

SYLLABUS

Political Science 112

Section: 003 (1:30pm-2:45 pm, MW, PH0409)
Instructor: Tim Kalinowski
Office: PH 0416
Office Hours: 2:45-3:15pm, M;
12:15-12:45pm, T;
4:00-5:00pm, W - via Zoom (link posted in Blackboard)
or by appointment
Office Phone: 650-3865 or 650-3572
Email: tkalino@siue.edu (put POLS112 in your subject line)
Website: <http://www.timski.com/POLS112/>
Text: Janda, Berry and Goodman: *The Challenge of Democracy*,
Fifteenth Edition (Boston, MA: Wadsworth Cengage, 2022)

THE PURPOSES OF THIS COURSE ARE:

- 1) To introduce you to the major elements of the U.S. national-level political systems (i.e. its structure and dynamics), and to increase your understanding of them.
- 2) To make connections between current political events and developments with the essential attributes of the political systems.
- 3) To increase your interest in American politics.
- 4) Upon completion of this course students should have a thorough understanding of the United States government's constitutional powers and limitations; strengths and limitations of democracy; federalism; influences on political views including but not limited to parties, special interest groups, and media; and a basic understand of due process and equal protection.

SUBJECT TO CHANGE NOTICE

All material, assignments, and deadlines are subject to change with prior notice. You are responsible for staying in touch with your instructor, reviewing the course site regularly, or communicating with other students, to adjust as needed if assignments or due dates change.

READING ASSIGNMENTS:

The basic reading assignment for this course is the text, chapters 1-16 (*omitting chapters 9 & 13*). This material should be read as designated in the syllabus. You may find it necessary and/or useful to read the text through more than once. Please review the syllabus regularly as some weeks will cover multiple chapters. Readings should be completed prior to the day scheduled.

BLACKBOARD:

The use of Blackboard in this course will be limited. Grades will not be posted to Blackboard. Keeping up with your grades to gauge your progress in this course is your responsibility. Blackboard will not be used to turn in your exams. The Quizzes will be done through Blackboard. **Please communicate with the instructor if access to Blackboard in the classroom will be a problem.**

LECTURES:

The lectures in this course will follow the same general topics as are to be found in the text, but sometimes with different emphasis or viewpoint. You will be expected to know and understand lecture materials thoroughly. This class involves the improvisational discussion of controversial material. If you have concerns about being "triggered" by particular topics, you should be aware that such a topic may come up in any class without warning, and you should prepare accordingly.

EXAMINATIONS AND QUIZZES:

There will be three examinations in this class.

The first exam will cover chapters 1-4, plus accompanying lectures and current events **and will be 50 minutes in length.**

The second exam will cover chapters 5-8, plus accompanying lectures and current events **and will be 50 minutes in length.**

The final exam will cover chapters 10 – 16 - **omitting chapter 13**, plus accompanying lectures and current events.

Each exam will be approximately 20% short answer/identification, and 80% essay.

Since the quizzes (see below) will test exclusively on the text materials, the exams will be weighted toward materials covered in lectures.

The final exam will be given **according to the registrar's schedule** as stated in the Academic Calendar.

No exams will be given early!

Quizzes of 10 multiple-choice questions will be given over each chapter **before** it has been covered in class. Please check attached schedule for quiz dates. If or when necessary, this schedule may be modified somewhat. Your quiz results, averaged, will account for 30% of your final grade. You will be able to drop the lowest score from your quiz results. **Make-up quizzes will not be given. If you miss one, that will be the one you drop. If you miss more than one, each subsequent unexcused (pursuant to university policy) miss will be a zero.**

COURSE FORMAT:

The format of the course will be primarily discussion. Relevant questions are always in order. The lectures will be used to stress, emphasize, and reinforce the importance of key matters mostly also covered in the text. Current events will also be the basis of discussion.

GRADES:

Your final grade will be determined on a percentage basis roughly as follows:

90-100% = A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

below 60% = F

Quizzes will be averaged and count as 30% of your grade. Exams 1 & 2 will each be 15% of your grade. The Final Exam will be 30% of your grade. Class participation will account for the remaining 10% of your grade.

SUBMITTING WORK

Quizzes will be conducted electronically through Blackboard. **Please communicate with the instructor if access to Blackboard in the classroom will be a problem.**

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

The usual restrictions and/or regulations in university classes will apply in this course:

1) Cheating (including plagiarism) will not be tolerated; those who are caught cheating will fail the course.

2) Subject to other university policy, attendance is required, and students may be penalized for missing class.

3) Tests are to be taken when scheduled. Make-up exams will be given only for compelling reasons.

4) This class involves the improvisational discussion of controversial material with much of it presented by students. Based upon more than 15 years of teaching this type of material, the instructor has found that many students will not discuss such controversial material when they are being recorded. This hinders the delivery of the curriculum and results in a situation where all students are limited in observing how to critically analyze the material being discussed. **During this class, no photographing, recording, or otherwise capturing the image or voice of students or faculty is allowed without the instructor's permission. Any such act will be considered a Classroom Disruption under Student Code of Conduct – 3C1 and subject to the punitive outcomes outlined under that policy.**

5) Because this class involves the improvisational discussion of controversial material, sometimes a position is inelegantly stated. Each person in the class deserves the benefit of a good faith interpretation of what was stated.

6) **Masks.** Unless and until otherwise specified, the decision to wear a mask in this class is left to the individual. Moral opprobrium should not be extended to anyone for their decision to mask or not to mask. Health reasons may exist for either decision.

Schedule (Subject to Change)

All material, assignments, and deadlines are subject to change. Your responsibility is to stay in touch with your instructor, review the course site regularly, or communicate with other students, to adjust as needed if assignments or due dates change.

Date	Activity
Jan 8	Intro
Jan 10	Ch. 1 - Freedom, Order, or Equality? - Discussion (Quiz not graded)
Jan 15	Holiday
Jan 17	Ch. 1 Discussion (Bring Survey Numbers)
Jan 22	Snow Day
Jan 24	Ch. 2 - Majoritarian or Pluralist Democracy? - Quiz - Discussion
Jan 29	Ch. 3 - The Constitution - Quiz - Discussion
Jan 31	Ch. 4 - Federalism - Quiz - Discussion
Feb 5	Ch. 4 Discussion & Review
Feb 7	Exam 1 – Chs 1-4
Feb 12	Ch. 5 - Public Opinion & Political Socialization - Quiz - Discussion
Feb 14	Ch. 6 - The Media - Quiz - Discussion
Feb 19	Ch. 6 Discussion
Feb 21	Ch. 7 - Participation and Voting - Quiz - Discussion
Feb 26	Ch. 8 - Political Parties - Quiz - Discussion
Feb 28	Exam 2 – Chs 5-8
Mar 4 & 6	Spring Break
Mar 11	Ch. 10 - Interest Groups - Quiz - Discussion
Mar 13	Ch. 10 Discussion
Mar 18	Ch. 11 - Congress - Quiz - Discussion
Mar 20	Ch. 12 - The Presidency - Quiz - Discussion
Mar 25	Ch. 14 - The Courts - Quiz - Discussion
Mar 27	Ch. 14 Discussion
Apr 1	Ch. 14 Discussion
Apr 3	Ch. 15 - Order and Civil Liberties - Quiz - Discussion
Apr 8	Ch. 15 Discussion
Apr 10	Ch. 15 Discussion – minor research assignment
Apr 15	Ch. 16 - Equality and Civil Rights - Quiz - Discussion
Apr 17	Ch. 16 Discussion
Apr 22	Ch. 16 Discussion
Apr 24	Review
Finals Week	Final (Chs. 10-12;14-16)

STUDENT CONDUCT IN CLASS (borrowed from Dr. DeGarmo but with minor edits):

Political Science is a field of debate and disagreement - that is what is so exciting about this field. But given that Political Science can be a contentious subject, some simple rules of behavior will be required. First, no behavior that manifests a lack of respect for others or their learning objectives will be tolerated. Should you engage in disrespectful, hostile, or disruptive behavior, you will be removed from class immediately. Everyone must feel comfortable stating and defending his or her own views.

You may use a laptop in class to access online coursework or to type your own notes. **You may not use your laptop to surf the internet or check your email. You are expected to close your computer when we are involved in class discussion. Additionally, please turn your cell phones off and stow them in a backpack for the duration of the class. If you fail to follow these few simple rules, all student electronic devices will be banned from the classroom and the entire class may be penalized up to one-letter grade in their final course grade.**

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND INTEGRITY:

Academic honesty and integrity are the keystones of education. Genuine learning can only occur in an atmosphere of honesty and integrity. Honesty and integrity also provide the foundation to good citizenship. You should consult the SIUE policy on honesty and integrity before taking this class. In regard to academic dishonesty: No kind or degree of academic dishonesty (i.e. cheating or plagiarism) will be tolerated. Any such behavior on any assignment will result in failing the course and additional measures taken through official channels. There are no exceptions to this rule – you plagiarize and you fail the course. Please review: <https://www.siu.edu/policies/3c2.shtml>

Feel free to ask me questions you may have about academic honesty. The core principle behind the student academic code is one in which students represent original work. When you plagiarize or cheat, you violate the expectation of honesty and trust between teacher and student and student and student. Students who work hard to complete assignments are being violated by those who take shortcuts to complete the same assignment; plus cheaters and plagiarizers cheat themselves of the opportunity to learn. Therefore, I expect that not only will you use appropriate citation, but that the work for the course is your own and it is original.

REFERENCE TO UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND INFORMATION:

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:

Students needing accommodations because of medical diagnosis or major life impairment will need to register with Accessible Campus Community & Equitable Student Support (ACCESS) and complete an intake process before accommodations will be given. Students who believe they have a diagnosis, but do not have documentation, should contact ACCESS for assistance and/or appropriate referral. The ACCESS office is located in the Student Success Center, Room 1203. You can also reach the office by emailing us at myaccess@siue.edu or by calling [618-650-3726](tel:618-650-3726).

Academic Integrity

Students are reminded that the expectations and academic standards outlined in the Student Academic Code (3C2) apply to all courses, field experiences and educational experiences at the University, regardless of modality or location. The full text of the policy can be found here:

<https://www.siue.edu/policies/3c2.shtml>.

Recordings of Class Content

Faculty recordings of lectures and/or other course materials are meant to facilitate student learning and to help facilitate a student catching up who has missed class due to illness or quarantine. As such, students are reminded that the recording, as well as replicating or sharing of any course content and/or course materials without the express permission of the instructor of record, is not permitted, and may be considered a violation of the University's Student Conduct Code (3C1), linked here: <https://www.siue.edu/policies/3c1.shtml>.

Student Success Coaches

[Student success coaches](#) work across campus to serve the SIUE student population with the tools and resources to adjust to and meet the demands of the college experience. Success coaches provide direct services such as time management support and referrals to campus resources. If you find yourself in need of academic or personal support, or in a situation that is preventing you from being successful in the classroom, please utilize [Starfish](#) to connect with a coach as soon as possible. The sooner you engage, the sooner you can access the information or tools you need that may help you get back on track.

Pregnancy and Newly Parenting Policy

This policy and procedure are established to ensure the protection and equal treatment of pregnant students, students with pregnancy-related medical conditions including as a result of the termination of pregnancy, and students who become new parents including parents adopting or fostering to adopt for the

first 12 weeks a child is in the home, in accordance with Federal and State guidelines and regulations. "New Parents" refers to a parent who has recently welcomed a newborn or adopted a child or is fostering to adopt a child and needs support to mitigate the disruption in academic progress within the first 12 weeks of parenting or a parent that needs support due to medical necessity attributed to pregnancy or delivery of a child; care of newborn; or lactation within the first year of child's life or legal adoption/fostering. Visit [Policies & Procedures - Student Rights and Conduct - Newly Parenting Policy - 3C15](#) to view the full policy and learn how to request accommodations through the Office of Equal Opportunity, Access, and Title IX Coordination (EOA).