

## ***COURSE SYLLABUS***

Political Science 3333: Political Behavior  
1:00-2:15 p.m., Monday and Wednesday, Spring Semester, 2017

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### ***Contact Information***

Professor: (Dr.) Marianne Stewart  
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Office Hours: 2:30-3:45 p.m., Monday; 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Wednesday; and by appointment  
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Teaching Assistant: (Mr.) Ryan Lux  
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Office Hours: 11:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m., Monday and Wednesday, and by appointment  
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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 in general and of their electoral behavior in particular. The specific objectives of the course are to help students learn to:

- describe the behavioral approach, as well as the key concepts, measures and methodologies for studying political behavior and electoral behavior;
- evaluate different theories and explanations using empirical data of political behavior and of electoral behavior;
- assess the consequences of political behavior and of electoral behavior for public policymaking and for democratic governance.

### ***Required Books***

Dalton, Russell J. 2014. *Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. Los Angeles, CA/Washington, D.C.: Sage Publications/Congressional Quarterly (CQ) Press. ISBN paperback 978-1-4522-0300-3.

Flanigan, William H., Nancy H. Zingale, Elizabeth Theiss-Morse and Michael W. Wagner. 2015. *Political Behavior of the American Electorate*, 13<sup>th</sup> edition. Los Angeles, CA/Washington, D.C.: Sage Publications/Congressional Quarterly (CQ) Press. ISBN paperback 978-1-4522-4044-2.

### ***Course Schedule***

January 9. An Introduction to The Course.

January 11/18. Some Basics: Political Science Approaches – Public Policy, Political Institutions and Political Behavior.  
Class lectures and discussions.

January 16. Martin Luther King Day – No Class.

January 23-25-30. Some Basics: Political Institutions and Political Behaviors – Elections, Political Parties, Social Movements, and Electoral, Communal and Protest Behaviors.  
Class lectures and discussions.  
Class readings: Dalton, *Citizen Politics*, chapters 1, 3 and 7.

February 1-6. Some Basics: Political Attitudes – Characteristics and Types.

Class lectures and discussions.

Class readings: Dalton, *Citizen Politics*, chapters 5 and 6.

Flanigan et al., *Political Behavior of the American Electorate*, chapter 5.

February 8. Test #1.

February 13-15. Major Theories of Political Behavior: Elite and Public.

Class lectures and discussions.

Class readings: Dalton, *Citizen Politics*, chapter 2.

Flanigan et al., *Political Behavior of the American Electorate*, chapter 1.

February 20-22-27. General Explanations of Political Behavior: Relative Deprivation, Social Capital, Cognitive Mobilization, Rational Actor, and General Incentives.

Class lectures and discussions.

Class reading: Dalton, *Citizen Politics*, chapter 4.

March 1-6-8/20. Specific Explanations of Political Behavior: Social Groups and Social Networks, Learning and Media.

Class lectures and discussions.

Class readings: Flanigan et al., *Political Behavior of the American Electorate*, chapters 6-7.

March 13-18. Spring Break – No Classes.

March 22. Test #2.

March 27-29/April 3. General Explanations of Electoral Behavior: Social-Psychology, Modified Rational Actor, Reward-Punishment, Issue-Priority, Spatial, and Valence/Performance.

Class lectures and discussions.

Class readings: Flanigan et al., *Political Behavior of the American Electorate*, chapters 2, 3 and 8.

April 5-10-12. Specific Explanations of Electoral Behavior: Partisan Attitudes and Performance Evaluations.

Class lectures and discussions.

Class readings: Dalton, *Citizen Politics*, chapters 8, 9 and 10.

Flanigan et al., *Political Behavior of The American Electorate*, chapter 4.

April 17: Specific Explanations of Electoral Behavior: The 2016 U.S. Presidential Election – Sincere Sandersons, Sophisticated Clintonites, Shy Trumpsters?

Class lectures and discussions.

April 19. Test #3.

April 24-26. A Conclusion to The Course: Political Behavior, Public Policy and Democratic Governance.

Class lectures and discussions.

Class readings: Dalton, *Citizen Politics*, chapters 11 and 12.

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

Class Attendance and Class Discussion = 10%. Students are required to attend each class, to arrive before class starts, and to depart not until class ends. Students also are expected to pay attention in class, to do assigned readings before class, to take careful hand-written or computer-typed notes in class, and to make constructive contributions to discussions in class.

Three Tests: Test 1 = 20%; Test 2 = 30%; Test 3 = 40%. A review is available on e-learning approximately one week before each test. Each test is in-class and closed-note/text, and it consists of 2-3 straightforward essay or other questions based on class lectures and discussions as well as on class readings. The tests are scheduled for February 8, March 22, and April 19. All students are expected to take the tests on these dates – no makeups are 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%.

### ***Notes***

In addition to 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>.