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DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTY OF ARTS

POLI 477 Lo1 American Politics FALL 2020

INSTRUCTOR: Ian Brodie

EMAIL: irbrodie@ucalgary.ca

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays, 1:00-2:00 pm, by appointment through D2L,

except where indicated under COURSE SCHEDULE

COURSE DAY/TIME: Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30 – 1:45 pm

Synchronous participation required each week

DELIVERY METHOD: Web-Based via Desire2Learn (D2L) and Zoom

PRE-REQUISITE: POLI 359

ANTI-REQUISITE: Credit for Political Science 477 and 377 will not be allowed

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION & INSTRUCTIONAL APPROACH:

A study of the institutions and processes of American politics.

This course will take place online via Desire2Learn (D2L) and Zoom.

In a typical week, students will work "asynchronously" – i.e., independently – to read the required readings, complete a quiz about the readings on D₂L, and then watch an on-line lecture, all before Tuesday at 12:30.

Students will then meet "synchronously" – i.e., together through Zoom – on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Success will require students to complete both the asynchronous and synchronous portions.

If you are unable to participate in a Zoom session, you may wish to watch a recording of it afterwards. Each session and the accompanying chat will be recorded and made available on D2L.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The ultimate learning objective for this course is to give you a lasting understanding of US politics. American politics have a unique influence on the rest of the world and on Canada in particular. By December, you should be equipped to follow US politics for years to come.

To that end, by the end of this course students will:

- 1. Know and remember the formal and informal rules and institutional arrangements of the US system of government.
- 2. Understand the core concepts of "American exceptionalism", the founding principles of US government, and how political parties emerged and evolved.
- 3. Apply the founding principles to explain the operation of checks and balances and the value of indirect and complex government over direct and simple government.
- 4. Analyze how the structure of the Electoral College still shapes US presidential elections, and the contending proposals for reform of Electoral College.
- 5. And, finally, create a deep analysis of 2020 election, with a focus on a single battleground state. This analysis will show influence of Electoral College and the state-level campaign on the election outcome.

LEARNING RESOURCES

Most of the required readings are in the textbook is Brooks, S. (2013). <u>Understanding American Politics</u>, second edition. University of Toronto Press. New copies are available at the U of C Bookstore. Used copies are available elsewhere. An e-book version is available at https://utorontopress.com/ca/understanding-american-politics-second-edition-3. <u>Please do not rely on the first edition of the textbook</u>.

The other required readings are posted in D2L.

Before the course begins, students may wish to avail themselves of either:

- Kail, T. (Director). (2020). Hamilton [Video file]. Disneyplus.com, or
- Original Broadway Cast Recording. (2015). <u>Hamilton</u> [various audio formats].
 Alex Lacamoire, et al.

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY

There is a D₂L site for this course. It contains some of the required readings. It also contains the weekly quizzes, the online lectures, the Zoom coordinates for the class sessions and dropboxes for the assignments.

Zoom sessions require reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, firewall and malware updates and an Internet connection;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone.

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES

Assessment Method	Description	Weight
Quizzes	The purpose of the quizzes is to test your basic understanding of the required readings. This is aligned to Learning Outcomes 1 and 2. You will get credit for successfully completing a quiz if you score at least 60% on it. There are ten (10) quizzes in total. Each student's overall grade will be as follows: • Two points for each of the first six (6) quizzes completed successfully. • Four points for each of the next three (3) quizzes completed successfully. • Six points for completing the tenth quiz. Due date and time: Each quiz must be completed before 12:30 on Tuesday as marked on the Course Schedule below online through D2L.	30%
Exceptionalism Video Note	The purposes of this Video Note are to show others what you think is important about American politics, to introduce	5%

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	yourself to the class, and to get you used to the on-line video format of the course. These are aligned to Learning Outcome 2.	
	<u>Due Date and time</u> : September 8, 11:59 p.m. through D2L.	
Battleground State Group Presentation	The purposes of this Group Presentation are to have all the students assigned to analyze a given state meet together, discuss their analyses, and present a common view of the state to the rest of the class These are aligned to Learning Outcomes 1, 4 and 5. Due Date and time: October 27 or 29, depending on your state, 12:30-1:45 p.m. By Zoom.	10%
Battleground State Analysis	Phase I <u>Due Date and Time</u> : September 22, 11:59 p.m. online through D2L Dropbox.	2%
	Phase II	5%
	<u>Due Date and Time</u> : October 20, 11:59 p.m. online through D2L Dropbox.	
	Phase III	3%
	<u>Due Date and Time</u> : November 2, 11:59 p.m. online through D2L Dropbox.	
	Phase IV	20%
	<u>Due Date and Time</u> : November 18, 11:59 p.m. online through D2L Dropbox.	
Take-home Final Examination	The purpose of the Final Examination is to test your knowledge of the online lectures and the class meetings. This aligns to Learning Outcomes 1, 2 and 3.	25%
	<u>Due Date and Time</u> : The Final Examination will be made available on December 9 on D2L before noon. Answers will be due December 11 at 11:59 pm online through D2L.	

COMPONENT DESCRIPTIONS

<u>Quizzes</u>: After finishing each week's reading, you will complete an on-line quiz through D₂L. Once you begin, you will have ten minutes to complete each quiz plus an additional five minutes of grace time for technical troubles for a total of fifteen minutes.

Students are on the honour system to complete the quiz individually, without help from others. The quizzes are, however, open book. The quizzes will come in different, easily graded formats like multiple choice, fill in the blank, etc.

<u>Exceptionalism Video Note</u>: Each student will prepare a brief Video Note using the D2L Video Note function. A separate assignment information sheet, including the grading rubric, is available on D2L.

<u>Battleground State Group Presentation and Battleground State Analysis</u>: A separate information sheet, including the grading rubric, is available on D₂L.

<u>Take-home Final Examination</u>: The exam will consist of short and long answer questions. You may complete it at any time between December 9 and December 16 at 11:59 pm, but once you begin you will have two hours to complete it plus an additional hour of grace time for technical troubles for a total of three hours. The content to be examined will be drawn from the weekly lectures and meetings.

Students are on the honour system to complete the exam individually, without help from others. The final exam is, however, open book.

If a student misses a required course component, please get in with touch the instructor as soon as possible.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be uploaded to Dropbox in D2L. The files must be readable so please review before sending. Except for the Video Note, Please upload a PDF version if possible. Assignments should have a file name or title like this:

{Firstname}.{Lastname}.{extension}. All assignments must be submitted before class on the date that they are due. Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted.

WRITING STATEMENT

Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses, including this one, and the quality of writing skills, including but not limited to such elements as grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, clarity, citation, and organization, will be taken into account in determining grades. Students are encouraged to make use of the services offered through Writing Support Services in the Student Success Centre (3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library) or at http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support.

GRADING SCALE

A+ (91-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (67-69)	D+ (55-59)
A (85-90)	B (73-76)	C (63-66)	D (50-54)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (60-62)	F (0-49)

LATE PENALTIES

Late assignments will be docked five percent point for each day or portion of a day they are late.

INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES

Students who require assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor during the synchronous Ask Me Anything sessions on Zoom or to make an appointment to meet privately. All meetings will be held virtually.

Email is a common form of communication, but it is not always the best way to answer student questions. The instructor is happy to make appointments for virtual meetings during business hours.

COURSE SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGES ANNOUNCED ON D2L)

Most weeks follow the same schedule:

- Sometime before Tuesday at 12:30, students complete the week's readings, complete the on-line quiz based on those readings, and watch the on-line lecture.
- On Tuesday at 12:30, the instructor will have a live Ask Me Anything session through Zoom, followed by Office Hours that students can book through D2L.
- On Thursday, the class meets at 12:30 by Zoom. Bring your notes on the textbook and the on-line lecture. The instructor will pose questions and raise issues related to that week's topic.

October 27 and 29 will be used for Battleground State Group Presentations. November 3 and 5 will be used for Electoral College Predictions and Election Review.

Week & Reading	Tuesday	Thursday
Before September 8	 Read syllabus and post question in discussion board Read UAP Chapter 1: American Exceptionalism and do American Exceptionalism Quiz Start the Exceptionalism Assignment 	
Sept 8-10: UAP Chapter 1: American Exceptionalism	 AMA at 12:30 - 1:00 OH at 1:00 - 2:00 Finish American	Class meeting agenda:
Sept 15-17: Declaration of Independence, Federalist 10 (UAP: Appendix 1, 2)	 AMA at 12:30 - 1:00 OH at 1:00 - 2:00 Finish The Founding Quiz before 12:30 	Class meeting agenda: Open discussion The Founding
Sept 22-23: UAP Chapter 5: The Constitution And Federalist 51 (UAP Appendix 2)	 AMA at 12:30 - 1:00 OH at 1:00 - 2:00 Finish The Constitution Quiz before 12:30 Battleground State Analysis Phase I due at 11:59 p.m. 	Class meeting agenda: Open discussion The Constitution
Sept 29-Oct 1: UAP Chapter 7: The Presidency	 AMA at 12:30 - 1:00 OH at 1:00 - 2:00 Finish The Presidency Quiz before 12:30 	Class meeting agenda: Open discussion The Presidency
Oct 6-8: The Electoral College reading TBD	 AMA at 12:30 - 1:00 OH at 1:00 - 2:00 Finish The Electoral College Quiz before 12:30 	Class meeting agenda: Open discussion The Electoral College
Oct 13-15: UAP: Chapter 12: Parties and Elections	 AMA at 12:30 - 1:00 OH at 1:00 - 2:00 Finish Parties and Elections Quiz before 12:30 	Class meeting agenda: Open discussion Parties

Oct 20-22:	• AMA at raise	Class magting agonds:
UAP: Chapter 6:	AMA at 12:30 - 1:00OH at 1:00 - 2:00	Class meeting agenda:Open discussion
Congress	• Off at 1:00 - 2:00	Parties
Congress	Finish Congress Quiz by	• Tarties
	12:30	
	Battleground State Analysis	
	Phase II doe at 11:59 p.m.	
Oct 27-29:	• 12:30: Battleground State	• 12:30 Battleground State
Presentations	Presentations	Presentations
	• (see D ₂ L for states)	• (see D ₂ L for states)
Nov 3-5:	• 12:30 Electoral College	• 12:30 Election Review: How
ELECTION WEEK	Predictions Day	did we do?
	Battleground State Analysis	
	Phase III due November 2	
	(the night before) at 11:59	
	p.m.	
Nov 10-12	No class meeting	No class meeting
BREAK WEEK		
Nov 17-19: Is Congress	• AMA at 12:30 - 1:00	Class meeting agenda:
Working?	• OH at 1:00 - 2:00	Open discussion
reading TBD		Is Congress Working
	Finish Is Congress Working	
	Quiz by 12:30	
	Battleground State Analysis	
	Phase IV due November 18	
	(the next night) at 11:59	
Nov 24-26: UAP Chapter	• AMA at 12:30 - 1:00	Class meeting agenda:
8: The Judiciary	• OH at 1:00 - 2:00	Open discussion
		The Judiciary
	Finish The Judiciary Quiz	
	by 12:30	
Dec 1-3: UAP Chapters 10,	• AMA at 12:30 - 1:00	Open with discussion
11: Racial Inequality and	• OH at 1:00 - 2:00	 Inequality meeting
The Politics of Inequality		
	 Finish Inequality Quiz by 	
	12:30	
Dog 9, Dogan and Every	Daniel de la constant	Tala hamari 1
Dec 8: Recap and Exam	• Recap at 12:30 – 1:45	Take-home Final Examination released
		December 9, due
		December 9, due December 16 at 11:59 p.m.
		December to at 11.59 p.iii.
	AMA: Ask Me Anything	
	OH: Office Hours	
<u> </u>	511, 5111 cc 110 a 10	

UAP: <u>Understanding American Politics</u>

GUIDELINES FOR ZOOM SESSIONS

Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a "live" video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor's permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the Code of Conduct). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g. Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/quidelines-for-zoom/.

The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

COURSE EVALUATIONS AND STUDENT FEEDBACK

Student feedback will be sought at the end of the course through the standard University Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) and Faculty course evaluation forms. Midterm evaluations may also be included to provide students an opportunity to provide feedback, for the instructor to adjust their approaches to teaching and learning, and to continuously improve the course. Students are welcome to discuss the process and content of the course at any time with the instructor.

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY POLICIES AND SUPPORTS

Recording the Seminars:

Unless required by the Student Accessibility Centre, it is forbidden for students to record the class sessions. The instructor will record them and make them available through D₂L.

<u>Intellectual Property</u>:

All materials provided by the instructor are provided under the terms of an **Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International (CC BY-NC 4.0)** licence. See creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/

Other materials may be subject to copyright. As stated in the University of Calgary Calendar, Academic Regulations, "students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright and requirements of the copyright act to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy."

https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-electronic-resources-

https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-electronic-resourcesand-information-policy.pdf and https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html

Academic Misconduct:

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit.

https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity.

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at

http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

Required Access to Technology:

Please see the University's resource page at https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it?id=kb_article&sys_id=86e7438013753aco6f3afbb2e144b031

<u>Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration:</u>
As stated in the University Calendar:

Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. Supporting documentation may be dependent on the reason noted in their personal statement/explanation provided to explain their situation. This could be medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, third party letter of support or a statutory declaration etc. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note.

Students can make a Statutory Declaration as their supporting documentation (available at <u>ucalgary.ca/registrar</u>). This requires students to make a declaration in the presence of a Commissioner for Oaths. It demonstrates the importance of honest and accurate information provided and is a legally binding declaration. Several registered Commissioners for Oaths are available to students at no charge, on campus. For a list of locations to access a Commissioners for Oaths, visit <u>ucalgary.ca/registrar</u>).

Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

This statement is accessible at: https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html

Absence From a Mid-term Examination:

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of this email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor. Any student who fails to do so forfeits the right to a makeup test.

Deferral of a Final Examination:

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams.

Appeals:

If a student has a concern about the course or a grade they have been assigned, they must first discuss their concerns with the instructor. If this does not resolve the matter, the student then proceed with an academic appeal. The first step in an academic appeal is to set up a meeting with the Department Head. Appeals must be requested within 15 days of receipt of the graded assignment.

University Regulations:

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the University policies found in the Academic Regulations sections of the Calendar at www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html.

Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf.

Sexual Violence Policy:

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at

https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf

<u>Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP):</u>

FOIP legislation requires that instructors maintain the confidentiality of student information. In practice, this means that student assignment and tests cannot be left for collection in any public place without the consent of the student. It also means that grades cannot be distributed via email. Final exams are kept by instructors but can be viewed by contacting them or the main office in the Department of Political Science. Any uncollected assignments and tests meant to be returned will be destroyed after six months from the end of term; final examinations are destroyed after one year.

Required Access to Technology:

Please see the University's resource page at https://ucalgary.servicenow.com/it?id=kb_article&sys_id=86e7438o13753aco6f3afbb2e144bo31

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

For program planning and advice, please consult with the Arts Students' Centre by calling 403-220-3580 or by email at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit arts.ucalgary.ca/advising for program assistance.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625].

<u>Important Contact Information</u>:

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year)

Phone: 403-220-5333

Graduate Students' Association

Phone: 403-220-5997

Email: askqsa@ucalqary.ca URL: www.ucalgary.ca/qsa

Student Ombudsman

Phone: 403-220-6420

Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca

<u>Campus Mental Health Resources:</u>

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the following resources:

SU Wellness Centre: http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/

Student Wellness Services:

https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services

Campus Mental Health Strategy website: https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/.