

POL 435 Spring 2009 T, Th 3:30-4:45 Harv 101	Professor Barbara Norrander Office: 326 Social Science Building Office hours: T & Th 1:30 - 3:00 Office phone: 621-8986 e-mail: norrande@u.arizona.edu webpage: www.u.arizona.edu/~norrande
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Public Opinion and Voting Behavior

In a democracy, the public participates through the expression of opinions and through voting in elections. This course examines the nature of public opinion and the role of citizens in elections. Four general topics will be addressed in this course: has the American public become polarized, patterns and reasons for participation in elections, voter's choices in the elections, and citizenship values.

Required Text:

Dalton, *The Good Citizen, revised edition* (2009)
Fiorina, *Culture Wars?, 2nd edition*
Abramson, Aldrich and Rohde, *Change and Continuity in the 2004 and 2006 Elections*
Carroll and Fox, *Gender and Elections*

On-line: SETUPS, Voting Behavior: The 2004 Election
<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/SETUPS/>

This class will use the University Desire2Learn (<http://d2l.arizona.edu>) system for posting of class lecture outlines and homework assignments. In addition, students must submit copies of their homework and term papers to the dropbox on the D2L system by the due times listed below to receive credit for assignments. **Due dates and due times are enforced with no exceptions.**

Course Requirements:

Homework	See schedule below for due dates	10% of final grade
Class Participation	Includes discussion participation and in-class projects/assignments	5% of final grade
Midterm Exam	March 5	25% of final grade
Term paper	Due: April 23, 3:15 p.m. in D2L dropbox	30% of final grade
Final exam	May 12, 2-4 p.m. Regular classroom	30% of final grade

Homework (10 percent of final grade).

There will be two types of homework assignments. (1) Each week, a list of discussion questions will be posted for the assigned readings. Students must type up answers to these questions, submit one copy to the dropbox in D2L, and bring a second copy with them to class to be used in the discussion. Students will be randomly called upon to answer these questions. Each set of answers is worth 10 points. (2) During the first half of the class students should expect frequent assignments on analyzing data using the SETUPS material on-line. Students will be required to complete exercises (posted on class webpage) and the on-line SETUPS data to create tables, recode data, and answer questions. Each of these exercises also will be worth 10 points. Again, students will submit one copy to the dropbox in D2L and bring a second copy to class.

No late assignments will be accepted under any circumstances. All homework assignments must be submitted to the D2L dropbox by 3:15 p.m. on the day it is due. In an extreme emergency when a student is unable to use the D2L dropbox, a paper copy must be submitted in class at 3:30 p.m. on the day that it is due. No assignments will be accepted by e-mail or by shoving under Professor Norrander's office door. One assignment may be missed or the assignment with the lowest grade will be deleted. At the end of the course, students' scores from all assignments will be added together (minus one assignment) and will constitute 10% of the final grade.

Class Participation and In-Class Assignments (5 percent of final grade).

Typically, the Tuesday session will be lecture and the Thursday session of class will be used for class discussion of the reading assignment for the week and going over any homework assignment. Students are responsible for participating in the class discussion of the reading assignments, based on the discussion questions and answers for that week. So bring a printed copy of assignments to class, although grading is based on the copies posted to D2L by the listed deadlines. In addition, impromptu in-class assignments will be given. Students' overall participation rates for these discussions and assignments will be totaled and count as 5 percent of the final grade.

Term Paper (30 percent of final grade)

During the second half of the class students will use the on-line SETUPS material to write their term papers. Students will explore a topic in public opinion or voting behavior by doing their own analysis of the data, creating at least 5 tables. Papers must be 10 pages (no more than 5 pages taken up by tables). Papers may contain no more than two direct quotations. Follow the rules of referencing for quotations and information obtained from one source. Make sure that you are familiar with these rules by consulting a grammar book or an Internet site such as "Plagiarism: What It Is and How to Recognize and Avoid It," <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>. Papers containing plagiarism will receive an automatic zero score and a report will be filed with the Dean of Students. UA policies against plagiarism are located within the Student Code of Academic Integrity, <http://studpubs.web.arizona.edu/policies/cacaint.htm>. More information on term papers will be posted later. Term papers are due April 23 and must be submitted to the D2L dropbox by 3:15

p.m. to receive full credit. A printed copy of the term paper must be submitted in class on the same date by 3:30 p.m. Late papers (even 1 minute late) will have 10 points deducted for each weekday that the paper is late: late papers on April 23 (after 3:15 p.m. on the D2L system) will have 10 points deducted and papers received on April 24 will have 10 points deducted, papers received on April 27 will have 20 points deducted, papers received on April 28 will have 30 points deducted, papers received on April 29 will have 40 points deducted, and papers received on April 30 will have 50 points deducted. No papers will be accepted after April 30, and students will receive a 0 grade for the paper assignment. **No exceptions will be made to these due dates and penalties, so plan ahead. Papers can always be posted earlier than the due date.**

Exams (Midterm = 25 percent of final grade, Final = 30 percent of final grade)

Two exams will be given in this course: a midterm exam on the first half of the course and a final exam on the second half of the class. Exams will be composed of three or four essay questions. Students will answer all the questions on the exam without any choice of questions. Students may bring their notes (but not their books) to class for use in writing the exams. Make-up exams for full credit are given only with written documentation of the emergency or illness that prevented the student from taking the test at the scheduled time. Professor Norrander has sole discretion in interpreting whether a true emergency occurred and whether the written documentation is sufficient proof. Students missing exams without documented proof of an emergency or illness will receive half credit for their make-up exams. The final exam is NOT cumulative.

No incomplete grades will be given in this course. No extra credit assignments are given. Students' final grades are based on the weighted averages of points as listed above.

Absence Policy

No late homework is accepted. Students with expected absences (religious obligations, school-sponsored events, and any pre-approved absence by the UA Dean of Students) must turn in their homework EARLIER than the schedule due date by submitting them to the D2L dropbox. No e-mailed versions of assignments will be accepted. They will not be read and no credit will be given for completing the assignment. Any assignment shoved under Professor Norrander's office door will be immediately thrown in the waste basket and will not be graded nor given any credit for having been turned in.

Students with an emergency on the day of an exam must provide written documentation of the emergency that prevented them from attending class on that date. Without written documentation, students will receive half credit for the missed exam.

Classroom Behavior

Students must conduct themselves in a polite and courteous manner so as not to disrupt the learning process for other students. Do not arrive late or leave early. Turn off cell phones before entering the classroom. Do not read a newspaper during the lecture. Do not talk to those sitting

next to you during the class period. Repeat offenders will have 5 percent deducted from their final class grade totals. Threatening behavior by students will result in a call to University of Arizona police and a report to the Dean of Students, as per the University of Arizona policy <http://policy.web.arizona.edu/~policy/threaten.shtml>.

Special Needs Students

Students with special needs who are registered with the SALT Center or Disability Resource Center need to submit appropriate documentation to the instructor with requests for special accommodations by January 29.

Changes to Syllabus

Information contained in this course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
Jan. 20, 22	Red v. Blue States Partisanship Ideology	Fiorina, ch. 1 – 4	Posted reading questions due 1/22 by 3:15 in D2L dropbox, plus bring second copy to class
Jan. 27, 29	Survey Research		SETUPS exercise 1 due January 29
Feb. 3, 5	Social Issues	Fiorina, ch. 5 & 6	Posted reading questions and SETUPS exercise 2 due Feb. 5
Feb. 10, 12	The Changing Electorate	Fiorina, ch. 7 – 10	Posted reading questions and SETUPS exercise 3 due Feb. 12
Feb. 17, 19	Institutional Rules and Turnout	Carroll, ch. 2	Posted reading questions and SETUPS exercise 4 due Feb. 19
Feb. 24, 26	Individuals and Participation	Abramson, ch. 4	Posted reading questions and SETUPS exercise 5 due Feb. 26
March 3	Midterm Exam		
March 5	Presidential Nominations, Part 1		
March 10, 12	Presidential Nominations, Part 2	Abramson, ch. 1	Posted reading questions due March 12
Spring Break			
March 24, 26	Electoral Structures & Campaigns	Abramson, ch. 2, 3	Posted reading questions due March 26
March 31, April 2	Voters' Choices	Abramson, ch. 5 - 8	Posted reading questions due April 2
April 7, 9	Congressional Elections	Abramson, ch. 9 – 11 Carroll, ch. 4	Posted reading questions due April 9
April 14, 16	Other Elections	Carroll, ch. 1, 3, 5 - 8	Posted reading questions due April 16
April 21, 23	A Democratic Electorate?	Dalton, ch. 1-3	Posted reading questions due April 23 Term Papers due April 23
April 28, 30	Government Approval	Dalton, ch. 4-6	Posted reading questions due April 30
May 5	The Good Citizen	Dalton, ch. 7-9, Epilogue	Posted reading questions due May 5
May 12, 2-4 p.m.	Final Exam		