

Kanner

Fall 2011

PSCI-4701-300**Symbolic Politics****Wednesday, 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM****Ketchum 301****Course Description**

Introduces uses and abuses of symbols as instruments and indicators of political change.

Prerequisite, PSCI 1101.

Recommended prerequisite, junior or senior standing.

Course Objectives

Students are expected to

- Be able to identify how political discourse reflects dominant discourses in American society;
- Be able to analyze the use of symbols in the acquisition of power;
- Be able to analyze the manipulation of discourse and symbols in governance.

Grades

Grades will be based on 100 points. Your final grade is based on the number of points you achieve. The breakdown for points is

A	94-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	0-59
A-	90-93	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66		
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62		

Points are allocated based on these assessments-

Critical Paper 1	25 points
Critical Paper 2	25 points
Critical Paper 3	25 points
"For Further Consideration" Paper	15 points
Attendance	10 points
Total	100 points

Critical Papers.

There will be three (3) critical papers assigned at the end of each block of classes. These focus on the objectives. Papers will be double-spaced and 4 to 6 pages long, but do not require outside research. The specific questions (you will have a choice from two) and the instructions will be posted two week before the due date.

"For Further Consideration" Paper.

At the end of each chapter in Hahn's Political Communication, there is a section called "For Further Consideration." You need to select and answer one of these essay questions. It is your choice as to which and when you write this paper. However, it must be done the day of the reading

turned in the day the reading is assigned. The last day for submission is 16 November.
Answers should be double-spaced and 3-5 pages

Attendance.

Ten percent of life is just showing up. The same is true for this class

Course Material

There are two text books for this course:

Denton, Robert E. Jr. and Jim A. Kuypers. 2008. *Politics and Communication in America: Campaigns, Media and Governing in the 21st Century*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press, Inc.

Hahn, Dan F. 2003. *Political Communication: Rhetoric, Government, and Citizens*. State College, PA: Strata Publishing, Inc.

Class Routine

Class will normally start with any administrative announcement followed by a short presentation of key ideas. After that, the class will apply the concepts to current or recent campaign ads. This may be done as a class or in groups.

Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading (done before class)	Notes
Aug. 31	Introduction	DK 1, H 1	
Sept. 7	Politics and Language	DK 2 & 3	
Sept. 14	Socialization and attitude	DK 4, H 2	
Sept. 21	Setting the agenda	DK 6, H 4 & 5	
Sept. 28	Instruments	H 6 & 7	Critical paper 1 Due
Oct. 5	The Media	DK 5, H 3	
Oct. 12	New Media	DK 7, H: Appendix A	
Oct. 19	Campaigns (General)	DK 8, H 11	
Oct. 26	Campaigns (National)	DK 9 & 10	
Nov. 2	Mediated Effects	H 12 & 13	Critical paper 2 Due
Nov. 9	Governing (National)	DK 12 & 13	
Nov. 16	Governing (Misc.)	DK 14, H 10	Last day to turn in "For Further Consideration" Paper
Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Break – No Class		
Nov. 30	Culture and Conclusion	DK 15 & 26, H 14	
Dec. 7	Critical paper 3 Due	Turn in to Dr. Kanner's office (Ketchum 4B)	

Legend

DK	Denton, Robert E. Jr. and Jim A. Kuypers. 2008. <i>Politics and Communication in America: Campaigns, Media and Governing in the 21st Century</i> . Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press, Inc.
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Hahn, Dan F. 2003. *Political Communication: Rhetoric, Government, and Citizens*. State College, PA: Strata Publishing, Inc.

Policies

Technology in Classroom

While technology adds to the classroom, some limits are necessary.

Cell phones are not to be used during class. This includes texting, calling or any other communication. Devices should be turned off or in silent mode

Unless you have a disability that requires the use of a computer (see below on accommodation), computers will not be used in class. My own experience as well as the findings of organizations GOOGLE.COM, EMI and the Department of State is that too often they are more of a distraction than a benefit.

Incompletes.

Incompletes are not used as a substitute for poor performance or the inability to schedule your own workload. Their purpose is to provide a means for students that have personal problems to complete the work without damaging their grade point average. Requests for incompletes will be considered on a case by case basis and rarely granted. If you do not think you can handle the course load outlined in the syllabus, drop the course.

However, I also understand that conditions change. If changes do occur, see me as soon as possible. The earlier I am informed of your problems, the sooner we can come to a settlement. If at any time during the course you think you are having problems, LET ME KNOW!

The following policies are established by the University. The language here is that recommended by various parts of the University administration.

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 be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Center for Community (C4C), Suite N200, and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>

If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see guidelines at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/accommmauxaid.html>

Disability Services' letters for students with disabilities indicate legally mandated reasonable accommodations. The syllabus statements and answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>

Religious Observances

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, notify me as soon as possible. See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

A comprehensive calendar of the religious holidays most commonly observed by CU-Boulder students is at <http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/>

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 differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. 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. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code

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. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu, 303-735-2273). 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/>

Sexual 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 sexual harassment or discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status 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>

Contact Information

Office visits

Office – Ketchum 4B

Hours – Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:30 to 11:30 AM (or by appointment)(not on campus

uesday or Thursday)

Discussion Board

General questions should be posted to CULEARN's Discussion section on the Questions board.

E-mail within the course

Course e-mail lets me know that you are contacting me related to this course. It also means that if we agree that this is an issue for the entire course, it can be forwarded to the class.

E-mail to my University Account

michael.kanner@colorado.edu. Use this account if it is specific to you (e.g., problems) or you are not getting a response to the course e-mail. I generally answer any e-mails within 5-6 hours.

IM

You are also free to IM me if I am on-line by sending an invitation from the 'Who's Online' tool. Because I may be working on other projects/classes, I maintain the right to not answer (or to do so only briefly).