

American Democracy in Changing Times

POLI 100

Fall 2019

INSTRUCTOR	Sarah Treul Roberts
OFFICE	Hamilton 311
OFFICE HOURS	Monday 8:30-9:30; Wednesday 9-10 and 12:30-1:30
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LOCATION	Hamilton 100
TIME	Mon/Wed 10:10-11

Course Description

This course is an introduction to American politics at the college level that is intended to serve both majors and non-majors. In this course we will discuss the origins of the current governmental system in America, political institutions, political behavior, and how theories of American government apply to current events and problems the government and citizens face today.

General Expectations

I expect all students to behave professionally in this class. I am generally intolerant of disruptive behavior in the classroom, including talking during lectures and the ringing of cell phones. Class discussions are expected to be civil, rational, and respectful of the opinions of others. One of my goals for this course is to develop important listening, debating, and conversational skills that allow for open-minded, meaningful and constructive dialogue about politics with respect for viewpoint diversity.

Students are expected to take an active role in their learning by completing readings before class, coming to class ready to participate directly with peers and through in-class technology, and reviewing routinely for exams. You will be held responsible for all material in the textbook and in lectures, even if you miss a class.

Office Hours

Do not feel intimidated if you have never been to a professor's office hours. You can come alone or with a friend. Office hours are meant to give you an easy place and opportunity to connect with faculty. Please stop by to talk about the course, study skills, your interests, your background, the weather, running, politics, etc. Really, I am happy to talk about anything. You also may stop by your TA's office hours.

Recitation Sections

As a part of this course you are also signed up for a recitation section with a teaching assistant (TA). Your teaching assistant will lead your recitation section through a set of materials that have been approved by the professor. The teaching assistants for this class are experienced,

well-trained, experts in the field of American politics. I expect you to accord them the same level of respect that you would accord a professor. Recitation sections begin on the first day of classes. You will have a separate syllabus for your recitation section. You are responsible for the material on that syllabus as well. The readings from your recitation will appear on the exams for this course.

Technology in the Classroom and Poll Everywhere

Cell phones, laptops, and tablets should be silenced at all times during class.

This course will utilize Poll Everywhere through your smart device. This means that you are required to bring a smart device to class. I prefer you use a smart phone for ease, but a laptop or tablet will work too. This device needs to be enabled for UNC wireless and Poll Everywhere access. Instructions on how to register for poll everywhere can be found here: <https://poll.unc.edu>. Please have your poll everywhere user name match the name on your One Card. This ensures that you get credited for your participation. Please note that you may *not* rely on cellular service. You must have your device connected to UNC Wireless. Be sure to do this for any devices you might use in class before the first day. See <http://help.unc.edu/help/connecting-to-the-unc-network-getting-started/>

You must also register the device you intend to use with Poll Everywhere. Instructions on how to register can be found here: <https://poll.unc.edu>. You MUST REGISTER to have your poll responses count towards your grade! As noted above, please have your poll everywhere user name match the name on your One Card.

When we are not utilizing Poll Everywhere technology, please close your laptop or keep your tablet or phone off (face down works well too). Other than utilizing our smart devices for Poll Everywhere this is a technology-free classroom.

There is a great deal of research supporting the argument that people who take notes by hand perform much better. Here is a link to an Atlantic article, which summarizes the argument: <http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2014/05/to-remember-a-lecture-better-take-notes-by-hand/361478/>.

Additionally, multitasking on an electronic device during lectures has been shown to decrease grades of the multitaskers and those seated around them: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/laptop-use-lowers-student-grades-experiment-shows-1.1401860>. If you need an exception to this rule, please see me. I am willing to make accommodations as needed.

Participation via Poll Everywhere

I cannot make you come to class, pay attention, or participate in discussion. What you get out of this class (and your entire UNC education) is up to you. To gauge participation, we will utilize Poll Everywhere through your smart device. These questions are to be done in class. You will receive a zero on this portion (10%!) of your final grade if you are found to be answering questions from a distant location. (Trust me, I have methods to determine if you are in the classroom or not.)

How are Poll Everywhere questions graded? There are two types of Poll Everywhere questions we will utilize: 1) reading assessment polls and 2) thought/activity polls. Reading assessment polls will be conducted at the outset of most class periods. These are intended to assess the extent to which students have read and understand the course material. These questions will also be structured similar to those that will be on the exams, so they also serve as good multiple choice practice. Reading assessment polls will be graded as follows: 100% if you answered the question correctly; 50% if you answered the question incorrectly; and 0% if you did not answer the question/a response was not recorded. Thought/activity polls will typically be conducted during the middle of class. They will be graded as follows: 100% if you answered the question and 0% if you did not answer the question/a response was not recorded. Polls will be graded via this criteria beginning August 28, 2019. This should give everyone ample time to navigate the setup and software.

Extra Credit Opportunity At least one of the **Reading Assessment Polls** at the beginning of class will be labeled as providing an opportunity for earning extra credit on the next exam. If at least 80% of the class gets the demarcated question correct, one person in the class will have the opportunity to take a shot at a basketball hoop from the middle of the room (a location the instructor will choose). If the basket is made, the entire class will earn one bonus point on the next exam. The instructor will ask for volunteers who want to take the shot and will try to get different students involved each time.

What if I miss a question or my smart device does not record my answer(s) one day? *There are no Poll Everywhere make-up questions!* I will drop the lowest 10% of everyone's polls to accommodate occasional absence, technology problems, athletic travel, lateness, etc. Please do not email me (or your TA) to tell me you were absent or your smart device was not working, we will have so many opportunities for participation that missing one or two days in the semester will not affect your Poll Everywhere participation grade. If you have many extended absences due to extended illness, we will address this at the end of the semester with the necessary documentation.

Required Texts

- Kollman, Ken. 2017. *The American Political System, Core*. 3rd Edition. W.W. Norton & Company.
- I may also distribute other readings from time to time on Sakai.
- Your teaching assistant will provide more assigned readings in the recitation syllabus. These are also required and should be done prior to each recitation section. For the most part, these can be found on Sakai.

Course Components Making Up Final Grade

Exams (3) 45% of final grade Exams will be taken in class and consist of multiple choice questions, so bring a #2 pencil and a scantron. You will also need your PID number as identification on your exam sheet. You are responsible for correctly entering your PID on the scantron. Additionally, you may be asked to verify your identity, so it is required that you bring your one-card to each exam. Failure to produce a one-card if asked may

result in a zero on that exam. The first exam will be taken in class on September 23. The second exam will be taken in class on October 30. The last exam will be taken during the final exam period, which is scheduled for December 13 at 8am. None of the exams are cumulative and each is worth 15% of your final grade.

Writing Assignments 20% of final grade Papers are due in class (not in section). The first paper is 5 pages, due October 2, and is worth 10% of your grade. The second paper is 5 pages, due November 11, and is worth 10% of your grade.

Participation via Poll Everywhere 10% of final grade In class Poll Everywhere questions will make up 10% of your grade for this course. Each question will be worth a point. THERE ARE NO MAKEUP POLL QUESTIONS. As mentioned above, I will drop some of the possible points for everyone so that the denominator is less than the possible points you can earn. See above section *Participation via Poll Everywhere* for more information.

Recitation 25% Attendance and participation in recitation is required. Each recitation section will have a separate syllabus outlining expectations and requirements. Your grade for recitation is based on attendance (25%) and participation (75%). This will be specified in the recitation syllabus.

Grading and Assignments

Incompletes and Make-ups

A final grade of “incomplete” will only be given in this course under exceptional circumstances and is solely at the discretion of the instructor. Assignments (i.e. papers) turned in late will be penalized one full letter grade per day late. In addition, written assignments that do not follow the guidelines of the assignment and/or have poor grammar and spelling will be severely penalized. As a general rule, make-ups for exams will not be given. Students who must miss exams because of scheduled activities of an official University student organization, a religious holiday, or a verifiable illness should contact the instructor IN ADVANCE of missing an exam so that alternative arrangements can be made.

Grading

Grading standards are meant to be high, but fair. In class exams will be multiple choice format. Your teaching assistant (TA) will grade all of your written work, but I will monitor grading standards for fairness across sections. If you have any questions about a grade on an exam or paper, please see your TA first. If s/he cannot satisfactorily answer your questions, please arrange a conference for the three of us.

Grading Scale

A 94-100, A- 90-93, B+ 87-89, B 84-86, B- 80-83, C+ 77-79, C 74-76, C- 70-73, D+ 67-69

Assignments

You are responsible for keeping a copy of all written assignments for the course. This ensures that we will not run into problems with lost assignments. You are also responsible for keeping copies of the assignments once they are handed back. Sometimes errors do happen, and a grade

may not be recorded for you. If this happens you must be able to produce the GRADED paper to verify that the assignment was completed and that the grade is correct.

Research Participation

All students who enroll in Political Science 100 are required to participate in research studies conducted in the Political Science Department should they be conducted during the semester you are enrolled in the course. Failure to satisfy the research participation requirement will result in an incomplete for the course. This requirement does not substitute for other course requirements, nor does it generate extra credit. I will keep you updated about the research opportunities available throughout the semester. It is important to note that if studies are made available they must be completed in a timely manner, as the studies are not always available throughout the semester. In the event that you would rather not actively participate in an actual study, you have the option of satisfying the research participation requirement in a different way. This alternative assignment consists of writing a 5-page research paper. This assignment needs to be completed by the last day of classes.

Miscellany

Sakai Site

You will need your onyen to log on. I will post my lecture slides here. I will also post announcements/send emails on this site. It is your responsibility to check it and your UNC email account daily for any course announcements.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is broadly defined as submitting work that is not your own without attribution, and is not acceptable in this or any other academic course. Any academic dishonesty found on an assignment results in a failing grade for that assignment and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent permissible under University of North Carolina guidelines, which can be accessed at: <http://honor.unc.edu>.

Student Disabilities

Any student with a documented disability condition (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, systemic, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations should contact the instructor and the Academic Success Program (919-962-7227) at the beginning of the semester.

Instructor Availability

If you would like to speak with me outside of class time, feel free to stop by my office during regularly scheduled office hours. If you are unable to meet during office hours, you can arrange an alternate time to see me by setting up an appointment. I also try to respond quickly to email inquiries.

Communication

Periodically the instructor may communicate with students via email, regarding assignments, schedule changes, or other course related matters. Students are responsible for the content of *all* such communications.

Tentative Course Outline

Readings should be done before the class for which they are listed.

Date	Description	Required Readings
August 21	Introduction	n/a
August 26	Concepts	<i>Textbook</i> Ch. 1
August 28	<i>Constitution</i> I	<i>Text</i> Ch. 2. (pg. 33-46)
September 2	No CLASS—LABOR DAY	n/a
September 4	<i>Constitution</i> II	<i>Textbook</i> Ch. 2 (pg. 46-68)
September 9	Federalism	<i>Textbook</i> Ch. 3
September 11	Congress I	<i>Textbook</i> Ch. 5 (pg. 147-175)
September 16	Congress II	<i>Textbook</i> Ch. 5 (pg. 176-196)
September 18	CATCH UP & REVIEW	n/a
September 23	EXAM 1	n/a
September 25	Presidency	<i>Textbook</i> Ch. 6 (first half of chapter)
September 30	Presidency	Ch. 6 (second half of chapter)
October 2	Bureaucracy (Paper Due)	<i>Textbook</i> Ch. 7
October 7	Judiciary I	<i>Textbook</i> Ch. 8 (pg. 285-313)
October 9	Judiciary II	<i>Textbook</i> Ch. 8 (pg. 313-325)
October 14	Public Opinion I	<i>Textbook</i> Ch. 9 (pg. 327-357)
October 16	Public Opinion II	<i>Textbook</i> Ch. 9 (pg. 358-371)
October 21	Elections I	<i>Textbook</i> Ch. 13 (pg. 491-522)
October 23	Elections II	<i>Textbook</i> Ch. 13 (pg. 522-531)
October 28	CATCH UP & REVIEW	n/a
October 30	EXAM 2	n/a
November 4	Participation	<i>Textbook</i> Ch. 10 (pg. 373-395)
November 6	Participation	<i>Textbook</i> Ch. 10 (pg. 395-409)
November 11	Civil Rights & Liberties (Paper Due)	<i>Textbook</i> Ch. 4 (pg. 107-125)
November 13	CR & Liberties	<i>Text</i> Ch. 4 (pg. 126-144)
November 18	Political Parties I	<i>Textbook</i> Ch. 12 (pg. 447-463)
November 20	Political Parties I	<i>Textbook</i> Ch. 12 (pg. 464-482)
November 25	Media	<i>Textbook</i> Ch. 14
November 27	No CLASS—THANKSGIVING BREAK	n/a
December 2	Interest Groups	<i>Textbook</i> Ch. 11
December 4	CATCH UP & REVIEW	n/a
December 13 - 8:00am	FINAL EXAM	n/a