

Political Science 202: Introduction to American Politics

Professor Rebecca Thorpe
Tuesday & Thursday 12:00-1:20
Paccar Hall 192

Autumn Quarter 2014

Section Information

Section Meetings

AA: Wednesday & Friday 8:30-9:20, Thompson 202

AC: Wednesday & Friday 9:30-10:20, Art 006

TA: Bryan Wilcox

email: bmwilcox@uw.edu

web: <http://www.bryanmwilcox.com/fall-2014-american-politics>

office: Smith Hall 220 B

office hours: Wednesday & Friday: 10:30-11:30 and by appointment

Overview and Section Goals

The purpose of this section is threefold: (1) to clarify material covered in lecture and in the assigned readings; (2) to provide an opportunity for all students to discuss and debate about substantive material; and (3) to help develop professional skills that will be useful throughout school and into your professional careers. These objectives will help you learn more and prepare you to succeed in your class assignments, exams, and professional aspirations.

Availability

I encourage you all to come visit me during my office hours. Office hours are available to ask questions, go over difficult course themes, discuss American politics or political science in general, etc. If you cannot attend my scheduled office hours, contact me by email to arrange an alternate time. I will respond to emails within 24-48 hours, except during weekends, on holidays, and in the 24 hours prior to an examination. Email communication is reserved for logistical questions only. If you have a substantive/conceptual question, please plan to come in to office hours.

Expectations

- As this is a discussion-oriented section, I will expect that all of you have done the assigned reading prior to our meeting, and that you will have attended Professor Thorpe's lecture.
- Participate in thoughtful discussion and respect others' opinions. Quiz section participation is based on active engagement not simple attendance.
- Short written assignments and quizzes may be given in section without notice. Therefore, I highly encourage you to attend all sections.
- Some discussion topics in this class may be controversial. I expect each student to engage in thoughtful discussion and respect others' opinions. A respectful dialogue will only make our discussions more productive.

Grading

I will be responsible for grading all your papers and exams in this course. I will be as fair as possible when assessing your work. Below is a breakdown of your course grade:

Assignment	Percentage of Final Grade	Due Date
Response Paper	15%	October 9, at the beginning of class
Exam 1	15%	October 23, in class
Exam 2	20%	November 13, in class
Final Exam	30%	December 11, 10:30-12:20
Section Participation	20%	

If you have any inquiries about a grade, please follow the steps below:

1. Carefully read all the comments.
2. Wait at least 24 hours before contacting me.
3. **Within one week** of receiving a grade, provide me a typed statement explaining specifically why the grade you received should be altered.
4. Bring the exam and your written statement to my office hours (or by appointment), so that we can talk about the issue(s) in person. If warranted, I will re-read the exam and return it to you during the first quiz section of the next week.
5. If you have followed these steps and are still dissatisfied with your re-grade, we can present your work to Professor Thorpe. Please note that Professor Thorpe will not re-examine your work unless you have spoken to me first.

**** Please note: When work is submitted for reevaluation, your grade may go up or down.*

University Polices

Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism and cheating are violations of the UW student conduct code and will not be tolerated in this class. If you use other scholars' work (this includes internet sources - I can also operate Google) as evidence or as an example you must give credit to the source in a proper manner. If plagiarism is suspected, your work will be presented to Professor Thorpe directly, and if necessary, university disciplinary channels will be invoked. If you are not sure what constitutes cheating, please ask me directly or consult: <http://depts.washington.edu/grading/issue1/honesty.htm>

Accommodations

I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Disabilities Support Services Office and who provide me with necessary documentation. Students with documented disabilities should see me by October 9, 2014.

Miscellaneous

- Please note that I will use your uw.edu email address should I need to contact you outside of class. Make sure to forward your emails to another account if you do not check your UW account regularly. If you desire to send an email to the email listserv for the entire section (e.g., to set up a study group or ask a question), you must use your UW email account or it may not work.
- Another note about email: please include a relevant subject and address each email in a semi-formal manner. This is an important practice as you begin networking and building your professional identities. Emails with "Hey did i miss anything in class" will receive very little consideration. I will likely respond: "Yes."
- Out of respect for your fellow classmates, please be on time for section.
- Please turn your cell phone off. Refrain from texting during class.
- If you wish to use your laptop, please make sure not to check unrelated websites during class. It not only distracts you, but also the people around you. If you are found to be engaging in any type of electronic distraction (such as texting, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or general internet tomfoolery) you will be warned once, then asked to leave the room.