

**PSCI 3201A
Issues in United States Politics
Lecture: Thursdays 8:35 am – 11:25 am, 413 Southam**

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Political Science 3201 looks specifically at the unique nature of political behavior in the US, including campaigns, elections, voter participation and democratic participation more broadly defined, including in social movements and interest groups. Among the central paradoxes of US political behavior are the facts that US elections are the most expensive in the world, yet often having the lowest turn-out rate. The course examines political behavior from the founding of the US as a Constitutional republic from 1787-1791, including the Framers' early (& ultimately incorrect) assumption that there would not be ongoing party competition in the country, the waves of suffrage granted to different groups, the expected role of the electoral college, questions relating to "one man, one vote" and the process of redistricting House (and therefore electoral college) seats every decade, the rise of "media" and "individual"-centered campaigns from the 1970s onward, and attempts to control the increasing role of money in US politics during the same time frame.

II. The following books have been ordered at the bookstore and are all required:

- 1) Lucius J. Barker, Mack Jones, Katherine Tate, African Americans and the Political System (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1999)
- 2) Dianne G. Bystrom, Mary Banwart, Lynda Kaid, Terry Robertson, Gender and Candidate Communication (NY: Routledge, 2004)
- 3) Ann N. Crigler, Marion R. Just, Edward McCaffrey, Rethinking the Vote (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004)
- 4) Donald Green, Bradley Palmquist, Eric Schickler, Partisan Hearts and Minds (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2002)
- 5) Kathleen Hall Jamieson and Paul Waldman, The Press Effect (NY: Oxford University Press, 2003)
- 6) Matthew J. Streb, ed., Law and Election Politics (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Press, 2005)
- 7) Joe Trippi, The Revolution Will Not be Televised (Regan Books, 2005)
- 8) Richard Viguerie, America's Right Turn (Bonus Books, 2004)

III. Course requirements:

Note: successful completion of all requirements is required to pass this course. All written work must be turned in. Your grade will be comprised of the following elements:

- 1) Signing up for and participating in one of the presentation groups. This involves two parts:
 - a) meeting together before you are to present the material. Each member of the group will have to turn in three questions to me (with the answers) the week before you are to present and to hand out the questions to the class. This means that the group must meet in advance to decide who is responsible for which parts of the material (I will give you a short time at the end of class to begin this process). This is worth 15% of your grade
 - b) presenting your material and asking the questions of the class (and helping to lead the discussion) that day. This is worth 25% of your grade.

2) Those not presenting for a particular week (i.e. everyone else in the class) must submit two questions on the reading each week by noon of the Tues. preceding the Thurs. class. These questions will also be used to guide discussion. In all, you will have to submit ten such sets of questions (in addition to the questions for the week you are leading). Overall, these questions are worth 10% of your grade.

3) A final paper, 20 pp. long, due April 10 on the one aspect of the US political system, that in your view and derived from our discussions and research, is most in need of change (and your proposals toward this end). An outline and short literature review will be due on February 16.

- a) outline and literature review: 15%
- b) paper: 25%

4) Overall attendance and informed participation in class 10%

NOTE: Late assignments will not be accepted.

II. Course schedule:

Jan. 05	Week 1	Introduction
Jan. 12	Week 2	Political Parties-read Green et al, entire
Jan. 19	Week 3	Rules of the US Electoral game-Streb, ed, Chs. 1-5, 7; Crigler, ed., Ch. 8
Jan. 26	Week 4	Group I-Jamieson, entire; Streb, Ch. 6
Feb. 2	Week 5	Group II-Bystrom et al., Parts I, II
Feb. 9	Week 6	Group III-Bystrom et al., Parts III-V

Feb. 16	Week 7	Group IV-Barker et al, Chs. 1-4
March 2	Week 8	Barker et al, Chs. 5, 6, Streb, 9 & 10; Video, Shirley Chisholm, "Unbought and Unbossed"
March 9	Week 9	Group V-Barker et al., Chs. 7-12
March 16	Week 10	Group VI-Trippi; video, "Diary of a Political Tourist" (A. Pelosi)
March 23	Week 11	Group VII-Viguerie
March 30	Week 12	Election Reform in the wake of <u>Bush vs. Gore</u> 2000 Crigler et al., all except Ch. 8; Streb, Ch. 8



Academic Accommodations

For Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact the Paul Menton Centre (PMC) for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) to complete the necessary forms. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs **at least two weeks before the first in-class test or CUTV midterm exam**. This will allow for sufficient time to process your request. Please note the following deadlines for submitting completed forms to the PMC for formally scheduled exam accommodations: **November 7th, 2005** for fall and fall/winter term courses, and **March 10, 2006** for winter term courses.

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism: The Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as: "to use and pass off as one's own idea or product, work of another without expressly giving credit to another." The Graduate Calendar states that plagiarism has occurred when a student either: (a) directly copies another's work without acknowledgment; or (b) closely paraphrases the equivalent of a short paragraph or more without acknowledgment; or (c) borrows, without acknowledgment, any ideas in a clear and recognizable form in such a way as to present them as the student's own thought, where such ideas, if they were the student's own would contribute to the merit of his or her own work. Instructors who suspect plagiarism are required to submit the paper and supporting documentation to the Departmental Chair who will refer the case to the Dean. It is not permitted to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses. The Department's Style Guide is available at: www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/styleguide.pdf

Oral Examination: At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, *subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.*

Course Requirements: Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in a grade of F. Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure – No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

Connect Email Accounts: The Department of Political Science strongly encourages students to sign up for a campus email account. Important course and University information will be distributed via the Connect email system. See <http://connect.carleton.ca> for instructions on how to set up your account.