

COURSE SYLLABUS

Political Science 3333: Political Behavior

Revised March 28

4:00-5:15 p.m., Monday and Wednesday, Spring Semester, 2020

Contact Information

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Office Hours: 2:00-4:00 p.m., Wednesday; and by appointment

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Office Hours: 2:00-4:00 p.m., Monday and Wednesday, and by appointment

Announcement: Please carefully read this announcement. In compliance with UTD guidelines and policies involving the coronavirus, all courses will be offered in online format for the remainder of this Semester. For this course, the format involves the following from March 30 through the end of the Semester:

- *Office Hours will be conducted during times posted above by UTD e-mail.*
- *Class Lectures will be offered on the course's e-learning site via Collaborative Blackboard Ultra. The teaching assistant will instruct you on how and when to join this site before each lecture session on the Course Schedule days listed below.*
- *With regard to course requirements:*
 - Attendance will be taken by recording the names of those students who attend each lecture session as offered on the course's e-learning site via Collaborative Blackboard Ultra.*
 - Test 2 is scheduled for Wednesday, April 1, and Test 3 is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29. No review will be provided approximately one week before either test. Rather, each test will be open-class note and open text-book, using only assigned source materials and with UTD Honesty Policy in effect. Each test will have the same format (two of three essay questions) as that of Test 1, and will be posted on the course's e-learning site starting at 4:00 p.m. and ending at 5:30 p.m. on the scheduled test day. The teaching assistant will announce on the course's e-learning site when the test is posted and ready to start.*

Course Information

The general objective of this undergraduate course involves the use of theory to inform the collection of data to explain the phenomena of politics in terms of the behaviors/participation of individuals. The specific objectives of lectures, discussions and tests are to help students learn to:

- describe the behavioral approach, and the major concepts and indicators used to study political behavior in general and electoral behavior in particular;
- evaluate different explanations of political behavior and of electoral behavior using empirical data;

- assess the consequences of political behavior in general and of electoral behavior in particular for public policymaking and for democratic governance.

Required Books

These two required books are available to rent or to purchase from online sources.

Dalton, Russell J. 2020. *Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies*, seventh edition. Los Angeles, CA/Washington, D.C.: Sage Publications Ltd./Congressional Quarterly (CQ) Press. Paperback ISBN 9781544351780.

Theiss-Morse, Elizabeth A., Michael W. Wagner, William H. Flanigan and Nancy H. Zingale. 2018. *Political Behavior of the American Electorate*, fourteenth edition. Los Angeles, CA/Washington, D.C.: Sage Publications Ltd./Congressional Quarterly (CQ) Press. Paperback ISBN 9781506367736.

Course Schedule

January 13. An Introduction to the Course.

January 15/22. Political Science and Three Approaches: Policy, Institution, and Behavior.

Class lectures and discussions.

Required readings

In Dalton, *Citizen Politics*:

Appendix A, “Statistical Primer”

Appendix B, “Major Data Sources”:

In Theiss-Morse et al., *Political Behavior of the American Electorate*:

Appendix, “Survey Research Methods”

January 20. Martin Luther King Day – No Class.

January 27-29. Policy, Institution, Behavior and Two Theories: Elite and Public.

Class lectures and discussions.

Required readings

In Dalton, *Citizen Politics*:

Chapter 2, “The Nature of Citizen Beliefs”

In Theiss-Morse et al., *Political Behavior of the American Electorate*:

Chapter 1, “Democratic Beliefs and American Democracy”

February 3-5-10/17-19/24 Institutions and Behaviors: Elections, Parties, and Movements, and Electoral, Community and Protest.

Class lectures and discussions.

Required readings

In Dalton, *Citizen Politics*:

Chapter 1, "Introduction"
 Chapter 3, "How We Participate"
 Chapter 7, "Elections and Political Parties"
 In Theiss-Morse et al. *Political Behavior of the American Electorate*:
 Chapter 2, "Electoral Context and Strategy".

February 12. Test 1

February 26/March 4-9-11/30. Behaviors and Attitudes: Characteristics and Types.
 Class lectures and discussions.

Required readings

In Dalton, *Citizen Politics*:

Chapter 5, "Values in Change"

Chapter 6, "Issues and Ideological Orientations"

In Theiss-Morse et al., *Political Behavior of the American Electorate*:

Chapter 6, "Public Opinion and Ideology"

March 16-22. Spring Break – No Classes.

March 23-29. Extended Spring Break – No Classes – Online Course Offering Preparation.

April 1. Test 2.

April 6-8. Behavior Explanations: Society and Individual.
 Class lectures.

Required readings

In Dalton, *Citizen Politics*:

Chapter 4, "Who Participates?"

In Theiss-Morse et al., *Political Behavior of the American Electorate*:

Chapter 3, "Turnout and Participation in Elections"

April 13-15. Voting Explanations: Social-Psychology and Individual Choice.
 Class lectures

Required readings

In Dalton, *Citizen Politics*:

Chapter 8, "The Social Bases of Party Support"

Chapter 9, "Partisanship and Voting"

Chapter 10, "Attitudes and Voting Choice"

In Theiss-Morse et al., *Political Behavior of the American Electorate*

Chapter 4, "Partisanship and Party Change"

Chapter 8, "Vote Choice and Electoral Decisions"

April 20-22. Voting Explanations and Political Communications.
 Class lectures.

Required reading

In Theiss-Morse et al., *Political Behavior of the American Electorate*
Chapter 7, "Political Communications and the Mass Media"

April 27. A Conclusion to the Course: Political Behavior, Public Policy, and Democratic Governance

Class lectures.

Required readings

In Dalton, *Citizen Politics*

Chapter 11, "Political Representation"

Chapter 12, "Citizens and the Democratic Process"

April 29. Test 3.

Course Requirements and Grading

Class Attendance (10%) and Class Discussion. *Each student is required to attend each online class lecture session, to join it before it starts, and to depart it only when it ends, and to careful hand-written or computer-typed notes during each class meeting (Note: lecture recording only by Professor permission). Each student also is expected to do assigned readings before each online class lecture session.*

Three Tests: Test 1 = 25%; Test 2 = 30%; Test 3 = 35%.

A review, based on class lectures, class discussions and assigned readings, is available on e-learning approximately one week before *Test 1*. *No review will be provided approximately one week before either Test 2 or Test 3.*

Each test is based on lectures, discussions and readings. Test 1 is in-class, closed-book and closed-note, *whereas Test 2 and Test 3 will be open-class note and open text-book, using only assigned source materials and with UTD Honesty Policy in effect.* Each one of the three tests consists of 2-3 questions with each question having three parts involving description, explanation, and assessment.

The tests are scheduled for February 12, *April 1*, and April 29. *Test 2 and Test 3 will be posted on the course's e-learning site starting at 4:00 p.m. and ending at 5:30 p.m. on the scheduled test day. The teaching assistant will announce on the course's e-learning site when the test is posted and ready to start.* – All students are expected to comply with these dates – No make-up tests can 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%.

Notes

In addition to the above, students are expected to:

- access and read this syllabus which is available on the course's e-learning homepage;
- know that this syllabus, including course schedule, is subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.
- read University policy materials at <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>;
- comply with University academic honesty policy.