

POLI320A Government and Politics of the United States of America
University of British Columbia
Spring 2019

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Office hours: Wednesdays 10:00AM-11:30AM or by appointment

Course website: <https://sites.google.com/site/gyunghojeong/teaching/poli320a>

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Description:

This course is an introduction to US Politics. We will examine how various agents and institutions inside and outside of government interact with each other. The topics include: the constitution, federalism, civil rights, political institutions (the President, Congress, and the Supreme Court), public opinion, and elections and voting behavior.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this course students should be able to

- Communicate a thorough factual understanding of the structure and operation of the US political system.
- Apply political science theories to understand contemporary political events and public policies.

Required Textbook:

- Christine Barbour and Gerald C. Wright. 2017. *Keeping the Republic: Power and Citizenship in American Politics*, 7th **Brief** Edition (CQ Press) [Make sure to purchase “Brief” edition, as there are different editions. You can use the 6th or 5th Brief edition.]

Course Requirements and Grade Distribution:

1. Pop Quizzes (17%) and Participation (3%) - Students are expected to do the readings prior to the class. Also, students are encouraged to participate in class discussion (i.e. asking and answering questions). To check your course preparation, there will be pop quizzes in class throughout the term. If you come in late and miss the quiz, you cannot request for a make-up quiz.

2. Response Essay (25%) – Each student will write an essay (6-7 pages, double-spaced; 12 font-size; 1 inch margins) responding to a question by the instructor. The question will be given after the midterm exam. It is due on April 2nd.

3. Midterm Exam (25%) - This exam will include 10 true-false questions (2 points each), 10 multiple-choice questions (3 points each), and 5 short-answer questions (10 points each). Note that some exam questions will be drawn entirely from the textbook in order to give you an incentive to read the textbook. Also, one true-false question will be drawn from the course policies section of this syllabus.

4. Final Exam (30%) – The final exam will be scheduled by University. This exam will include 10 true-false questions (2 points each), 10 multiple-choice questions (3 points each), and 5 short-

answer questions (10 points each). This exam covers materials after the midterm exam. That is, exams are not cumulative. Note that some exam questions will be drawn entirely from the textbook in order to give you an incentive to read the textbook.

Course Policies

1. Policies on Make-up Exam, Missing Quizzes, and Deadline Extension

- 1) To request any academic concession (such as a make-up exam, to be excused for missing a quiz, or an extension on the essay assignment), students need to contact Arts Academic Advising (Buchanan D111; 604-822-4028) and get their approval. I will grant academic concessions only when they approve your request. They will email me when they approve your request. So, you do not need to contact me. There is no exception to this policy. Also, you should do this within two weeks of the missed exam, quiz, or paper deadline.
- 2) A make-up exam will consist of 10 short-answer questions only. There will be no true-false or multiple-choice questions. This is to prevent the instructor from producing two different sets of multiple-choice questions, which is likely to lead the second set too difficult or obscure.

2. Policies on Essay Submission

- 1) Your essay should be submitted to **Turnitin.com as well as in hard copy**. See below.
- 2) Your essay should adhere to the page limits and due date. Violation of the page limits will be penalized by 1% per line. Larger or smaller font-size or margins will be penalized by 2%. Late papers will be penalized by 2% per day and per weekend. A written work will be considered late until it is submitted in both hard copy (by the beginning of class on the due date) and Turnitin.com (by 11:59PM on the due date). Note that, if you submit your hard copy after the beginning of class on the due date, it is considered one-day late.

3. Policies on Emails

- 1) I will reply to your email within 24 hours (except for holidays and weekends) if you ask logistical questions, such as scheduling an appointment with me.
- 2) However, if you ask substantive questions via email—such as asking for more explanation on a concept in lecture slides—I will answer your question in class at the beginning of lecture. I will not answer your question via email. Do not expect me to answer your substantive questions via email the day before an exam. Come to my (extra) office hours. Before exams, I will hold a review session in class and extra office hours.

4. Policies on Re-grading

- 1) You can request for re-grading your exam or paper after 24 hours but within two weeks of receiving your grade.
- 2) You should appeal to the TA first. If you are still not satisfied with the result, you can appeal to the instructor.
- 3) If you request for re-grading, your exam will be entirely re-graded, not just the questions you want to be re-graded. So, your score can go up or down.

5. Policies on the Use of Laptop Computers, Tablet PCs, Smartphones, etc.

In this course, you can use laptop computers only for note-taking. The use of laptop computers for web-browsing or email-checking distracts other students and thus is not allowed.

Using Turnitin

In this course you will be required to submit written work in electronic form. The electronic material will be submitted to a service to which UBC subscribes, called TurnItIn. This is a service that checks textual material for originality. It is the policy of the Department of Political Science that written assignments in undergraduate courses will be submitted to TurnItIn.

Log on to **www.turnitin.com**. You will be asked to create a “user profile” with ID (use your email address) and password. Once your profile is created, you will be able to add courses to it for assignment review. If you have already created a profile for another course you do not need to create a new one; just add this course to your existing account. To add this course, you will need the “Course ID” which is **19894678** and “Enrollment key,” which is **320A**. Now you will be able to submit assignments to Turnitin.com for review. For each assignment, you will be asked to provide your name and student number, as well as some details about your assignment. This information will be used only to identify your submission to your instructor. **Please ensure that there is no identifying information included in the text of your assignment. In particular, do not leave your name and student number on each page of your essay (as is common).** Just have a simple page number. When preparing your written assignment, please create three separate files. The first file is for your title page with you name, course number and assignment title on it. The second file is the main body of your written assignment. The third file is your bibliography. Please submit only the second file, the main body of your essay, to Turnitin.com. When you prepare the paper copy to hand in to tutorial, you can print the other two files together with the main body of the assignment and combine all three to hand it. Simply confirm the submission, and TurnItIn will issue a receipt (via e-mail). Create your profile and add this course to your account early in the term so that it can be efficiently submitted on or before the due date. Difficulties on or after the due date will not be accepted as a reason for a late paper.

Acknowledgement

UBC’s Point Grey Campus is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people. The land it is situated on has always been a place of learning for the Musqueam people, who for millennia have passed on in their culture, history, and traditions from one generation to the next on this site.

Academic Integrity and Responsibility

As a member of this class, you are responsible for contributing to the course objectives through your participation in class activities and your work on essays, exams, and other projects. In the process of coming into your own as an independent, responsible participant in the academic community, you are encouraged to seek advice, clarification, and guidance in your learning from your instructor and/or Teaching Assistant. If you decide to seek help beyond the resources of this course, you are responsible for ensuring that this help does not lead you to submit others’ work as your own. If an outside tutor or other person helps you, show this policy to your tutor or helper: make sure you both understand the limits of this person’s permissible contribution. If you are uncertain, consult your instructor or TA.

Academic communities depend on their members’ honesty and integrity in representing the sources of reasoning, claims, and wordings that appear in their work. Like any other member of the academic community, you will be held responsible for the accurate representation of your

sources: the means by which you produced the work you are submitting. If you are found to have misrepresented your sources and to have submitted others' work as your own, penalties may follow. Your case may be forwarded to the Head of the department, who may decide that you should receive zero for the assignment. The Head will report your case to the Dean's Office, where the report will remain on file. The Head may decide, in consultation with your instructor, that a greater penalty is called for, and will forward your case to the Dean's Office. After an interview in the Dean's Office, your case may be forwarded to the President's Advisory Committee on Academic Misconduct. Following a hearing in which you will be asked to account for your actions, the President may apply penalties including zero for the assignment; zero for the course; suspension from the university for a period ranging from 4 to 24 months; a notation on your permanent record. The penalty may be a combination of these.

Academic communities also depend on their members' living up to the commitments they make. By enrolling in this course, you make commitments to an academic community: you are responsible for meeting deadlines, and attending class and engaging in class activities. If you find that you cannot meet a deadline or cannot participate in a course activity, discuss your situation with your instructor or TA before the deadline or before your absence.

Like any academic author submitting work for review and evaluation, you are guaranteeing that the work you submit for this course has not already been submitted for credit in another course. Your submitting work from another course, without your instructor's prior agreement, may result in penalties such as those applied to the misrepresentation of sources.

Respectful University Environment

UBC recognizes that "the best possible environment for working, learning and living is one in which respect, civility, diversity, opportunity and inclusion are valued." The full UBC Statement on Respectful Environment for Students, Faculty and Staff can be found at <http://www.hr.ubc.ca/respectful-environment/files/UBC-Statement-on-Respectful-Environment-2014.pdf>. Students should read this statement carefully and take note of both the protections and the responsibilities that it outlines for all members of the UBC community. Students should also review the Student Code of Conduct, at: <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,750,0>

This course values frank discussion, healthy debate, and the free and respectful exchange of ideas. Students are welcome to voice and defend their views, which may differ from those of other students or of the instructor. However, disrespectful behavior, including bullying and harassment, will not be tolerated. The instructor and teaching assistant will be professional and respectful in all their exchanges with students, and students will exercise similar professionalism and respect in their interactions with each other, with the teaching assistant, and with the instructor.

If you have any concerns about the class environment, please raise them with the instructor. You also have the options of contacting the Head of the Political Science Department, UBC's Equity and Inclusion Office (<http://equity.ubc.ca>), or the UBC Ombudsperson for Students: <http://ombudsoffice.ubc.ca>

Tentative Course Schedule and Reading Assignments [The schedule is subject to change.]

Date	Topic	Readings
Jan 3	Introduction	No Readings
Jan 8	The Constitution	Keeping the Republic Ch. 2
Jan 10	Federalism	Keeping the Republic Ch. 3
Jan 15	Civil Rights I	In-Class Documentary
Jan 17	Civil Rights II	Keeping the Republic Ch. 5
Jan 22	Civil Rights III and Civil Liberties I	Keeping the Republic Ch. 5
Jan 24	Civil Liberties II	Keeping the Republic Ch. 4
Jan 29	Civil Liberties III	Keeping the Republic Ch. 4
Jan 31	Congress I	Keeping the Republic Ch. 6
Feb 5	Congress II	Keeping the Republic Ch. 6
Feb 7	The Presidency I	Keeping the Republic Ch. 7
Feb 12	Review	No Lecture. Bring your questions
Feb 14	Midterm Exam	In-Class During Normal Class Hour
Feb 26	The Presidency II	Keeping the Republic Ch. 7
Mar 5	The Presidency III	Keeping the Republic Ch. 7
Mar 7	The Presidency IV	Keeping the Republic Ch. 7
Mar 12	The Bureaucracy	Keeping the Republic Ch. 8
Mar 14	The Judiciary I	Keeping the Republic Ch. 9
Mar 19	The Judiciary II	Keeping the Republic Ch. 9
Mar 21	Public Opinion	Keeping the Republic Ch. 10
Mar 26	Voting, Campaigns, and Elections I	Keeping the Republic Ch. 12
Mar 28	Voting, Campaigns, and Elections II and Interest Groups I	Keeping the Republic Chs. 11 and 12
Apr 2	Interest Groups II	Keeping the Republic Ch. 11
Apr 4	Review	No Lecture. Bring your questions.