Overview and Objectives

We the People are the sole source of political power in the United States and it is through elections that we choose who will use the powers of government. But who votes? How are they deciding who to vote for? How do the conduct of campaigns and elections in the US impact voter behaviors? These are the motivating questions behind the design of this course and their answers invariably have profound implications for American government.

Requirements

This course is a seminar— a format that only works if you have read and critically thought about the week’s readings and if you actively participate in the discussion so please come prepared. We will be using Perusall this semester to analyze all course readings.

The Persuall code for this course is: MARCOTTE-ZV7AG

In order to ensure you are keeping up with these readings, there will be online quizzes throughout the course of the semester. You will also write one paper critically analyzing Congress: The Electoral Connection. This essay should try to engage the text by doing one or more of the following: juxtaposing and commenting on alternative explanations or approaches to the substantive topic; criticizing the methodologies used and proposing other strategies of research; criticizing the conceptualization and/or measurement of a particular construct; analyzing the implications of a set of findings; suggesting new questions or hypotheses for research; developing similarities and contrasts with arguments or research found in the readings from previous weeks. More generally, this paper should contain an argument, not a summary or description of the text. This paper should run about 3-5 pages double spaced and is due by 6:30 PM on the date of the final exam (12/15) via email. There will be 2 online exams—a midterm and a final exam. As this is a discussion-based seminar, you will also be graded on your participation. The grading scale is as follows.
• Quizzes: 20%
• Paper: 20%
• Participation: 15%
• Midterm 20%
• Final: 25%

COVID-19

Face coverings

Effective July 15, 2020, the University of Georgia—along with all University System of Georgia (USG) institutions—requires all faculty, staff, students and visitors to wear an appropriate face covering while inside campus facilities/buildings where six feet social distancing may not always be possible. Face covering use is in addition to and is not a substitute for social distancing. Anyone not using a face covering when required will be asked to wear one or must leave the area. Reasonable accommodations may be made for those who are unable to wear a face covering for documented health reasons. Students seeking an accommodation related to face coverings should contact Disability Services at https://drc.uga.edu/.

DawgCheck

Please perform a quick symptom check each weekday on DawgCheck—on the UGA app or website—whether you feel sick or not. It will help health providers monitor the health situation on campus: https://dawgcheck.uga.edu/

What do I do if I have symptoms?

Students showing symptoms should self-isolate and schedule an appointment with the University Health Center by calling 706-542-1162 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.). Please DO NOT walk-in. For emergencies and after-hours care, see https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies.

What do I do if I am notified that I have been exposed?

Students who learn they have been directly exposed to COVID-19 but are not showing symptoms should self-quarantine for 14 days consistent with Department of Public Health (DPH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. Please correspond with your instructor via email, with a cc: to Student Care Outreach at sco@uga.edu, to coordinate continuing your coursework while self-quarantined. If you develop symptoms, you should contact the University Health Center to make an appointment to be tested. You should continue to monitor your symptoms daily on DawgCheck.
How do I get a test?

Students who are demonstrating symptoms of COVID-19 should call the University Health Center. UHC is offering testing by appointment for students; appointments may be booked by calling 706-542-1162. UGA will also be recruiting asymptomatic students to participate in surveillance tests. Students living in residence halls, Greek housing and off-campus apartment complexes are encouraged to participate.

What do I do if I test positive?

Any student with a positive COVID-19 test is **required** to report the test in DawgCheck and should self-isolate immediately. Students should not attend classes in-person until the isolation period is completed. Once you report the positive test through DawgCheck, UGA Student Care and Outreach will follow up with you.

How is this course affected?

I will be using the “HyFlex” model. There will be no attendance policy this semester; however I expect participation in all online activities. Certain activities/discussions will be better suited to an online format this semester.

Mental Health and Wellness Resources

- If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit https://sco.uga.edu. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.

- UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services (https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga) or crisis support (https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies). You need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA (https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center.

- Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.

Required Texts

- All other readings will be uploaded to Perusall
Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 - 100</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 - 92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 - 89</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>84 - 86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 - 79</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>74 - 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 - 69</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 - 59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Policy

Formal grade appeals must be made in writing, and in the case of a paper, I will re-grade your entire paper. Therefore, your grade can go up or down. A final grade of “Incomplete” will only be given in this course under exceptional circumstances and is solely at the discretion of the instructor. If an incomplete is given, it is the student’s responsibility to complete the necessary requirements as early in the following semester as possible. Legitimate excuses for absence from class (e.g., religious holiday, medical emergency, or illness) must be presented to me prior to the class when feasible. Late assignments will be docked 5 percent per day (half letter grade), for each day that a project is late (including weekends).

Office Hours

Students who are having difficulty with the course materials and/or assignments are encouraged to make an appointment with me. Don’t be afraid to come by. However, please note that office hours are for clarification of material, not for recreating a lecture if you skipped class. If you like to talk to me, feel free to stop by my office during office hours but please email me in advance if possible.

Culture of Honesty Policy

You are responsible for knowing and complying with the policy and procedures relating to academic honesty. To understand what constitutes dishonest work, as defined by the University, please carefully review the policy here: [https://ovpi.uga.edu/academichonesty/academic-honesty-policy](https://ovpi.uga.edu/academichonesty/academic-honesty-policy)

Course Outline

Introduction (8/20)

- The Syllabus. Read the syllabus. Please.
- Perusall introduction

Thinking Formally about Electoral Behavior (8/25, 8/27)


Electoral Systems and Voter Turnout (9/1, 9/3)


Institutional Barriers (9/8, 9/10)


Who Votes?(9/15, 9/17)

Social Influences on Electoral Behavior (9/22, 9/24)


Media and Participation (9/29, 10/1)


Campaign Effects (10/6, 10/8)


Midterm Review (10/13)

Midterm (10/15)

How Voters Decide (10/20, 10/22)


Information Shortcuts (10/27, 10/29)


Partisanship (11/3, 11/5)


Rainy Day Readings (11/10, 11/12)


Institutions (11/17, 11/19)

Thanksgiving Break
• Have fun! Stay safe!

Final Review (12/1, 12/3)

Final Exam (12/15)
• 3:30-6:30
• Paper due via email