**PSCI 3281: Development of American Political Institutions**

**Spring Semester 2021, University of Colorado Boulder**

**Course Description**

Learn about the evolution of major American political institutions including the presidency, Congress, the judiciary, the party system and the right to vote.

**Course Teacher**

Elizabeth Eastman, Ph.D.

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**Course Information**

Classroom Instruction: T/Th 9:35 am – 10:50 am, UMC 208 (or via zoom when university policy requires a remote format)

Office Hours: 1-4 T, by appointment

(NOTE: Due to UC Boulder covid restrictions, there are no in-person meetings. We can speak on the phone, by zoom, or exchange emails.)

The University required “Syllabus Statements” are included at the end of this syllabus.

I post course updates, assignments, and course readings on Canvas. Please check it frequently.

**Course Book and Readings**

*The U. S. Constitution, A Reader*

Reading selections posted on Canvas: Files

**General Course Requirements**

**-Readings** Read the assigned material prior to class and be prepared to participate in class discussion by answering my questions, posing your own, and commenting on the readings. Bring the assigned reading to class, as we will often consult specific passages. Our conversations throughout the semester will build upon previously read works to encourage comparisons and critical analysis. This is a seminar and the readings launch our discussions.

**-Attendance** Students are expected to attend every class. Unexcused absences may adversely affect a student’s final course grade. To request an excused absence, please provide an explanation ***within 72 hours*** (by email or speaking to me directly). Excused absences include illness, religious observances, work conflicts, personal or school obligations. Please see the Spring 2021 University Required Syllabus Statements for additional information on “Requirements for Covid-19.” Chronic tardiness or leaving early is counted as an absence. *Missing 20% of class meetings may result in a failing grade.* If there is a special circumstance, please speak to me directly to arrange an accommodation. ***Zoom attendance requirements***: to be deemed present a screen with a name only is **not** sufficient, students must be visually present and participating (e.g. lying in bed asleep does not count for class attendance).

**-Course work** Assignments include two essays, brief writing assignments, a research paper, and a final exam. Full descriptions of requirements, topics, and guidelines are posted on Canvas: Assignments.

**-Grades** Student evaluation is based on examinations, quizzes, written work, participation in class discussion, and attendance. Any violation of the Honor code will result in a failing grade.

Grades are ***roughly*** determined according to the following proportions:

Written work 60% (2 short essays 15% each, research paper 30%)

Examination 30% (final exam on May 3, 4:30-7:00 pm)

Class participation and occasional brief writing assignments 10%. I track class participation weekly. The grades will be **roughly** determined as follows: 90-100% good and substantive participation in class discussions, 80-89% regular participation, 70-79% occasional or infrequent participation.

**PSCI 3281: Development of American Political Institutions**

**Spring Semester 2021 Reading Schedule**

This is a ***tentative*** schedule of readings and will be adjusted as needed throughout the semester. Check Canvas announcements page throughout the semester for updated reading schedules and class announcements. Additional readings are posted on Canvas: Files.

1/14 (wk 1)

Introductions, “Civic Education” essay by Eva Brann (Canvas posting & sent via email 1/11/21)

**Foundations of American Political Institutions**

1/19 (wk 2)

*Constitution Reader* pp. 11-45\* Letter to Henry Lee, Aristotle excerpts from *Nicomachean* *Ethics* and *Politics*, Cicero excerpt *On the Commonwealth*, Locke excerpt *Second Treatise of Government*, Sidney excerpt *Discourses Concerning Government*

(\*See Canvas: File wk 2 for tips and guidance on these readings.)

1/21 (wk 2)

*Constitution Reader* pp. 67-68 Lincoln fragment on the Constitution and the Union

pp. 5-9 Declaration of Independence

pp. 71-72 Four Basic Principles of the American Revolution

pp. 163-171\* Articles of Confederation (\*Read Articles I-IV, pp 163-164. We’ll discuss the remaining articles in class)

pp. 47-58 Constitution of the United States of America (USC) (we’ll return to specific Articles throughout the semester and review the Amendments pp. 58-66 in class)

1/26 (wk 3)

*Constitution Reader* pp. 207-08 Nature of Union & Structure of Government

pp. 209-10 Letter Transmitting the Constitution

pp. 211-14 Fed. no. 1 (see Canvas: Files wk 2 for an overview of all the Federalist Papers)

pp. 221-230 Essay I Brutus 10/18/1787 (written one month after the Constitution was completed)

pp. 269-275 Fed. no. 47 On Separation of Powers

1/28 (wk 3)

*Constitution Reader* pp. 139-152 George Washington’s “Farewell Address” 9/19/1796 (delivered at the end of his second presidential term)

**Federalism: National, State, and Local Government**

2/2 (wk 4)

Brief writing assignment #1 due before the start of class.

Review USC Articles IV, VI

*Constitution Reader* pp. 251-256 Fed. no. 39

Bill of Rights 10th Amendment: <https://tenthamendmentcenter.com/the-10th-amendment/> (1st page overview)

Federal and State Courts: [https://www.uscourts.gov/about-federal-courts/court-role-and-structure/comparing-federal-state-courts](https://www.uscourts.gov/about-federal-courts/court-role-and-structure/comparing-federal-state-courts%20%281) (1st page overview)

State and Local Government: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/state-local-government/> (1st page overview)

**The Legislative Branch: The House of Representatives & The Senate**

2/4 (wk 4)

Review USC Article I

*Constitution Reader* pp. 305-317 Introduction, Fed. nos. 52, 53

See Canvas: Files for additional readings

2/9 (wk 5)

*Constitution Reader* pp. 319-329 Fed. nos. 55, 57 (House)

See Canvas: Files for additional readings

2/11 (wk 5)

Review USC 17th Amendment

*Constitution Reader* pp. 331-343 Fed. nos. 62, 63 (Senate)

See Canvas: Files for additional readings

 **2/15 in-person classes resume, University statement 1/13/2021**

2/16 (wk 6)

See Canvas: Files for readings

2/18 (wk 6)

Writing assignment due if writing on the Legislative Branch. Student presentations on assignment findings.

 2/23 (wk 7)

*Constitution Reader* pp. 447-455 Daniel Webster “The Constitution and the Union”

*Constitution Reader* pp. 581-584 Jefferson Davis “Farewell Address to the Senate”

We’ll review in class the SC Secession Declaration (*Constitution Reader* pp. 569-574)

**The Executive Branch: The Presidency & the Executive Offices**

2/25 (wk 7)

Review USC Article II, Amendment 22

*Constitution Reader* pp. 345-361 Fed. nos. 70, 71, 72

3/2 (wk 8)

*Constitution Reader* pp. 363-371 Fed. nos. 73, 74

See Canvas: Files for additional readings

3/4(wk 8)

See Canvas: Files for readings

3/9 (wk 9)

*Constitution Reader* pp. 663-682 Woodrow Wilson “The Study of Administration”

See Canvas: Files for additional readings

3/11 (wk 9)

Writing assignment due if writing on the Executive Branch. Student presentations on assignment findings.

**The Judiciary: The Courts**

3/16 (wk 10)

Review USC Article III

*Constitution Reader* pp. 373-385 Essay XI Brutus, Fed. no. 78

3/18 (wk 10)

*Constitution Reader* pp. 387-392 *Marbury v. Madison*

See Canvas: Files for additional readings

3/23 (wk 11)

*Constitution Reader* pp. 503-510 Lincoln’s Speech on the Dred Scott Decision

We’ll review in class Taney’s decision in the Dred Scott case (*Constitution Reader* pp. 485-501)

**3/25**

**University holiday, no class meeting**

3/30 (wk 12)

Writing assignment due if writing on the Judicial Branch. Student presentations on assignment findings.

**The Party System, Civic and Political Associations**

4/1 (wk 12)

Historical Overview: Parties in America

See Canvas: Files for readings

4/6 (wk 13)

Brief writing assignment #2 due prior to the start of class. We’ll discuss assignment results in class so have a hard copy or access to it for reference.

*Constitution Reader* pp. 231-237 Fed. no. 10, pp. 511-516 Lincoln’s House Divided Speech

See Canvas: Files for additional readings

4/8 (wk 13)

See Canvas: Files for readings

**The Vote**

4/13 (wk 14)

Review USC Article I, sec 4, Amendments 15, 19, 24, 26

See Canvas: Files for additional readings

4/15 (wk 14)

Research Papers due. No assigned reading. Students will give a 3-minute presentation on their topic.

4/20 (wk 15)

See Canvas: Files for readings

**Changes over 245 years: 1776 – 2021**

4/22 (wk 15)

*Constitution Reader* pp. 287-291 Fed. no. 51, pp. 617-618, pp 629-634 The American Conception of Liberty

4/27 (wk 16)

*Constitution Reader* pp. 693-704 Progressive Democracy, pp 717-718, pp. 719-729 Commonwealth Club Address

4/29 (wk 16)

Our final class discussion reviews the semester readings and serves as a review session

5/3 (wk 17)

(Monday) 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm Final Exam

University Required Syllabus Statements – Spring 2021

# 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 Code of Conduct](https://www.colorado.edu/sccr/sites/default/files/attached-files/2020-2021_student_code_of_conduct_0.pdf).

# 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 public health orders in place to reduce the risk of spreading infectious disease. Required safety measures at CU Boulder relevant to the classroom setting include:

* maintain 6-foot distancing when possible,
* wear a face covering in public indoor spaces and outdoors while on campus consistent with state and county health orders,
* clean local work area,
* practice hand hygiene,
* follow public health orders, and
* if sick and you live off campus, do not come onto campus (unless instructed by a CU Healthcare professional), or if you live on-campus, please alert [CU Boulder Medical Services](https://www.colorado.edu/healthcenter/coronavirus-updates/symptoms-and-what-do-if-you-feel-sick).

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 policies on [COVID-19 Health and Safety](https://www.colorado.edu/policies/covid-19-health-and-safety-policy) and [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 see the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus.

All students who are new to campus must complete the [COVID-19 Student Health and Expectations Course](https://www.colorado.edu/protect-our-herd/how#anchor1). Before coming to campus each day, all students are required to complete the [Buff Pass](https://pass.colorado.edu/login). In this class, you may be reminded of the responsibility to complete the Buff Pass and given time during class to complete it.

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, , please let me know via email (Elizabeth.Eastman@colorado.edu) at your earliest possible convenience. University policy states that FERPA student privacy laws do not require students to state the nature of their illness when notifying faculty. [If a student is quarantined but still able to do class work, I will try to find a way for the student to participate remotely and/or do makeup work for in-person sessions. Students will also have the opportunity to make up work missed. University policy requires the following: “if a student discloses to [me] that they have tested positive for COVID-19 or are having symptoms of COVID-19 or have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, [I] will submit that information to the Medical Services Public Health Office for the purposes of contact tracing (contacttracing@colorado.edu and/or 303-492-2937).”]

# 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 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. 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); 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 at the [Honor Code Office 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 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. Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](https://cuboulder.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0PnqVK4kkIJIZnf), 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 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 notify me via email one week in advance of any anticipated absences related to religious observances so that we can determine a suitable makeup for missed class, assignments, or exams.

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