**PSCI 3021-880**

**Honors: US Campaigns & Elections**

**Fall 2021**

**MWF 10:20-11:10**

**LIBR M300D (Norlin Library)**

**Office Hours: Tuesdays 10-12, Ketchum 219**

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**This is an in-person class. There are no remote or online options for this class. We will follow campus and public health guidance on the operating mode for the class.**

**This syllabus may be amended- students will be notified if amendments are made.**

**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.

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 look at how changes in time in campaign finance laws have affected elections. Finally, we will look at identity as a driving force in campaigns and elections in recent years.

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
* Hasen, Richard L. 2016. Plutocrats United: Campaign Money, the Supreme Court, and the Distortion of American Elections. New Haven: Yale University Press. ISBN 9780300212457
* 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 will be available on Canvas

**Grading and scale:**

Papers: 3@25 points each 75 points

Roundtable: 5 points

Presentation: 7 points

Attendance & Participation: 13 points

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 necessity 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. If students must miss their assigned roundtable, arrangements should be made with the instructor for an alternate assignment. 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.

**Participation:** Both attendance and thoughtful participation are important to the success of this course, and to individual success in the course. Regular attendance is expected, but not graded. Regular participation is both expected and graded. Students should come to class prepared and ready to participate. Each student should participate meaningfully in every class period in order to receive full credit for participation. Students who are absent more than three class periods during the semester by necessity should contact the instructor to make arrangements for an alternate assignment. Particpation is valued at 13 points or 13% of the final grade.

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 Canvas site for the course regularly, and for completing any assignments on Canvas 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. 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. Donavan or Professor Donavan.

**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:** Students are encouraged to take notes by hand in this class. Students may use a computer or tablet to take notes, and to participate in activities. Students are not permitted to use devices for internet searches, communication with others, or distracting activities during class. Students violating this policy will be warned once. After the first warning, students violating the policy will not be permitted to use devices during regular class days. Please keep your phone put away and turned off or in airplane mode during class. Unless you are experiencing a personal or family emergency anything on the phone can wait 50 minutes until class is over. We will learn a lot about the damaging effects of electronic devices on learning, attention and psychological well-being in this class.

University Syllabus Statements

# Classroom Behavior

Both students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote or online. 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.  For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-and-course-related-behavior) and the [Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution policies](https://www.colorado.edu/sccr/student-conduct).

# Requirements for COVID-19

As a matter of public health and safety due to the pandemic, all members of the CU Boulder community and all visitors to campus must follow university, department and building requirements and all public health orders in place to reduce the risk of spreading infectious disease. Students who fail to adhere to these requirements will be asked to leave class, and students who do not leave class when asked or who refuse to comply with these requirements will be referred to [Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution](https://www.colorado.edu/sccr/). For more information, see the policy on[classroom behavior](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-and-course-related-behavior) and the [Student Code of Conduct](http://www.colorado.edu/osccr/). If you require accommodation because a disability prevents you from fulfilling these safety measures, please follow the steps in the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus.

As of Aug. 13, 2021, CU Boulder has returned to requiring masks in classrooms and laboratories regardless of vaccination status. This requirement is a temporary precaution during the delta surge to supplement CU Boulder’s COVID-19 vaccine requirement. Exemptions include individuals who cannot medically tolerate a face covering, as well as those who are hearing-impaired or otherwise disabled or who are communicating with someone who is hearing-impaired or otherwise disabled and where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication. If you qualify for a mask-related accommodation, please follow the steps in the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus. In addition, vaccinated instructional faculty who are engaged in an indoor instructional activity and are separated by at least 6 feet from the nearest person are exempt from wearing masks if they so choose.

Students who have tested positive for COVID-19, have symptoms of COVID-19, or have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for or had symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home. In this class, if you are sick or quarantined and are missing a graded assignment, please contact the instructor for information on how to complete the work. If you will be missing two or fewer days of class and no graded assignments, you do not need to contact the instructor. If you are missing more than three days of class, please inform the instructor that you are unable to attend class (details not required) and information on how to proceed will be provided.

# 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](https://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/). 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, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students/temporary-medical-conditions) on the Disability Services website.

# Preferred Student Names and Pronouns

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

# Honor Code

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code academic integrity policy. Violations of the Honor Code may include, but are not limited to: 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 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 on the [Honor Code website](https://www.colorado.edu/osccr/honor-code).

# Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner violence (dating or domestic violence), stalking, or protected-class discrimination or harassment by or against 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 email [cureport@colorado.edu](mailto:cureport@colorado.edu). Information about OIEC, university policies, [reporting options](https://www.colorado.edu/oiec/reporting-resolutions/making-report), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](http://www.colorado.edu/institutionalequity/).

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

# 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 by the third week of class if you require accommodation for a scheduled, graded assignment such as an exam. For all other days, please inform the instructor at least a week in advance that you will be unable to attend that day.

See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/observance-religious-holidays-and-absences-classes-andor-exams) for full details.

**Course schedule and readings:**

Reading Schedule:

Readings are to be completed BEFORE class on the assigned day. This reading schedule may be altered by adding or subtracting readings, and/or changing dates.

Week 1: August 23, 25 and 27

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: August 30, September 1 and 3

Monday: Voting Rights

Readings: *The Right to Vote*, chapter 3

Wednesday: Voting Rights

Readings: *The Right to Vote*, chapter 4

Friday: Voting Rights

Readings: *The Right to Vote*, chapter 5

Week 3: September 8 and 10

Mon: Labor Day, NO CLASS

Wednesday: Voting Rights

Readings: *The Right to Vote*, chapter 6

Friday: Voting Rights

Readings: *The Right to Vote*, chapter 7

Week 4: September 13, 15 and 17

Monday: Voting Rights

Readings: *The Right to Vote*, chapter 8

Wednesday: Voting Rights

Readings: *The Right to Vote*, chapter 9

Friday: Voting Rights: Current Issues and Controversies

Readings: TBA on Canvas

Week 5: September 20, 22 and 24

Monday: Voting Rights: Current Issues and Controversies

Readings: TBA on Canvas

Wednesday: Reapportionment, Redistricting and Gerrymandering

Readings: TBA on Canvas

Friday: Reapportionment, Redistricting and Gerrymandering

Readings: TBA on Canvas

Week 6: September 27, 29 and October 1

Monday: First Paper Roundtable

Wednesday: Asynchronous Online Activity for First Paper- NO IN-PERSON CLASS MEETING

Friday: First Paper due on Canvas by 8pm- NO CLASS MEETING

Week 7: October 4, 6 and 8

Monday: Campaign Finance

Readings: *Plutocrats United*, Introduction and chapter 1

Wednesday: Campaign Finance

Readings: *Plutocrats United*, chapter 2

Friday: Campaign Finance

Readings: *Plutocrats United*, chapter 3

Week 8: October 11, 13 and 15

Monday: Campaign Finance

Readings: *Plutocrats United*, chapter 4

Wednesday: Campaign Finance

Readings: *Plutocrats United*, chapter 5

Friday: Campaign Finance

Readings: *Plutocrats United*, chapter 6

Week 9: October 18, 20 and 22

Monday: Campaign Finance Activity on Canvas- NO IN-PERSON CLASS MEETING

Wednesday: Campaign Finance

Readings: *Plutocrats United*, chapter 7

Friday: Campaign Finance

Readings: *Plutocrats United*, chapter 8

Week 10: October 25, 27 and 29

Monday: Campaign Finance

Readings: *Plutocrats United*, chapter 9

Wednesday: Second Paper Roundtable

Friday: Second due on Canvas by 8pm- NO CLASS MEETING

Week 11: November 1, 3 and 5

Monday: Identity in Campaigns and Elections

Readings: *Identity Crisis,* chapter 1

Wednesday: Identity in Campaigns and Elections

Readings: *Identity Crisis,* chapter 2-3

Friday: Identity in Campaigns and Elections

Readings: *Identity Crisis,* chapter 4

Week 12: November 8, 10 and 12

Monday: Identity in Campaigns and Elections

Readings: *Identity Crisis,* chapter 4

Wednesday: Identity in Campaigns and Elections

Readings: *Identity Crisis,* chapter 5-6

Friday: Asynchronous Online Activity on Canvas- NO IN-PERSON CLASS MEETING

Week 13: November 15, 17 & 19

Monday: Identity in Campaigns and Elections

Readings: *Identity Crisis,* chapter 7

Wednesday: Identity in Campaigns and Elections

Readings: *Identity Crisis,* chapter 8

Friday: Identity in Campaigns and Elections

Readings: *Identity Crisis,* chapter 9

**Fall Break and Thanksgiving, no classes November 22-25**

Week 14: November 29, December 1 and 3

Monday: Presentations in class

Wednesday: Presentations in class

Friday: Presentations in class

Week 15: December 6 and 8

Monday: Presentations in class

Wednesday: Drawing conclusions and remaining questions about campaigns and elections

**Final paper due Sunday, December 12 at 10pm on Canvas**

**(this is the end of our final exam slot)**