

## ***COURSE SYLLABUS***

Political Science 3333: Political Behavior  
1:00-2:15 p.m., Monday and Wednesday, Spring Semester, 2013

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### ***Contact Information***

Professor: (Dr.) Marianne Stewart  
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Office Hours: 2:30-3:45 p.m., Monday and Wednesday; and by appointment  
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Teaching Assistant: (Ms.) Paula Finch  
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### ***Course Information***

The general objective of this undergraduate course is to help students learn about the sources, distribution, and consequences of people's political behavior, notably how and why some people participate in politics, including voting, but others do not. The specific objectives of the course are to help students learn:

- to describe the behavioral approach to the study of politics, as well as the key concepts and measures of various types of political behavior;
- to evaluate different theories and explanations of political participation and of voting choices;
- to assess the consequences of political behavior for the making of public policy and the viability of democratic regimes.

### ***Required Books***

Dalton, Russell J. 2013. *The Apartisan American: Dealignment and Changing Electoral Politics*. Washington: Sage Publications/Congressional Quarterly Press. ISBN Paperback 978-1-4522-1694-2.

Flanigan, William H. and Nancy H. Zingale. 2010. *Political Behavior of The American Electorate*, 12th edition, AND

Theiss-Morse, Elizabeth, Michael W. Wagner, William H. Flanigan and Nancy H. Zingale. 2011. *Political Behavior in Midterm Elections*, 2011 edition.

Washington: Congressional Quarterly Press. ISBN Paperback ISBN 978-1-60871-914-3.

### ***Course Schedule***

January 14. An Introduction to The Course.

January 16/23. Studying Political Behavior: The Behavioral Approach; Electoral, Communal, and Protest Behaviors.

*Required Reading*

Dalton, *The Apartisan American*, Chapter 5.

Flanigan and Zingale, *Political Behavior of The American Electorate*, Introduction, Chapter 1, and Appendix.

January 21. Martin Luther King Day – No Class.

January 28-30/February 4. Explaining Political Participation: Two Theories.

February 6. Test #1.

February 11-13. Explaining Political Participation: Alternative Models.

*Required Reading*

Flanigan and Zingale, *Political Behavior of The American Electorate*, Chapter 2.

February 18-20-25. Explaining Political Participation: Society and Ideology.

*Required Reading*

Flanigan and Zingale, *Political Behavior of The American Electorate*, Chapter 6.

February 27/March 4-6. Explaining Political Participation: Mass Media and Political Learning.

*Required Reading*

Dalton, *The Apartisan American*, Chapter 4.

Flanigan and Zingale, *Political Behavior of The American Electorate*, Chapter 7.

March 10-16. Spring Break - No Classes.

March 18. Test #2.

March 20-25. Explaining Voting Choices: Alternative Models.

March 27/April 1-3. Explaining Voting Choices: Social Bases and Political Partisanship.

*Required Reading*

Dalton, *The Apartisan American*, Chapters 1, 2 and 3.

Flanigan and Zingale, *Political Behavior of The American Electorate*, Chapters 4-5.

April 8-10-15. Explaining Voting Choices: Political Attitudes and Performance Politics.

*Required Reading*

Dalton, *The Apartisan American*, Chapters 6, 7 and 8.

Flanigan and Zingale, *Political Behavior of The American Electorate*, Chapter 8.

April 17-22. Explaining Voting Choices: Political Institutions.

*Required Reading*

Flanigan and Zingale, *Political Behavior of The American Electorate*, Chapter 3.

April 24. Test #3.

April 29/May 1. A Conclusion to The Course: The 2010 American Midterm and 2012 Presidential Elections and Beyond.

*Required Reading*

Dalton, *The Apartisan American*, Chapter 9.

Theiss-Morse, Wagner, Flanigan and Zingale, *Political Behavior in Midterm Elections*, Chapters 1-4.

### ***Grading Criteria and Requirements***

Class Attendance and Participation = 10%. Class meeting attendance is required. Assigned readings prior to class meetings are required. Constructive contributions to class discussions are expected.

Three Tests: Test 1 = 25%; Test 2 = 30%; Test 3 = 35%. A review is available in-class and on e-learning approximately one week before each test. Each test is in-class and closed-note, and consists of 2-3 straightforward questions based on assigned readings and class lectures. The three tests are scheduled for February 6, March 18, and April 24. All students are expected to comply with these dates – no makeups will be given.

A+: 97-100%; A: 93-96%; A-: 90-92%; B+: 84-89%; B: 77-83%; B-: 70-76%; C+: 67-69%; C: 64-66%; C-: 60-63%; D+: 57-59%; D: 54-56%; D-: 50-53%; F: Below 50%.

### ***Note***

In addition the above, students are expected to:

- know that this syllabus, including course schedule, is subject to change at the discretion of the Professor;
- read related policy material at <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>.