**Course Description**

This course provides a study of the origins, measurement, and impact of public opinion in the practice of American democracy. Problems associated with survey design, implementation, and interpretation.

**Course Expectations**

First, you are expected to come to class. I will not take attendance but you will not be allowed to take missed pop-quizzes or turn in homework assignments late if you miss class. Second, you are expected to read the assigned material before class. I cannot stress the importance of this point enough. Failure to read the assigned material before class will result in poor reading quiz grades – it will be difficult to do well in this class without good quiz grades. Which brings me to my third point – you are expected to discuss the assigned readings in class. 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.

*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).

Please feel free to voice your opinions. 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.
Course Grading Policy

Grades for this course will come from five sources: mid-term exam (25%), final exam (25%), homework assignments (25%), project/presentation (15%), and reading pop-quizzes (10%).

Mid-Term & Final Exams: The mid-term and final exams will consist of short answers, term definitions, etc. You will need to bring a LARGE bluebook to class on exam days. Do NOT write your name on the bluebook before coming to class. 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. If you miss an exam, it is your responsibility to inform me as to the nature of your absence. If the absence is excused, we will schedule a time to take the make-up exam. No exams will be given early. Tentative dates for these exams are listed below.

Homework Assignments: You will be given five homework assignments throughout the course of the semester. These assignments will require you to conduct some research, analyze survey results, and report your findings. There is a two-page minimum and three-page maximum for each of these assignments. You are to use 12 point, Times New Roman font, 1” margins on all four sides, and no extra space between paragraphs. Any tables/graphs included will NOT count toward page limits. I will NOT accept late homework. If you fail to turn in a homework assignment because of an excused absence (documented illness, documented emergency, or University related absence), it is your responsibility to inform me as to the nature of your absence. Homework due dates are listed below. Homework assignments will be submitted to the proper, D2L Dropbox on the dates specified below by the beginning of class. Save each of your homework assignments as your last name, underscore, first initial. For example, my homework assignments would be saved as Payne_L. I will allow two mistakes on how your saved homework is named before I start deducting points for not following directions. All of your homework assignments are to be turned in as a Word document, no PDFs.

Project/Presentations: You will be randomly assigned to one of two groups and required to design surveys that measures specific concepts (e.g., political knowledge, tolerance, trust in government, etc.). Your group will administer the survey to the class, students outside the class, and analyze the results. The results will then be presented to the class; PowerPoint presentations are required. In order to combat the “free rider” problem inherent in any group project, 50% of this grade will be internal, meaning you will grade each other on how much work your team members contributed, and 50% will come from me concerning the overall quality of work. Unexcused absences on administration and presentation days will result in ten points being deducted from individual project grades. Administration and presentation dates are listed below.

Reading Pop-Quizzes: Throughout the course of this semester you will be given a number of reading pop-quizzes at the beginning of class. These pop-quizzes will be somewhat random but the probability of having a reading pop-quiz is directly related to the amount of reading related discussions in class. If I feel like most students are not reading, I will administer a number of pop-quizzes to generate renewed interest in reading. The quizzes will cover material from previous reading assignments. The questions will require short written answers. If you are absent during a pop quiz, you will be given a different set of questions – but only if you have a
legitimate excuse that is dated and time stamped prior to the time class started on day you missed class. Unexcused absences on pop quiz days will result in a zero for that quiz.

**Attendance:** Attendance will not be taken.

**Required Books**


**Institution Absences (HOP 04-110)**

An Institutional Absence may be granted to a student who participates as a representative of the University in academic (including research), extra- or cocurricular, or athletic activities. Students will be excused for institutional purposes from otherwise required academic activity only when a valid Institutional Absence is approved by the appropriate administrative unit or official and the documentation of approval is provided to the faculty member at least five (5) days in advance.

Institutional absences will not be approved for keystone events, defined as: a special or unique assignment, test, project, experience, or other academic exercise identified by the Faculty member as critical for successful completion of standards of the class and unable to be missed. These events must be identified on the syllabus at the beginning of the semester and communicated to the students. Events added to the syllabus at a later date will not qualify for Keystone Event status. Keystone Events where the date/time is changed will no longer be considered a Keystone Event. Students should make themselves aware of any Keystone Events identified in the syllabus to ensure there are no conflicts.

For keystone events where the assignment dates vary, it is incumbent upon the students to work with their faculty member to not select a conflicting date.

More information on Institutional Absences, including how to apply, can be found at [https://www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents/student-resources/institutional-absences](https://www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents/student-resources/institutional-absences).

**Academic Integrity**

The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting
to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

**Program Learning Outcomes**

This is a general education core curriculum course and no specific program learning outcomes for this major are addressed in this course. As such, no EEOs or SLOs are required for this course.

**Additional Points**

- Everything you turn in *must* be a Word document. *No PDFs!*
- 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”)
- Any use of AI will be considered plagiarism and reported to the University.
- 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/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).

**Student Wellness and Well-Being**

SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**

**The Dean of Students Office** (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

**SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic** Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041

**The Health and Wellness Hub** “The Hub”
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body, and spirit. Services include:

- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education

[www.sfasu.edu/thishub](http://www.sfasu.edu/thishub)
Crisis Resources:
• Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
• National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
• Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
• johCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741
## Tentative Class Schedule

### Week 1
- Jan. 18: General Introduction and Writing for Political Science

### Week 2
- Jan. 23: APO Chapter 1
- Jan. 25: APO Chapter 1
  - Homework 1 due

### Week 3
- Jan. 30: APO Chapter 2
- Feb. 01: APO Chapter 2
  - Homework 2 due

### Week 4
- Feb. 06: SRM Chapter 2
- Feb. 08: SRM Chapter 3
  - Homework 3 due

### Week 5
- Feb. 13: SRM Chapter 4
- Feb. 15: SRM Chapter 5
  - Homework 4 due

### Week 6
- Feb. 20: SRM Chapter 6
- Feb. 22: SRM Chapter 10
  - Homework 5 due

### Week 7
- Feb. 27: APO Chapter 3
- Feb. 29: APO Chapter 3

### Week 8
- Mar. 05: APO Chapter 4
- Mar. 07: Mid-Term Exam

### Week 9
- Mar. 12: Spring Break!
- Mar. 14: Spring Break!

### Week 10
- Mar. 19: APO Chapter 5
- Mar. 21: APO Chapter 5

### Week 11
- Mar. 26: APO Chapter 5
  - Surveys Administered
- Mar. 28: Easter Holiday!
**Week 12**
Apr. 02      APO Chapter 6
Apr. 04      APO Chapter 6

**Week 13**
Apr. 09      APO Chapter 7
Apr. 11      APO Chapter 8

**Week 14**
Apr. 16      APO Chapter 8
Apr. 18      APO Chapter 10

**Week 15**
Apr. 23      APO Chapter 10
Apr. 25      APO Chapter 11

**Week 16**
Apr. 30      APO Chapter 11
May 02       Presentations

**Week 17**     Final Exam – Thursday, May 9 10:30-12:30

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