

PSCI 3054: Course Policies
Spring 2017, Tues. & Thurs. 2-3:15p
Ketchum 1B87

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Office Hours: Tues. 3:30-4:30p & Thurs. 12:30p-1:30p

Course Description

This course surveys aspects of American political thought from the colonial period to recent decades. We will read and evaluate both written works and speeches of key American thinkers keeping in mind their historical context and the identities and affiliations of the authors. In other words, this course is uniquely focused on *political identities* and the roles that identity has played in shaping American political thinking. Throughout the course, we will read speeches, pamphlets, essays, and other works by prominent political figures as well as cultural figures, leaders of counter- and sub-culture movements and schools of thought. The key idea is to engage with the ideas of those who have both formal and informal platforms in American politics, think carefully about how those different voices have influenced one another, and what problems have remained constant throughout time. In particular, we will think about the persistent tensions around race, ethnicity, gender, and class.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to complete each component of the course, listed below.

- Participation: 15%

Participation is an essential component of the course. Students are expected to engage with the material throughout the duration of the course. Participation can be earned in a variety of ways: contributing to class discussion, engaging in in-class activities, such as group discussions, visiting the instructor during office hours, and communicating with the instructor over e-mail on substantive material. In-class participation is the easiest way to earn this credit. Students who are particularly shy should take advantage of office hour and e-mail discussions to earn participation credit. A student's maximum participation grade may be limited by her or his attendance grade.

- Attendance: 5%

Students are expected to attend each class. An "A" attendance score is earned by students who arrive to class, are seated, and ready to engage by the time class is scheduled to begin. Students should remain for the entire class period. Frequent or extended trips to the bathroom or out of the classroom may reduce a student's attendance grade.

- Reading Quizzes: 10%

A short reading quiz will be given in the first 5 to 10 minutes of class each day. The quizzes will cover material for the assigned reading for that day and will *generally* be Pass/Fail or graded on a "check-minus," "check," "check-plus" system. Students who arrive to class late will not be given extra time to complete the quiz. No make-up quizzes will be given. Up to four of a student's lowest quiz grades will be dropped at the end of the semester.

- Papers (2): 15% & 20%

Two papers will be assigned in this course. A series of prompts will be provided by the instructor from which the students may choose. Papers will be 4-5 pages in length (unless otherwise stated on the assignment sheet). Students should not exceed the page limit. Additional instructions will be provided up to two weeks before the papers are due.

PSCI 3054: American Political Thought

- Exams (2): 15% & 20%

Two exams, a midterm and a final, will be given in class. These exams will be short-answer and a study guide will be provided. These exams will focus on key terms and concepts from the course, for which students will be asked to define and give the significance of these terms. Additional information will be provided in the weeks leading up to the exams.

Required Text and Readings

Cummings, Michael S. ed. *American Political Thought 7th edition*. London, United Kingdom: Sage, 2015.

Students are expected to rent or purchase the textbook and use it for the entire semester. The textbook should be brought to each class session. Readings listed on the syllabus should be completed before class begins on that date. If a student cannot complete all of the readings listed, for whatever reason, they are expected to make an earnest effort to complete as much as possible. Some readings will be listed on D2L, students should check the D2L webpage for this course regularly and print out the readings for class that day and bring them with them.

E-mail Policy

E-mail can be an easy and effective way to communicate with your instructor. Students should check their CU e-mail at least once a day, as it is the official mode of the communication for the university. All e-mails addressed to instructors should be brief, direct, and professional in nature including a salutation, proper spelling and grammar, and your name. Subject headings should include the course name or number (PSCI 3054). E-mails may be take up to 24 business hours to receive a response. Please plan accordingly. Grades will not be discussed over e-mail.

Office Hours

All students are encouraged to attend office hours *at least once* this semester. Office hours are an excellent way to communicate with the instructor one-on-one, receive additional help or instruction on an assignment, discuss course-related material, or receive advising. If you have never been to office hours before, challenge yourself to attend! No appointment is necessary to attend, you may simply show up alone or with another student from class with a comment, question, or request. Office hours also have the benefit of letting the students get to know the instructor better and vice versa. Any student who attends office hours and has a substantive conversation with the instructor on course-related material will receive participation credit for their visit.

Grade Changes and Additional Feedback

If a student does not understand why she or he received a particular grade, they may request additional feedback on an assignment at any point in the semester (note: a request does not guarantee additional feedback, but in most cases, these requests will be granted). *Any student who believes an assignment was mis-graded may request a re-grade no sooner than 24 hours and up to one week after the assignment was graded. Requests must be made in writing (no more than two double-spaced pages of writing) and explain why the student believes a re-grade and additional credit should be granted.* Well-written and well-reasoned arguments will be more likely to see a grade change, but no changes are guaranteed. Additionally, any re-grade may result in the student's grade being raised, lowered, or remaining the same.

Late Assignment Policy

It is each student's responsibility to complete all assignments and turn them in on time. Late quizzes will not be accepted. Late papers will be accepted with a 10% deduction per day they are late, beginning the minutes after the assignment is due. After 10 days, the assignment will not be accepted and the student will be given a "0".

Attendance Policy

Each student may have up to four class absences before seeing a reduction in their attendance grade. There is no distinction between "excused" and "unexcused" absences, therefore students should use these absences wisely. Students traveling excessively for academic or university related activities may only exceed these four absences with proper documentation provided ahead of travel (note: these decisions are up to the discretion of the instructor and *may not* be approved). Club, extra-curricular, student government, and fraternity and sorority-related activities do not warrant additional class absences.

Religious Observances

Students are entitled to miss class for religious observances. Religious observances should be submitted to the instructor within the first two weeks of the semester in writing. An appropriate make-up assignment or opportunity to earn credit for those days missed will be provided to the student. The student must complete turn in these make-up assignments by a given deadline in order to earn credit.

In-Class Behavior

Students are expected to come to class and treat the instructor and all other students with respect. All students should be listened to without disruption when speaking during discussion. Students should wait to be called on by the instructor during discussion to facilitate order and allow for a range of student voices to be heard. Students are expected to remain on-topic for the entirety of class.

Disparaging remarks, personal attacks, or insults made to other students or the instructor will not be tolerated. Academic and non-academic discipline may apply in these cases, including removal from the course in extreme cases. Students engaging in excessive talking, laughing, working on non-course related matters, or sleeping during class will not be given attendance or participation credit for that day of class and may be asked to leave for the day.

Electronic Devices: Electronic devices, including computers, tablets, 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 who have provided documentation from disability services requiring the use of a computer may receive authorization to use a computer. Students who receive permission in these cases but do not use their computers strictly for class-related activities may have these privileges revoked.

Discrimination and Harassment Policy

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. CU's Sexual Misconduct Policy prohibits sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking or related retaliation. CU Boulder's Discrimination and Harassment Policy prohibits discrimination, harassment or related retaliation based on race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct under either policy should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127. Information about the OIEC, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation can be found at the [OIEC website](#).

Honor Code Violations

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the [academic integrity policy](#) of the institution. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access, clicker fraud, resubmission, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code Council as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the academic integrity policy can be found at honorcode.colorado.edu. The instructor reserves the right to fail a student for the course for any case of academic dishonesty.

Disability Accommodations

Students who qualify for accommodations because of a disability should submit to the instructor a letter from Disability Services within the first two weeks of class so that your needs can be addressed. Any student whose disability is still being documented should submit the appropriate paperwork to the instructor as soon as it is received.