



SYLLABUS FOR PSCI 455.001

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Mondays 1600-1945 in UC **TBA**

Nota bene: I reserve the right to amend or append this syllabus as may be necessary and proper.

EFFECTIVE DATE: SPRING 2012 **I. COURSE NUMBER:** 20280
II. COURSE TITLE: Political Behavior **III. SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS:**
3 SCH

IV. DESCRIPTION. This course addresses the questions of why some people vote but others do not, how individuals make political choices, and how people participate in other ways. It examines the behavioral approach to the study of government and politics, the major theories of political behavior; and the effects of long-term changes, socialization processes, media uses, and political attitudes and institutions.

V. PREREQUISITES: None, but this course is reading intensive, with substantial written components. Therefore, students **must** have competency in written and spoken English. Being that this is a PSCI course, statistical competency is expected.

VI. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/RESOURCES: There are four required texts:

REQUIRED

| | | |
|------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| David Schwartz [Schwartz] | <i>Political Alienation and Political Behavior</i> | ISBN 202309452 |
| Noam Chomsky [Chomsky] | <i>9-11</i> | ISBN 1583224890 |
| Niemi and Weisberg [CVB] | <i>Classics in Voting Behavior</i> | ISBN 871876515 |
| Flanigan & Zingale [F&Z] | <i>Political Behavior of the American Electorate</i> | ISBN 1604265213 |

In addition, there are two HIGHLY recommended tests:

RECOMMENDED

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Andrea Cornwall | <i>The Participation Reader</i> | ISBN 1842774034 |
| Hahrie Han | <i>Moved to Action</i> | ISBN 804762252 |

COURSE RESERVES You will have additional readings drawn from these (**IN LIBRARY**)

| | | |
|------------------|---|-------------|
| Robert Alexander | <i>Classics in Interest Group Behavior</i> | [IGB] |
| Dennis Kavanaugh | <i>Political Science and Political Behavior</i> | [Kavanaugh] |
| Conway, et al. | <i>Women and Political Participation</i> | [WPP] |
| Carole Pateman | <i>Participation and Democratic Theory</i> | [Pateman] |
| Eric Hobsbawm | <i>Interesting Times</i> | [Hobsbawm] |
| Steven Peterson | <i>Political Behavior</i> | [Peterson] |

ONLINE ELECTRONIC READINGS: Required, listed in this syllabus

OTHER ASSIGNED MATERIEL - From time to time, I may assign or provide additional reading to supplement the learning process. These materiél and any discussion are *always* testable. You can learn a great deal about both the U.S. government and Texas government merely by digesting the news. I **highly** recommend reading the *NY Times*, *Washington Post*, *Guardian (UK)*, *L.A. Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, or the *Houston Chronicle*. All of these have free online editions.

VII. STUDENT LEARNER OUTCOMES: Upon successfully completing this course students will be able to:

- A. analyse and apply important theoretical and scholarly approaches to explaining citizen behavior, citizen involvement, and interaction between citizens and institutions of government.
- B. identify, describe, and analyse various mechanisms of citizen political involvement.
- C. identify, describe, apply and analyse examples of political behaviours.

VIII. COURSE OUTLINE BY TOPIC:

- A. *INTRO-*
- B. *What We Know*
- C. *Sanctioned Behaviors*
- D. *Opposition to the State*
- E. *Conclusion*

IX. COURSE REQUIREMENTS: You are expected to take your own notes in class. I do not provide notes, nor do I grade attendance.

A. **Tardies:** Class is scheduled to begin at 16:00, thus, I will begin class at that time. There is not much leeway allowed due to the amount of material being covered. I will not repeat material. If you know you will be late, please do your classmates the courtesy of not entering the room. I reserve the right to punish excessive tardiness as I see fit.

B. Leaving Early: Due to the amount of material being covered, leaving before class is complete will hurt your interactive note-taking. If you must leave early, inform me before class, or else your leaving will be treated just like a tardy.

X. METHODS OF EVALUATION:

A. ACTION PAPERS: You will write five short (5 page) research essays explaining how to take political action *via* a particular activity against a designated political actor. You will choose 5 from a list to be provided separately. These are each worth 13% of your grade.

B. Readings Notes: You are expected to write up brief notes over the assigned reading and bring them to class. Each week, Weeks 2 through 16, I reserve the right to take up those notes. I will take them up, unannounced, *at least* five times. These are each worth 2% of your grade

C. Final Examination (Take home, multi-format, 25%) due May 2

D. MAKE-UPS: must be arranged with me prior to the scheduled date, no exemptions.

E. There will be Extra Credit available, a handout explaining such accompanies later.

You will be graded on the standard 100-point scale, conformed to Letter grades. I DO NOT CURVE GRADES- it only rewards the lurdane and punishes the diligent.

Grading Scale: 90+ = A 80-89 = B 70-79 = C 60-69 = D Below 60 = F

You will earn grades based upon *your* performance. Extra Credit opportunities will not be granted to any student who has not completed all work, and any extra credit will not account for more than five percent of your total grade.

XI. FACULTY OFFICE LOCATION: UC 224.

Office Hours: MW 9-11, 2:30-4:00, Fri 9-11, and by appointment. I may also be contacted *via* email.

XII. COURSE TOPICS AND TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

***WEEK ONE* INTRODUCTION**

Chomsky 1 Schwartz 1

PART I – WHAT WE THINK WE KNOW, HOW WE THINK WE KNOW IT

WEEK TWO

• POLITICAL SCIENCE AND THE STUDY OF POLITICAL BEHAVIOR

F&Z 1, 4, and appendix

RESERVES

Kavanaugh 1 Peterson 1, 2

ONLINE

- <http://arjournals.annualreviews.org/doi/pdf/10.1146/annurev.polisci.3.1.331>
- <http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/1953873.pdf>
- <http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/1958774.pdf>
- <http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2647773.pdf>

WEEK THREE

• THEORIES OF BEHAVIOR

RESERVES

Pateman, ALL

WEEK FOUR

• SOCIALIZATION AND CULTURAL FACTORS

F&Z 2, Schwartz 2-4

RESERVES

WPP 1-5, Kavanaugh 2-4

ONLINE

- <http://www.prospect.org/cs/articles?articleId=4972>
- <http://lasa.international.pitt.edu/members/congress-papers/lasa2009/files/OzlerSerifellgu.pdf>

PART II - STATE-SANCTIONED BEHAVIORS

WEEK FIVE

• INDIVIDUAL BEHAVIOR

Peterson- all of Part I

Suggested: Han, all

WEEK SIX
VOTING

CVB 2,3,5

RESERVES

Kavanaugh 5 & 6

WEEK SEVEN
CAMPAIGNING, PARTIES AND CANDIDACIES

F&Z 3-8 CVB 16, 18, 19, 22

ONLINE

- <http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2111502.pdf>
- <http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/1957569.pdf> (Nota Bene: This is a pretty tough article. But concentrate on the introductory section and the conclusion. Especially the conclusion!)

ELECTORAL FACTORS

CVB 11, 12, 28, 29, 31

ONLINE

- <http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/1957399.pdf>

WEEK EIGHT
• COLLECTIVE ACTION

RESERVES

Peterson 7-9 IGB 2, 4, 5

PETITIONS, PARADES, AND SUPPORTIVE ACTIVITY

ONLINE

- <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~vburris/pacs.pdf>
- <http://www.tcoek12.org/civicedstatepolicyfull.pdf>
- <http://economicdevelopmentandchildcare.org/documents/publications/8.pdf>

MARCH 12th-16th - - - SPRING BREAK - - - No Class

WEEK NINE
MEDIA AND PROPAGANDA

RESERVES

Peterson 10

ONLINE

- <http://isites.harvard.edu/fs/docs/icb.topic786630.files/Teens%20Social%20Media%20and%20Health%20-%20NYPH%20Dept%20Pew%20Internet.pdf>
- <http://www.meforum.org/1753/the-us-counter-propaganda-failure-in-iraq>

INTEREST GROUPS

RESERVES

IGB 11, 13, 22

WEEK 10

STATE-SPONSORED VIOLENCE

Chomsky 2-5

ONLINE

- <http://www86.homepage.villanova.edu/maghan.keita/readingsterrorism/terrorism/Mason,%20Political%20Economy%20of%20Death%20Squads.pdf>
- http://web.mac.com/christiandavenport/Site_40/Publications_files/politicalorderarps2007.pdf

PART III - OPPOSITION TO THE STATE/NON-SANCTIONED BEHAVIOR

WEEK 11

Thoreau, "Civil Disobedience", "A Plea For Captain John Brown"

• INDIVIDUAL BEHAVIOR

ORGANIZING

Schwartz 8

RESERVES

Hobsbawm 8, 15, 21-23

GRAFFITI, TWITTER, 'TEA', OCCUPY

Schwartz 11

ONLINE

- <http://www.elanguage.net/journals/index.php/pragmatics/article/viewPDFInterstitial/287/221>
- <http://holyspiritlibrary.pbworks.com/w/file/fetch/46776253/Moral%20Panics.pdf>
- <http://frodo.lib.uic.edu/ojsjournals/index.php/fm/article/view/2645/2350>

• COLLECTIVE ACTION

WEEK 12

TERRORISM

Schwartz 12-14

- <http://international.ucla.edu/media/files/acmr.pdf>
- <http://www.personal.psu.edu/jap45/Why%20Respecting%20Physical%20Integrity%20Rights%20Reduces%20Terrorism,%20CPS.pdf>
- http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/13205/1/CCS_WP_Howell_26.pdf
- http://cds.haifa.ac.il/articles/Religion_Political%20Violence-Israel.pdf
- <http://www.lastseminary.com/religion-violence/Religious%20Extremism%20-%20The%20Good%20the%20Bad%20and%20the%20Deadly.pdf>
- <http://courses.ttu.edu/jkoch/Research/Koch%20Ramirez%20Religion%20and%20Partner%20Violence%20Final%20Feb%2009.pdf>

WEEK 13

REVOLUTION AND CIVIL WAR

The Declaration of Independence

- ftp://ftp.ucss.ge/TSC%202011-2012%20exam%20reader/12%20Way_2008.pdf

- http://mtw160-150.ippl.jhu.edu/journals/comparative_studies_of_south_asia_africa_and_the_middle_east/v031/31.1.parsa.pdf
- http://www.humansecuritygateway.com/documents/MICROCON_EconomicandPoliticalCausesofGenocidalViolence.pdf
- <http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/polisci/faculty/ross/whatdoweknow.pdf>

PART IV – NON-PARTICIPATION

WEEK 14

RESERVES

Kavanaugh 9 IGB 17

ONLINE

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/3117725.pdf>

WEEK 15

CONCLUSION- What do we know and how do we know

WPP 7 Chomsky 7 *Suggested: Cornwall (ALL)*

FINAL EXAM DUE MAY 16th, NLT 5:00 p.m.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

First class day of Spring Term

Last day to drop a course without receiving a grade

Last day to drop or withdraw from Spring Term

Last class meeting day

Final Grades due for graduating students

Final grades due for all students

Monday, Jan 23rd

Monday, Feb 6th

Tuesday, April 30th

Friday, May 11th

Thursday, May 17th

Monday, May 21st

XIII. *Participation and Conduct*

A. Student Participation:

The *views* of the instructor are not dogma, and are open to question and discussion. Please feel free to disagree, but be prepared to logically and empirically back up your argument. Your participation is expected, and is part of your grade.

B. Course Etiquette:

1. Classroom Conduct –

- TAMUT has rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of business. It is the students responsibility to know the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on this may be found in the catalog, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

- TAMUT administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Please consult your catalog, under "Student Code of conduct".
 - More specifically: We are all adults, at least legally. Adult behaviour is thus expected. Disrespectful language, gestures, shouting, insults, *et cetera*, is improper and will be handled through the Dean's office, and most likely will result in a grade of F.
- a. Turn off your cell-phones- if they ring I will deduct points from your final average- and turn off your pagers as well. Remove your iPods from your head. I reserve the right to have you removed from the classroom if this turns out to be a persistent problem and your grade will be penalised.
 - b. No hats permitted to be worn while in the classroom, nor headphones.
 - c. I do not care if you eat or drink, simply do so quietly and unobtrusively.
 - d. No Laptops or electronic recording devices.

In other words: I fully expect you to behave as if you are mature, reasonable, sane people.

2. Attendance -

- a. TAMUT requires "*Regular and Punctual attendance*". It has been my experience that poor attendance DOES result in a lackluster performance. Nonetheless, you are adults, so I feel no need to take attendance- Come only if you intend to learn.
- b. **Verification of Enrollment:** The State of Texas requires that all persons residing in the state carry an identification card, and:
 - i) have on their person this card, and
 - ii) be ready to surrender it for examination to any duly constituted authority.

For our purposes, this means I may ask for your I.D. when you turn in work.

c. ***WITHDRAWING FROM THIS COURSE-***

- i) If you decide that you must drop the course, it is your responsibility to fill out the appropriate form in the college office on campus. Withdrawal from the course after the official day of record will result in a final grade of "W" on the student transcript and no credit will be awarded. It is the student's responsibility to initiate and complete a request for withdrawal from any course. *I do not drop students.* You do your own paperwork.

ii) If you stop attending class and do not fill out the drop form, you will receive an "F" in the course.

XIV. *DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS.* Students with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations through the A&M-Texarkana Disability Services Office by calling 903-223-3062.

XV. *ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY* – TAMUT is committed to a high standard of academic integrity in the academic community. In becoming a part of the academic community, TAMUT students are responsible for honesty and independent effort. The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work. Failure to uphold these standards includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings. Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of *turnitin.com* (and other resources) for searches on the web for possible plagiarism.

A. *Some Definitions:*

1. **Cheating** includes looking at or copying from another student's exam, orally communicating or receiving answers during an exam, having another person take an exam or complete a project or assignment, using unauthorized notes, texts, or other materials for an exam, and obtaining or distributing an unauthorized copy of an exam or any part of an exam.
2. **Plagiarism** means passing off as his/her own the ideas or writings of another (that is, without giving proper credit by documenting sources). Plagiarism includes submitting a paper, report or project that someone else has prepared, in whole or in part.
3. **Collusion** is inappropriately collaborating on assignments- such as exams and tests- designed to be completed independently.

These definitions are not exhaustive.

- B. With instructor permission only, magnetic tape audio recording devices may be used during lectures only for the purpose of helping students take notes. The use of such devices for any other purpose may result in loss of device use for remainder of semester, system charges of academic dishonesty, and administrative drop from the course. *No other electronic devices will be allowed during class without specific written instructor approval.* All lectures are copyrighted material and may not be disseminated without the express written consent of the instructor.

BASICS: When there is any scholastic dishonesty, I will assign an "F" for the course, and additional sanctions may include being expelled from TAMUT and the TAMU System, and punishments appropriate under State of Texas Criminal Code, Penal Section §32.49, (HB 0762).

- C. Academic honesty is expected of students enrolled in this course. Cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, falsification of research data, plagiarism, and undocumented use of materials from any source constitute academic dishonesty and may be grounds for a grade of 'F' in the course and/or disciplinary actions. For additional information, see the university catalog.

XVI. *STUDENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.*

Kevin Williams (main contact) 903-223-1356
kevin.williams@tamut.edu
Frank Miller (alternate) 903-223-3156 frank.miller@tamut.edu
Nikki Thomson (alternate) 903-223-3083 nikki.thomson@tamut.edu

Upon application to Texas A&M University-Texarkana an individual will be assigned an A&M-Texarkana email account. This email account will be used to deliver official university correspondence. Each individual is responsible for information sent and received *via* the university email account and is expected to check the official A&M-Texarkana email account on a frequent and consistent basis. *Faculty and students are required to utilize the university email account when communicating about coursework.*

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TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AT TEXARKANA

contrat d'etude
Name: (Print) _____

Student I.D. _____

By my signature affixed, I acknowledge that I have read, understood, and will comply with all terms and conditions of this syllabus, including but not limited to 'withdrawing', 'conduct', and 'scholastic honesty', and that the explanations of the syllabus offered by the instructor were sufficient for comprehension of the syllabus:

_____, _____
(Name) (Date)
(updated 20 NOVEMBER 2011)