

Political Science 434
CRN: 13369

Political Participation in the United States

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Department of Political Science and Geography
Office Hours: Tuesday 1-3 & Wednesday 2-4
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Time: 9:30-10:45 AM T-Th

Course Description

This course is designed to give students an in-depth understanding of the various dimensions of political participation in the United States. Central to this course is the act of voting, which is the cornerstone democratic institution. Students will gain an understanding of how individuals form political attitudes and how these attitudes are manifested in the voting booth. In addition, students will also gain an understanding of what leads others to engage in other forms of political participation, such as volunteering for political campaigns and joining interest groups. We will extensively examine data from the 2016 presidential election in an effort to these concepts with real world political outcomes. As part of this course, students will be asked to develop their analytical skills through a combination of data analysis, critical reading of scholarly works, and a research paper.

Graded Requirements

The final grade in this course will be computed according to the following scale:

A	93-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D	63-69
A-	90-92	B	83-86	C	73-76	F	0-62
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72		

Specifically, the final course grade in this course will be computed based on the following component parts:

Research Paper	20%
Analytical Assignments	40%
Mid-Term	25%
Final	25%

Readings: Check blackboard before every class. I will post readings for each class meetings. You are expected to have these readings completed before each class period. I will periodically administer in class quizzes that will assess your understanding of the assigned readings.

Tests: There will be two tests, a midterm and a final. The tests will primarily consist of short answer and essay questions. The final exam is not cumulative; it will only cover the second half of the course material.

Analytical Assignments: Students will be asked to complete several analytical assignments over the course of the semester. These assignments will require students to analyze and interpret data about political participation in America

Research Paper: Students are required to write a research paper that investigates a question regarding some aspect of political participation. Students will be asked to turn in a proposal outlining their research project roughly halfway through the semester and then submit the final version on the last day of class. Research papers should include a title page, abstract, text, references, and appendices with any tables and figures. Expected length is 15 pages.

Important Course Information

All University policies are in full force and effect in this course.

College Classroom Conduct

The following standards are intended to define acceptable classroom behavior that preserves academic integrity and ensures that students have optimum environmental conditions for effective learning.

1. Students must turn off cell phones and pagers during class or have them set to vibrate mode.
2. Classes are expected to begin on time, and students will respect the time boundaries established by the professor. If classroom doors are locked, students may not knock or seek entrance in other ways.
3. Students should notify instructors in advance when a class will be missed. In the event of an emergency that causes a class to be missed, instructors must be notified as soon as possible.
4. Instructors may require that cell phones and other electronic devices be left on their desks during tests or examinations.
5. Students must not engage in extraneous conversations during classes. Such acts are considered to be violations of the Code of Student Conduct.
6. Students will activate their Old Dominion email accounts and check them before each class. If the student chooses to have his/her messages forwarded to another account, it is the student's responsibility to take the necessary steps to have them forwarded.
7. Consumption of food and drink during class is prohibited, except when the professor has specifically approved of such acts.
8. Offensive language, gestures and the like are disrespectful and disruptive to the teaching-

learning process. [http://studentservices.odu.edu/osja/ccc_pamphlet.pdf]

Honor Code: The Old Dominion University Honor Code is in effect at all times in this class. Your name on an exam, paper, or homework assignment constitutes your acceptance of the Honor Code:

“I pledge to support the Honor System of Old Dominion University. I will refrain from any form of dishonesty or deception such as lying, cheating, and plagiarism, which are honor violations. I am further aware that as a member of the academic community it is my responsibility to turn all suspected violators of the Honor System. I will report to an Honor Council hearing as summoned.”

Plagiarism: “A student will have committed plagiarism if he or she reproduces someone else’s work without acknowledging its source; or if a source is cited which the student has not cited or used. Examples of plagiarism include: submitting a research paper obtained from a commercial research service, the Internet, or from another student as if it were original work; making simple changes to borrowed materials while leaving the organization, content, or phraseology intact; or copying material from a source, supplying proper documentation, but leaving out quotation marks. Plagiarism also occurs in a group project if one or more of the members of the group does none of the group’s work and participates in none of the group’s activities, but attempts to take credit for the work of the group.” Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class. (For more information: <http://al.odu.edu/al/resources/About%20Plagiarism2.doc>)

Late Assignments: Punctuality is essential. In order to incentive punctuality, late assignments will be penalized one letter grade per class meeting late. If you know in advance that you will be forced to turn in an assignment late due to travel, illness, sports, clubs etc. Contact me before the class the assignment is due to make alternate arrangements.

Sexual Harassment: Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcomed and unsolicited conduct of a sexual nature, physical or verbal, by a member of the university community of the opposite sex (or the same sex) in an official university position. Sexual harassment in any situation is prohibited. It is the policy of Old Dominion University to provide students and employees with an environment for learning and working which is free of sexual harassment whether by members of the same sex or the opposite sex, which is prohibited by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. (For more information: <http://www.odu.edu/ao/polnproc/pdfs/6320.pdf>)

Students with Special Needs: In compliance with PL94-142 and federal legislation affirming the rights of disabled individuals, provisions will be made for students with special needs on an individual basis. The student must be identified as “special needs” by the university and provide a letter from the Office of Educational Accessibility (OEA) located in 1525 Webb Center. Any accommodations will be based upon written guidelines from the OEA. Students needing academic adjustments or accommodations because of a documented disability must present their Faculty Letter from the [Accessible Education Office](#) (AEO) and speak with the professor by the end of the second week of the term,

(September 8). Failure to do so may result in the Course Head's inability to respond in a timely manner. All discussions will remain confidential, although I may contact AEO to discuss appropriate implementation. All students are expected to fulfill all course requirements.

E-mail: Students are required to use valid Old Dominion University email accounts to send official information and notices and are held responsible for accessing electronic mail to obtain official University communications. Students should use their secure ODU email account to communicate with professors.

Course Evaluations: Student evaluations provide important feedback for me, and they are an essential component of departmental and university-wide measures of teaching effectiveness. Please fill them out when the time arrives.

Career Management Center: The Career Management Center offers a Career Advantage Program, which provides opportunities to gain work experience related to your major through internships, cooperative education or practical experience outside the classroom. The College of Arts and Letters has career coaches to assist in this process by providing help with resumes, cover letters, job search strategies, and interviewing skills. You may stop by the office in BAL 1006 (tel. 757-683-4388) or email cmc@odu.edu for more information. Their website is <http://www.odu.edu/ao/cmc/index.php>.

Disclaimer

This syllabus is subject to change with notice. Any changes will be posted to the course website and either e-mailed OR announced in class, or both.

Required Text

There is one required book for this class. It is available through the university bookstore as well as Amazon and other online retailers. The required book is:

Political Behavior of the American Electorate—13th Edition

By: William Flanigan, Nancy H. Zingale, Elizabeth A. Theiss-Morse, and Michael W. Wagner

Publisher: CQ Press

ISBN: 978-1-4522-4044-2

Course Schedule

(Tentative and Subject to change)

Unit 1: Moral Foundations and Personality Traits

August 28th Preliminaries—Discuss Syllabus and Expectations

August 30th **No Class**—APSA Conference

September 4 th	2016: An initial postmortem—Flanigan et al. Chapter 1
September 6 th	Moral Foundations
September 11 th	Moral Foundations II: Moral foundations in the field in 2016
September 13 th	Authoritarianism and Openness to Experience
September 18 th	Racial Resentment and Gender Attitudes

Unit 2: Public Opinion

September 20 th	The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion
September 25 th	Ideology
September 27 th	Partisanship—Flanigan et al. Chapter 4
October 2 nd	Race and Gender
October 4 th	How do we Measure Public Opinion? <i>Analytical Assignment 1 Due</i>
October 9 th	<i>No Class</i> – Fall Break
October 11 th	Political Socialization
October 16 th	Polarization I
October 18 th	Polarization II
October 23 rd	<i>Midterm Exam</i> <i>Paper Proposal Due</i>

Unit 3: Turnout and Vote Choice

October 25 th	Turnout I: Who Votes?
October 30 th	Turnout II: The Myth of the Vanishing Voter
November 1 st	Vote Choice I <i>Analytical Assignment 2 Due</i>
November 6 th	Vote Choice II—Flanigan et al Chapter 7
November 8 th	Midterm Recap and Discussion

November 13th The Effect of Campaigns and the Media on Voter Behavior I
November 15th The Effect of Campaigns and the Media on Voter Behavior II
Analytical Assignment 3 Due
November 20th Political History: Civil Rights and Rise of the Southern Republicans—

Unit 4: Activism, Protest, and other Forms of Political Participation

November 22nd **No Class**—Thanksgiving
November 27th Collective Action Problems
Analytical Assignment 4 Due
December 4th Collective Action and the Civil Rights Movement
December 6th Collective Action and Understanding Protests, Boycotts, and Riots
December 8th: ***Final Exam*** (3:45-6:45 PM) *Saturday
Final Papers Due

About Plagiarism: A Guide for College of Arts and Letters Students¹

What is plagiarism?

The ODU *Catalog* defines plagiarism as follows: “A student will have committed plagiarism if he or she reproduces someone else’s work without acknowledging its source; or if a source is cited which the student has not cited or used. Examples of plagiarism include: submitting a research paper obtained from a commercial research service, the Internet, or from another student as if it were original work; making simple changes to borrowed materials while leaving the organization, content, or phraseology intact; or copying material from a source, supplying proper documentation, but leaving out quotation marks. Plagiarism also occurs in a group project if one or more of the members of the group does none of the group’s work and participates in none of the group’s activities, but attempts to take credit for the work of the group.”

Hints for Avoiding Plagiarism:

- *More than three words copied in sequence is plagiarism.* This is ordinarily a good yardstick to use when wondering whether or not quotes are appropriate; they are, if you are copying more than three words in sequence that are not part of a common phrase (e.g. “up-to-date”).
- *One source is not “common knowledge.”* Common knowledge does not require citation. But something is not common knowledge if you have found just one source for the information.
- When in doubt, cite! If you have any doubt about whether or not to cite a source, err on the side of making the attribution.
- *If your co-author sounds surprisingly eloquent, make sure the contribution is his/her own.* We often work in groups and co-author papers and projects. You should ask the question of your co-author if you doubt the work is his/her own. In group work, you are responsible for the project/paper in its entirety.
- *Look away.* When you are writing, do not have open books or papers in front of you as you type. Read your sources, and then put what you have read into your own words.
- *Writing is hard work.* Paraphrasing is relatively easy, writing is hard. Learning to be a good writer is part of what your college education is about. Staring at an empty screen does become less daunting over time!
- *Just because it’s on the Internet, doesn’t mean it’s yours.* The Internet is a fantastic resource and search engines are terrific research tools. But what you find on the Internet was written by someone. You must cite Internet web sites, and if you use a quote, use appropriate quotation procedures.
- *Paraphrasing is more than changing a verb tense or reordering a list.* Essentially, paraphrasing is used to summarize another author’s text. A paraphrased passage must be cited.

¹ This information is adapted from a guide developed by Old Dominion University’s College of Business and Public Administration.

- *Use a Style Guide.* Purchase a style guide and refer to it. Your instructor may suggest one that is specific to an academic discipline. You may also ask a reference librarian for recommendations.

The High Cost of Plagiarism

Plagiarism can ruin your reputation and cost you your professional career, along with the respect of your peers and family. Plagiarism at Old Dominion University is an act of academic dishonesty that has serious consequences. Note that plagiarism is specifically covered in the ODU Honor Pledge. Refer to your course syllabus and the Student *Handbook* and the Office of Student Affairs for details about sanctions and penalties for this behavior.