**Course Description**

This course will exam the behavior of candidates and voters in U.S. elections. Prerequisites: PSC 141 & 142.

**COVID-19**

Masks (cloth face coverings) must be worn over the nose and mouth at all times in this class and appropriate physical distancing must be observed. Students not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be asked to leave the class. All incidents of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Students who are reported for multiple infractions of not wearing a mask and/or not observing appropriate physical distancing may be subject to disciplinary actions.


**Course Expectations**

First, you are expected to attend class. Second, you are expected to read the assigned material before class. Third, you are expected to discuss the assigned readings in class. You will be graded on class participation. By “discuss” I mean to engage in active, in-depth, conversations with your classmates and me over the assigned readings.

You should stay informed on current political events by reading the paper, watching the news, browsing political websites, etc. It is sometimes easier to understand political concepts and theories when you can relate them to current political activities. Therefore, we will discuss current events in class as well.

Please feel free to voice your opinions (as long as you do not intentionally insult your fellow classmates). Opinions generate class discussions and class discussions generate knowledge. This class does not have to be boring but participation is needed to keep it from being so. Therefore, how boring this class is depends on you.
On Liberty: Of the Liberty of Thought and Discussion – “[T]he peculiar evil of silencing the expression of an opinion is that it is robbing the human race … . If the opinion is right, they are deprived of the opportunity of exchanging error for truth; if wrong, they lose, what is almost as great a benefit, the clearer perception and livelier impression of truth produced by its collision with error” (76).

Course Grading Policy

Grades for this course will come from four sources: mid-term exam (30%), final exam (30%), homework assignments (30%), and participation (10%).

Mid-Term & Final Exams: The mid-term and final exams will consist of essays, short answers, and term definitions. The mid-term and final will be taken via Zoom for all students. This is necessary because those taking exams on Zoom might have an advantage in that they may find a way to access notes while those in class would not be able to. That said, while taking the exams, student must have their cameras on (no profile pictures) and point their cameras at themselves so I can observe you while you take the exams. Exams must be submitted as a Word document – no PDFs. Do not put your name anywhere on your exam. I want to grade your exams blind. To this end, save your Word document as your SFA Student ID number before submitting it to the D2L Dropbox.

Make-up exams will be given only in the case of documented illness, documented emergencies, or University related absences – documentation must be time stamped prior to the time class started on the exam date. Make-up exams will be different than the exams given to the class on exam day. If you miss an exam, it is your responsibility to inform me as to the nature of your absence and provide the necessary documentation. If the absence is excused, we will schedule a time to take the make-up exam. No exams will be given early. You are required to bring a large Bluebook with no identifying marks on it to each exam. Tentative dates for these exams are listed below.

Homework Assignments: You will be given four homework assignments throughout the course of the semester. These assignments will require you to conduct some research, crunch some numbers, and report your findings – same font, margin, etc. rules for the exams apply here. Your papers must be a minimum of two-pages and cannot exceed three pages in length. Homework assignments will be graded for content as well as spelling, grammar, etc. Save your Word documents (no PDFs) as you last name, underscore, first initial. For example, my assignment would be saved as, Payne_L. You will be given one file saving mistake. After that, I will deduct points for not following directions. You will submit your assignments to the proper, D2L Dropbox. Without documentation of an excused absence on the day homework assignments are due, I will not accept late homework.

Attendance: Attendance will not be taken.
Required Book


Policy on Academic Dishonesty

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](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

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](http://www.sfasu.edu/assessment/index.asp).
Additional Points

- Be on time! If you arrive late for class, quietly take a seat at the back of the room.
- Be polite! Do not talk over your classmates or me.
- Turn off your cell phones. If your cell phone goes off or I catch you texting in class, you will be required to perform an embarrassing task in front of the class (hint: learn the words and motions to “I’m a Little Teapot”)
- I reserve the right to eject any student who violates these or other rules.

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy: 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/.
**Tentative Class Schedule**

**Week 1**  
Aug. 25  General Introduction and Writing for Political Science (Zoom Class)  
Aug. 27  Chapter 1

**Week 2**  
Sep. 01  Chapter 2  
Sep. 03  Chapter 2 & 3

**Week 3**  
Sep. 08  Chapter 3 & 5  
Sep. 10  Chapter 5

**Week 4**  
Sep. 15  Chapter 9  
Sep. 17  Chapter 9

**Week 5**  
Sep. 22  Chapter 10  
Sep. 24  Chapter 10

**Week 6**  
Sep. 29  Chapter 11  
Oct. 01  Chapter 11

**Week 7**  
Oct. 06  Chapter 8  
Oct. 08  Chapter 8

**Week 8**  
Oct. 13  Mid-Term Review  
Oct. 15  Mid-Term Exam

**Week 9**  
Oct. 20  Chapter 4  
Oct. 22  Chapter 4

**Week 10**  
Oct. 27  Chapter 12  
Oct. 29  Chapter 12  
**Homework 1 due**

**Week 11**  
Nov. 03  Chapter 13  
Nov. 05  Chapter 13  
**Homework 2 due**
Week 12
Nov. 10  Chapter 6  Homework 3 due
Nov. 12  Chapter 6

Week 13
Nov. 17  Chapter 7
Nov. 19  Chapter 7  Homework 4 due

Week 14
Nov. 24  Thanksgiving!!!
Nov. 26  Thanksgiving!!!

Week 15
Dec. 01  Chapter 14
Dec. 03  Chapter 14

Week 16  Final Exam – Tuesday, December 8th, 8 AM - 10:30 AM

Note: I may assign additional reading sources throughout the semester.