PSC 413: Campaigns and Elections

Description
This course will examine the behavior of candidates and voters in U.S. elections.

Learning Goals
This class is designed to help students develop a variety of skills while learning about campaigns and elections in the United States. Communication skills are developed through written assignments and group presentations. This class encourages the development of analytical skills through a variety of assignments. In addition, this course promotes the development of collaborative skills through group projects.

Required Texts:

Additional readings will be available online.

Grading
Data and writing exercises 40%
• Based on assignments that require you to analyze voting data, poll results, and other political information.

Attendance & Participation 20%
• Attendance will be taken daily.
• Includes participation in group project

Exams 40%
• Based on a midterm and final exam.

Details of assignments, additional readings, and other course information can be found on-line on D2L.

Office Hours
Mondays and Wednesdays: 9:00 – 9:50 AM and 2:00 – 3:00 PM

Tuesdays & Thursdays: 9:00 – 10:50 AM and 2:00 – 3:00 PM

Attendance Policy
Students are required to attend class and attendance will be taken daily using a seating chart. Students are expected to be in their seat by the beginning of each class and may be counted absent if they are not in their assigned seat at any point during the class period. Each unexcused absence will lead to the loss of points.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic &amp; Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Week 1: August 28 & August 30 | Introductions and Introduction to the Course  
C&E Chapter 1: Introduction |
| Week 2: September 4 & September 6 | The Basic Mechanics and Mathematics of Democracy  
C&E Chapter 2: The American Electoral Process |
| Week 3: September 11 & September 13 | The Evolution of American Campaigns and Elections  
C&E Chapter 3: The Transformation of American Campaigns |
| Week 4: September 18 & September 20 | Candidate Recruitment and Polling  
C&E Chapter 5: Modern Campaign Strategies |
| Week 5: September 25 & September 27 | Campaign Strategy  
C&E Chapter 9: Presidential Campaigns  
C&E Chapter 10: Congressional Campaigns  
C&E Chapter 11: State and Local Campaigns |
| Week 6: October 2 & October 4 | Shaping the Message  
C&E Chapter 8: Media |
| Week 7: October 9 & October 11 | Media and Media Use  
“Thomas Jefferson, Attack Dog” By E. J. Dionne Jr |
| Week 8: October 16 & October 18 | ✯ Midterm Exam (10/18) |
| Week 9: October 23 & October 25 | Fundraising & Campaign Finance Laws  
C&E Chapter 4: Financing Campaigns |
| Week 10: October 30 & November 1 | Campaign Finance Reform |
| Week 11: November 6* & November 8 | Turnout  
C&E Chapter 11: Voter Participation |
| Week 12: November 13 & November 15 | How Voters Choose  
C&E Chapter 13: Voter Choice |
| Week 13 | Thanksgiving break |
| Week 14: November 27 November 29 | The Myth of “The Party” and Organizing Interests  
C&E Chapter 6: Political Parties and Interest Groups  
C&E Chapter 7: Interest Groups |
| Week 15: December 4 & December 6 | Conclusion: The State of American Democracy  
C&E Chapter 14: Democracy in Action or a Broken System? |
| ✯ Final Exam ✯ December 13 (Thursday) at 10:30 AM |
Academic Integrity (A-9.1)

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Acceptable Student Behavior

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Program Learning Outcomes

The following program learning outcomes for the political science major may be assessed in this course:

2. The student will critically analyze and critique political institutions and/or complex contemporary political issues.

3. The student will demonstrate oral communication skills.

5. The student will create research papers, briefs, or reports.

Student Learning Outcomes:

In general, SLOs in a course that support the PLOs are specific and include the exact knowledge, skill or behavior taught in the course that supports the more global PLOs. For additional information on meaningful and measurable learning outcomes see the assessment resource page www.sfasu.edu/assessment/index.asp.