Poli 100: Introduction to Government in the United States
Sections 601, 604, and 609
Spring 2011

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Office Hours: Thursday 12:45 - 3:45 PM or by appointment.

Course Description

This section is designed to supplement Professor Stimson’s POLI 100 lectures. We will spend most of our time in recitation discussing campaigns and elections in the United States. You are not required to purchase any texts for this class; I will place copies of the assigned readings in Blackboard’s course documents section. Each week you will be responsible for completing the assigned reading. Because recitation sections are primarily discussion based, you must read each of the assigned pieces before class begins.

Grading

Your section grade makes up one third of your total grade for the course and each of the three graded components of the recitation are worth one third of your section grade. Remember that you cannot pass this course if you receive a failing grade in your section, so take what we do in recitation seriously.

- **Class Participation:** You are expected to be an active participant in our discussions and classroom activities. An emphasis will be placed not only on quantity of participation, but the quality of comments. If speaking in class is difficult for you, come see me.

- **Reaction Papers:** You are required to write short papers each week in which you briefly summarize the material and lay out your own thoughts on the topic. What are the important normative implications of the arguments put forth by the authors of the pieces you’ve read? Do their arguments make sense or did they miss something? These papers should be between a half and a full page single spaced and are due each week when we meet in our sections. Do not include direct quotes in your reaction papers.

- **Two Essays:** There will be two five page essay assignments this semester, the prompts for which you will receive no later than two weeks before the due dates. We will talk about these in greater detail later in the semester. Each essay is worth one sixth of your recitation grade, though if you show significant improvement between papers I will consider weighting your second essay. I reserve the right to deduct points from essays that are too short. I will stop reading that are too long. The typesetting standards are 1 or 1.25 inch margins, 12 point Times New Roman font, and double spacing. Essays are due in section on the week listed on the syllabus. If you turn in your essay late, you will lose 10 * (number of days late) points. Note
that papers turned in after your section but on the due date will be considered one day late. Do not include direct quotes in your essays.

Grades will be posted on Blackboard. I will return tests, essays, and quizzes to you as quickly as possible.

Honor Code

You may not give or receive any assistance while taking any examinations or completing any of the class assignments. Sentences, ideas, etc. cannot come directly from the Internet or any other reference material unless they are properly cited. For further details, please refer to the University Honor Code at [http://honor.unc.edu/students/index.html](http://honor.unc.edu/students/index.html).

Expectations and Procedures

Attendance

Class attendance is required. You will be allowed two unexcused absences over the course of the semester. After that, each additional unexcused absence will lower your section grade by ten percent (one letter grade). If you know you will be missing section, please let me know as soon as possible. If you are more than ten minutes late to class, I reserve the right to mark you absent. If you come to class after a quiz has been administered, you will receive a zero on it, so don’t be late.

Discussion

Recitation sections are designed to explore a topic in greater depth than in the lecture. One of the best ways to accomplish this is by discussing these topics in a small group. I expect everyone to be well-prepared and respectful to one another during these discussions.

Technology

Silence your phone’s ringer or turn it off entirely. You don’t need to use your laptop for recitation, so don’t bring it. If I use a slide show or additional material I will post it on Blackboard so you may access it at a later point.

Disabilities

Please notify me immediately if you require any special accommodations.

Section Readings

In addition to the readings required for lecture, you will complete readings specifically for section. Each week we will spend most of our time discussing these readings, which will also form the basis for the two essays you will write for this course. Each of these readings is either available under Course Documents in your section’s Blackboard page or is contained within one of the books you were required to acquire for the course.
• **January 17-21:** Introduction to recitation sections. Brady, Johnston, and Sides: *The Study of Political Campaigns.*

• **January 24-28:** Campaign effects. Kaufman, Petrocik, and Shaw: *Unconventional Wisdom* chapter 8.

• **January 31 - February 4:** Campaign dynamics. Stimson: *Tides of Consent* chapter 4 and Carsey: *Campaign Dynamics* chapter 2.

• **February 7-11:** The centrality of competition. Kahn and Kenney: *The Spectacle of Senate Campaigns* chapter 1.

• **February 14-18:** Gender. Carroll and Dittmar: *The 2008 Candidacies of Hillary Clinton and Sarah Palin.*

• **February 21-25:** Persuasion. Hillygus and Shields: *The Persuadable Voter* chapter 2.

• **February 28 - March 4:** Discourse. Simon: *The Winning Message* chapters 2 and (part of) 3. **First essay is due in recitation.**

• **March 7-11:** Spring break.

• **March 14-18:** Framing. Chong and Druckman: *Framing Theory.*

• **March 21-25:** Advertising. Franz, Freedman, Goldstein, and Ridout: *Campaign Advertising and American Democracy* chapters 1 and 2.

• **March 28 - April 1:** Negative campaigning. Geer: *In Defense of Negativity* chapter 1.

• **April 4-8:** Emotions and advertising. Brader: *Campaigning for Hearts and Minds* chapter 2.

• **April 11-15:** Social pressure. Gerber, Green, and Larimer: Social Pressure and Voter Turnout (don’t worry about the math).

• **April 18-22:** TBA. **Second essay is due in recitation.**

• **April 25-29:** TBA.