

**PSCI 3021-880**  
**Honors: US Campaigns & Elections**  
**Spring 2019**  
**MWF 10-10:50**  
**LIBR N424A (Norlin Library)**  
**Office Hours: Monday 2-4, Ketchum 219**  
[janet.donavan@colorado.edu](mailto:janet.donavan@colorado.edu)

**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 recent elections, including the 2016 presidential election.

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) Develop critical thinking skills through class discussion, paper assignments, class activities and exams.
- 4) 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. ISBN 9780465005024
- Medvic, Stephen K. 2017. *Campaigns and Elections: Players and Processes*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Routledge. ISBN 9781138058453
- Sides, John, Michael Tesler, and Lynn Vavreck. 2018. *Identity Crisis: The 2016 Presidential Campaign and the Battle for the Meaning of America*. Princeton. ISBN 9780691174198

Additional readings may be added online

**Grading and scale:**

Papers: 3@25 points each	75 points
Roundtable:	5 points
Presentation:	7 points
<u>Attendance &amp; 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 25 points or 25% 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. The final paper is due at the end of our assigned final exam time slot.

**Paper roundtables:** Before 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](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.

#### University policies:

##### ACCOMMODATION FOR DISABILITIES

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu) for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

#### CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

#### HONOR CODE

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](#).

#### SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND/OR RELATED RETALIATION

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, exploitation, harassment, dating or domestic violence, and stalking), discrimination, and harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or [cureport@colorado.edu](mailto:cureport@colorado.edu). Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](#), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

#### RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, please contact the instructor during the first two weeks of the semester to make any accommodations.

See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

Reading and course schedule:

Week 1: January 14, 16 & 18

Monday: Introduction to the class

Wednesday: Voting Rights

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

Friday: Voting Rights

Readings: *The Right to Vote*, chapter 2

Week 2: January 23 & 25- Voting Rights

Monday: No class, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Wednesday: Voting Rights

Readings: *The Right to Vote*, chapter 3

Friday: Voting Rights

Readings: *The Right to Vote*, chapter 4

Week 3: January 28, 30 & February 1- Voting Rights

Monday: Voting Rights

Readings: *The Right to Vote*, chapter 5

Wednesday: Voting Rights

Readings: *The Right to Vote*, chapter 6

Friday: Voting Rights

Readings: *The Right to Vote*, chapter 7

Week 4: February 4, 6 & 8-Voting Rights

Monday: Voting Rights

Readings: *The Right to Vote*, chapter 8

Wednesday: Voting Rights

Readings: *The Right to Vote*, chapter 9

Friday: Voting Rights- **Roundtable in class**

Week 5: February 11, 13 & 15-Voting Rights Roundtable, Campaigns and Elections

Monday: **Paper one due online- no class meeting**

Wednesday: Elections in democratic theory

Readings: *Campaigns and Elections*, chapter 1

Friday: Rules and regulations in campaigns and elections

Readings: *Campaigns and Elections*, chapter 2

Week 6: February 18, 20 & 22-Campaigns and Elections

Monday: Campaign finance

Readings: *Campaigns and Elections*, chapter 3

Wednesday: Campaign finance (cont.)

Readings: TBA online

Friday: Candidates and campaigns

Readings: *Campaigns and Elections*, chapter 4

Week 7: February 25, 27 & March 1- Campaigns and Elections

Monday: Candidates and campaigns (cont.)

Wednesday: Political parties

Readings: *Campaigns and Elections*, chapter 5

Friday: Interest Groups

Readings: *Campaigns and Elections*, chapter 6

Week 8: March 4, 6 & 8- Campaigns and Elections

Monday: The media

Readings: *Campaigns and Elections*, chapter 7

Wednesday: Voters

Readings: *Campaigns and Elections*, chapter 8

Friday: Voters (cont.)

Week 9: March 11, 13 & 15-Campaigns and Elections

Monday: Campaigns

Readings: *Campaigns and Elections*, chapter 9

Wednesday: Campaigns (cont.)

Friday: Elections

Readings: *Campaigns and Elections*, chapter 10

Week 10: March 18, 20 & 22-Campaigns and Elections

Monday: Considering Campaigns and Elections

Readings: *Campaigns and Elections*, chapter 11

Wednesday: Campaigns and Elections- **Roundtable in class**

Friday: **Paper two due online- no class meeting**

**Spring Break: No class the week of March 25-29**

Week 11: April 1, 3 & 5- The 2016 Election

Monday: The 2016 Election

Readings: *Identity Crisis*, chapter 1

Wednesday: **2016 campaign activity online, no class meeting**

Friday: **2018 campaign activity online, no class meeting**

Week 12: April 8, 10 & 12- The 2016 Election

Monday: The 2016 Election

Readings: *Identity Crisis*, chapter 2-3

Wednesday: The 2016 Election

Readings: *Identity Crisis*, chapter 4

Friday: The 2016 Election

Readings: *Identity Crisis*, chapter 5-6

Week 13: April 15, 17 & 19- The 2016 Election

Monday: The 2016 Election

Readings: *Identity Crisis*, chapter 7

Wednesday: The 2016 Election

Readings: *Identity Crisis*, chapter 8

Friday: The 2016 Election

Readings: *Identity Crisis*, chapter 9

Week 14: April 22, 24 & 26- Presentations

Monday: Presentations in class

Wednesday: Presentations in class

Friday: Presentations in class

Week 15: April 29 & May 1- Presentations and Drawing Conclusions

Monday: Presentations in class

Wednesday: Drawing conclusions and remaining questions about campaigns and elections

**Final paper due Tuesday, May 7 at 7pm online**