

Campaigns and Elections

Professor: Joseph Bafumi

Email: Joseph.Bafumi@Dartmouth.edu

Office phone: 6-3337

Office Hours: MW 3-4pm and by appointment, Silsby 225

Class Meeting: MWF 12:30pm-1:35pm (x-period: Tuesday 1pm-1:50pm), Wilson 219

Description: Do campaigns matter? If yes, how? Does knowing how they matter mean victory on Election Day? This course will seek to answer these questions from both the academic and the practical perspectives. Among other things, it will investigate the effectiveness of campaigns, the behavior of voters, candidates' strategies, media relations and possible election reforms. Beyond an understanding of both academic and practical theories of political campaigns, students should leave this class very knowledgeable about recent and contemporary campaigns and elections.

Texts: There are 8 required books for the class.

- Title: Campaigns and Elections
Author: Sides, Shaw, Grossman and Lipsitz
Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company (October 20, 2011)
ISBN: 0393932621
- Title: The Obama Victory
Author: Kenski, Hardy and Jamieson
Publisher: Oxford University Press, USA (July 14, 2010)
ISBN: 0195399560
- Title: The Politics of Congressional Elections
Author: Jacobson
Publisher: Pearson Custom Publishing; 8th Revised edition (January 2012)
ISBN: 0205251765
- Title: Political Behavior of the American Electorate
Author: Flanigan and Zingale
Publisher: CQ Press; 12th edition (December 15, 2009)
ISBN: 1604265213
- Title: Going Dirty: The Art of Negative Campaigning
Author: Mark
Publisher: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers; Updated Edition edition (April 16, 2009)
ISBN: 0742599817
- Title: The Future is Ours
Author: Bowler and Segura
Publisher: CQ Press College (November 8, 2011)
ISBN: 1604267275
- Title: The Macro Polity
Author: Erikson, MacKuen and Stimson
Publisher: Cambridge University Press (January 14, 2002)
ISBN: 1604267275
- Title: The Timeline of Presidential Elections

Author: Erikson and Wlezien (to be distributed electronically)

Requirements:

1. Attendance and active participation.
2. Midterm Exam. Everyone will take a midterm exam. The exam may consist of multiple choice, short answer or essay questions.
3. Final Exam OR Final Paper. Students will have the option to take a final exam or write a research paper. The final exam will be formatted similarly to the midterm and focus largely (although not entirely) on the material covered after the midterm. If you select the research paper option, you will write a 12-18 page research paper on a topic that you will choose and I approve (1" margins, double-spaced, and 12-point Times New Roman font). The papers can explore any facet of campaigns and elections.

Academic Honor Principle:

Students are responsible for understanding the academic integrity rules in place at Dartmouth. Explanations of integrity rules and principles can be found at <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~uja>. Ignorance of the Academic Honor Principle will not be considered a mitigating excuse if a violation occurs. Beyond any penalties imposed as a consequence of an Academic Honor Principle investigation, any student who is found to have cheated or plagiarized on course work will receive a failing grade. Details on citing sources are available at <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~sources/>.

Grading:

Participation = 10%

Midterm Exam = 40%

Final Exam or Paper = 50%

Week 1: Introduction, The American Political Process and The Transformation of American Campaigns

Sides et al., chapters 1, 2 and 3; Flanigan and Zingale, chapter 1

Week 2: Financing Campaigns and Campaign Strategies

Sides et al., chapter 4 and 5, Primer on Campaign Finance post Citizens United by The Campaign Legal Center (available at http://www.campaignlegalcenter.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1187%3Aa-guide-to-the-current-rules-for-federal-elections&catid)

Week 3: Political Parties, Interest Groups and Media

Sides et al., chapter 6 and 7; Flanigan and Zingale, chapters 3, 4, 5 and 7

Week 4: Presidential Campaigns

Sides et al., chapter 8; The Obama Victory, parts I and II

Week 5: Congressional Campaigns

Sides et al., chapter 9; The Politics of Congressional Elections, pages 1-118, 161-185

Week 6: Voter Participation

Sides et al., chapter 11; Flanigan and Zingale, chapter 2; The Future is Ours, chapters 1-6

Week 7: Voter Choice

Sides et al., chapter 12; Flanigan and Zingale, chapter 8; The Timeline of Presidential Elections

Week 8: Negative Campaigning and Democracy in Action

Sides et al., chapter 13; Going Dirty: The Art of Negative Campaigning

Week 9: Macro Politics

Erikson et al., chapters 1-9

Week 10: Macro Politics (cont.)

Erikson et al., chapter 10