

PSCI 3021-880
Honors: US Campaigns & Elections
2-3:15 Tues. & Thurs.
HUMN 245
Office Hours: Tues. 11-1, Ketchum 219
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Course description: Introduces students to the subjects, techniques, and findings of Political Science research on campaigns and elections. Particular emphasis is placed on the study of voting, campaign effects, partisan coalitions, electoral rules, campaign finance, and the policy impact of elections. Recommended prerequisite: PSCI 1101. Approved for arts and sciences core curriculum: United States context.

Using the readings, assignments, lectures, discussions, and class activities, we will explore campaigns and elections in the United States. First, we examine the political processes that led to the expansion of voting right from the very limited voting rights of the constitutional period to the universal adult suffrage rights of today. We will also explore the continuing political barriers to exercising voting rights in the United States today. Second, we will explore the structures and processes of campaigns and elections in the United States today. Finally, we will look in-depth at the role campaign finance plays in campaigns and elections in the United States.

It is very important to keep up with the readings and assignments in this course, and also to attend class and participate fully in course discussions. As a small, discussion-based course, each student is an important contributor to the success of the class. We will likely have uncomfortable and controversial discussions in class; please be respectful of other students and their views and perspectives.

Course objectives:

- 1) Learn about the political processes that have shaped voting rights in the US, and continued challenges to voting rights.
- 2) Learn about the structures and processes of US campaigns and elections today.
- 3) Learn about the role campaign finance plays in campaigns and elections.
- 4) Develop critical thinking skills through class discussion, paper assignments, class activities and exams.
- 5) Develop written and oral communication skills through class discussion, paper assignments, class activities, presentations and exams.

Required texts:

Keyssar, Alexander. 2009. *The Right to Vote: The Contested History of Democracy in America*. New York: Basic Books

Medvic, Stephen K. 2013. *Campaigns and Elections: Players and Processes*, 2nd edition. Routledge.

Mutch. 2016. *Campaign Finance: What Everybody Needs to Know*. Oxford.

Grading and scale:

Papers: 3@15 points each	45 points
Exams: 2@15 points each-	30 points
Roundtable:	5 points
Presentation:	7 points
<u>Attendance & Participation:</u>	<u>13 points</u>
Total:	100 points

93-100	A
90-92	A-
88-89	B+
83-87	B
80-80	B-
78-79	B+
73-77	C
70-72	C-
60-69	D
<59	F

Course Requirements:

Course papers: Students will each write three 5-6 page papers over the course of the semester. At the end of each major section in the course, students will utilize both course materials and outside sources to answer a question based on that section. More information will be provided about paper assignments later in the semester. Each paper is worth 15 points or 15% of the final course grade. All three course papers must be turned in for a passing grade in the course. Late papers will be heavily penalized- 1 point, or 1% of the total course grade will deducted for each day a paper is late, and students may not be able to participate in the course roundtables or presentations that are based on the papers. Arrangements will be made for late papers in cases of documented medical or family emergencies, or university-sponsored activities- all excused late submissions are at the instructor's discretion. Due dates are listed in the course schedule.

Midterm exam: The midterm exam will consist of two essay questions. More information about the midterm will be provided later in the semester. The midterm exam is valued at 15 points or 15% of the final grade. Make-ups will be heavily penalized, except in cases of documented medical or family emergency, or university-sponsored activities- all make-ups and penalties are at the instructor's discretion. The midterm exam date is listed on the course schedule. Completion of the midterm exam is required for a passing grade in the course.

Final exam: The final exam will consist of two essay questions. More information about the final will be provided later in the semester. The final exam is valued at 15 points or 15% of the final grade. Make-ups will be heavily penalized, except in cases of documented medical or family emergency, or university-sponsored activities- all make-ups and penalties are at the instructor's discretion. The final exam will occur during finals week during the time slot scheduled by the university. The final exam date and time

is in the course schedule. The final exam is comprehensive. Completion of the final exam is required for a passing grade in the course.

Paper roundtables: After each of the first two papers are due, we will hold paper roundtables in class based on the paper topics. Each student will participate in one paper roundtable, either based on the first paper or the second paper. Roundtable sign-up and more information about the roundtables will occur later in the semester. Due to the group nature of roundtables, there will be no make-ups. In cases of documented medical or family emergency, may be completed at the discretion of the instructor. No other make-ups will be permitted. Participating in a roundtable is valued at 5 points or 5% of the final grade.

Presentations: Each student will give an individual presentation based on the third course paper. More information about presentations will be provided later in the semester, but students will have discretion in presentation format and content. Individual presentations are valued at 7 points or 7% of the final grade.

Attendance and Participation: Both attendance and thoughtful participation are important to the success of this course, and to individual success in the course. Attendance and participation are valued at 13 points or 13% of the final grade. Attendance and participation will be based on student presence and contribution in weeks 2-14 of the semester, with 1 point or 1% per week. Each student may miss 2 classes without excuse or penalty. Any additional absences will be penalized, except in cases of documented medical or family emergency, or in cases of university-sponsored activities. Excuses are at the instructor's discretion. Students with extended excused absences may be required to complete alternate assignments in lieu of attendance and participation.

Course policies:

Course communications: Email is the official mode of communication for the University of Colorado at Boulder. Students are required to regularly check their @colorado.edu email (at least every 48 hours) for updates regarding the course. Students are responsible for receiving any messages sent by the instructor to the class email list, or individually to the student. Students are responsible for ensuring that any email sent by the student to the instructor is received. In addition, students are responsible for checking the D2L site for the course regularly, and for completing any assignments on D2L on time.

Contacting the Instructor: Please feel free to contact me with questions about the course. The best ways to reach me are to come by office hours, or to email. You may also call my office phone, but that is a less efficient means of reaching me. I always answer email within 48 hours, so if you do not receive a reply, that means I did not get your email and you should try to contact me again. When addressing me, please address me in person or in email as Janet, Dr. Donovan or Professor Donovan.

Course Etiquette: Students are expected to come to class on time and stay the entire time. If it is necessary to come late or leave early, please let me know in advance. If your schedule does not permit you to be on time and in class on a regular basis, please take another course. Students are expected to be respectful of each other and of the instructor; lively debate is encouraged, but personal attacks are prohibited. These guidelines should be obvious, and they will help to make the course a more enjoyable experience for all. For more information on University requirements regarding classroom behavior please see <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code.

Electronic Devices: Electronic devices, including computers and mobile phones, are prohibited in class. The use of these devices causes serious disruption in class and affects the learning of other students. Computers, phones and other devices must be turned off and put away during class. Students may appeal this policy on an individual basis by coming to office hours and providing sufficient reason why an exception to the policy is necessary. Exceptions to this policy are at the instructor's discretion.

Honor code: All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. In this course, students will receive a 0 on any assignment in which the honor code is violated. In addition, all incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode>

Students with disabilities: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>.

Religious observances: Students with religious observances that conflict with course requirements will be accommodated whenever possible. In order to ensure such accommodation, students must notify the instructor within the first 2 weeks of the course to allow time to make such arrangements. For more information on the University policy, please see http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Discrimination and harassment: The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, pregnancy, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation, or political philosophy should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

Reading and course schedule:

Week 1 (1/17-1/20): Introduction and Voting Rights

Tues 1/17: Introduction to the class

Thurs 1/19: Voting Rights

Readings: *The Right to Vote*, Introduction and chapter 1

Week 2 (1/23-1/27): Voting Rights

Tues 1/24: Voting Rights

Readings: *The Right to Vote*, chapters 2 and 3

Thurs 1/26: Voting Rights

Readings: *The Right to Vote*, chapter 4

Week 3 (1/30-2/3): Voting Rights

Tues 1/31: Voting Rights

Readings: *The Right to Vote*, chapters 5 and 6

Thurs 2/2: Voting Rights

Readings: *The Right to Vote*, chapter 7

Week 4 (2/6-2/10): Voting Rights

Tues 2/7: Voting Rights

Readings: *The Right to Vote*, chapters 8 and 9

Paper one due

Thurs 2/9: Voting Rights

Roundtable in class

Week 5 (2/13-2/17): Campaigns and Elections

Tues 2/14: Elections in democratic theory, voting rights

Readings: *Campaigns and Elections*, Introduction, chapters 1 and 2

Thurs 2/16: Rules and regulations in campaigns and elections

Readings: : *Campaigns and Elections*, chapter 3

Week 6 (2/20-2/24): Campaigns and Elections

Tues 2/21: Candidates, campaign organizations and political parties

Readings: *Campaigns and Elections*, chapters 4 and 5

Thurs 2/23: Interest groups

Readings: *Campaigns and Elections*, chapter 6

Week 7 (2/27-3/3): Campaigns and Elections

Tues 2/28: The media

Readings: *Campaigns and Elections*, chapters 7

Thurs 3/2: Voters

Readings: *Campaigns and Elections*, chapters 8

Week 8 (3/6-3/10): Campaigns and Elections

Tues 3/7: **Midterm exam in class**

Thurs 3/9: Campaign strategies and tactics

Readings: *Campaigns and Elections*, chapter 9

Week 9 (3/13-3/17): Campaigns and Elections

Tues 3/14: Presidential elections and the 2016 election

Readings: *Campaigns and Elections*, chapter 10- additional readings TBA

Thurs 3/16: Considering campaigns

Readings: *Campaigns and Elections*, chapter 11

Paper two due in class

Week 10 (3/20-3/24): Campaigns and Elections

Tues 3/21: Considering Campaigns and Elections

Roundtable in class

Thurs 3/23: The 2016 election

Readings: TBA

SPRING BREAK, NO CLASS, 3/27-3/31

Week 11 (4/3-4/7): Campaign Finance

Tues 4/4: The problems of campaign finance

Readings: *Campaign Finance*, Introduction and chapter 1

Thurs 4/6: Watergate and the beginning of modern campaign finance regulation

Readings: *Campaign Finance*, chapter 2

Week 12 (4/10-4/14): Campaign Finance

Tues 4/11: Public funding and disclosure

Readings: *Campaign Finance*, chapters 3 and 4

Thurs 4/13: PACs and SuperPACs

Readings: *Campaign Finance*, chapters 5 and 6

Week 13 (4/17-4/21): Campaign Finance

Tues 4/18: Billionaires and outside money

Readings: *Campaign Finance*, chapters 7 and 8

Thurs 4/20: Citizens United and Conclusions

Readings: *Campaign Finance*, chapters 9 and 10

Paper three due in class

Week 14 (4/24-4/28): Presentations

Tues 4/25: Presentations in class

Thurs 4/27: Presentations in class

Week 15 (5/1-5/5): Presentations and Drawing Conclusions

Tues 5/2: Presentations in class

Thurs 5/4: Drawing conclusions and remaining questions about campaigns and elections

Final Exam, Sunday, May 7, 4:30-6 in our regular classroom