latest information at **305-284-5151**. Outside the local area, call **1-800-227-0354**. For the latest updates on University of Miami activities, and to learn more about how the University *prepares for an emergency*, visit [www.miami.edu/prepare](http://www.miami.edu/prepare).

Religious Holy Day Policy

It is the student’s obligation to provide faculty members with notice of the dates they will be absent for religious holy days, preferably before the beginning of classes but no later than the end of the first three class days. Absences due to observance of religious holy days not pre-arranged within the first three class days may be considered unexcused and there is no obligation to allow any make up work, including examinations. Missing a class due to travel plans associated with a particular religious holy day does not constitute an excused absence. The University’s complete Religious Holy Day Policy can be found in the 2018-2019 Bulletin.

STUDENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

I HAVE RECEIVED AND READ THE SYLLABUS COS 591/691. I HAVE COMPLETED THE PREREQUISITE COURSES LISTED IN THE SYLLABUS OR HAVE HAD THE PROFESSOR SIGN BELOW TO CERTIFY A WAIVER OF THE PREREQUISITES.

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PROFESSOR PREREQUISITE WAIVER (IF NEEDED) \_\_\_\_\_