Pols-110

Introduction to US Politics

Fall 2023 Discussion Section Syllabus

*Contact Information*

Alexander Horne (he/him)

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Blake Hall 408

Office Hours

* Tuesdays 13:00 – 16:00
* Wednesdays 9:00 – 12:00
* or by Appointment

*Course Meeting Times & Locations*

* Main Lectures: Mondays & Wednesdays 9:00 – 9:50, Malott 1001
* 11977: Thursdays 9:00 – 9:50, Blake 106
* 21666: Fridays 11:00 – 11:50, Blake 114
* 21667: Fridays 10:00 – 10:50, Blake 114
* 22770: Fridays 13:00 – 13:50, Fraser 207

*About the Instructor*

I received my MA in International Affairs from Middle Tennessee State University in 2022; currently I’m working towards my PhD. My research interests are right-wing nationalist movements in Western Democracies.

*Course Description*

This course will introduce students to the scientific study of American politics. Discussion Sections are intended to let smaller groups of students explore the material covered in Dr. Josyln’s lectures together. This allows students to raise questions, engage with each others’ thinking, and get closer feedback on their performance.

Course Requirements & Grades

Student performance in discussion sections is worth of 20% (or 100 points out of the 500 points possible) of the overall grade for POLS 110 – nearly the same as a single exam. Grades for activities in discussion sections will be po­sted on Canvas. You are welcome to discuss grades with me in office hours. The grade breakdown for this discussion section is as follows:

*Attendance and Participation (30%, 30 points)*

Students are exected to attend all classes and come prepared to discuss the assigned weekly readings. Participation points will be awarded for both attendance and substantive contributions to our discussions. Students are permitted one unexcused absence.

*Essays (70%, 70 points)*

There will be 8 in-class essay assignments. The essay prompts are based on the content from weekly lectures and assigned readings. These will be completed at the end of each meeting. All electronic assignments ***MUST*** be submitted in the Portable Document Format (.pdf) on canvas.

Each essay is worth 10 points; of the eight assigned essays, the essay with the lowest score will be dropped from the Final Grade calculation. To receive full credit, each essay must answer the essay question in the student’s own words. If the student creates an argument and provides supporting evidence for their argument, then the essays will not be a challenge.

Course Policies

*Non-Academic Misconduct*

Students who engage in disruptive behavior, including persistent refusal to observe boundaries defined by the professor regarding inappropriate talking, discussions, and questions in the classroom may be subject to discipline for non-academic misconduct for disruption of teaching or academic misconduct, as defined in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities (CSRR), Article 22, Section C, and the University Senate Rules and Regulations, Section 2.4.6. Article 22 of CSRR also defines potential sanctions for these types of infractions.

*Academic Integrity & Intellectual Property*

By enrolling in this class you are agreeing to submit any digital assignments for this course to the professor in the Portable Document Format (.pdf). All papers submitted throughout the course will be cross-referenced by TurnitinTM so that written work can be checked for plagiarism against web pages and databases for existing papers.

All work submitted for a grade in this course must be original work begun and  
completed by each individual student. The following practices are strictly pro-  
hibited:

* **Plagiarism:** the adoption or reproduction of ideas, words, statements, images, or works of another person as one’s own without proper attribution. This includes self-plagiarism, which occurs when an author submits material or research from previous work to satisfy the requirements of another assignment and uses it without proper citation of its reuse. (The best way to avoid accidental plagiarism is to exercise an abundance of caution – if you’re ever unsure, consult with me and we’ll make sure you don’t run afoul of the rules!)
* **Cheating**: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any assignment. This includes unapproved collaboration, which occurs when a student works with others on an academic exercise without the express permission of the instructor.
* **Fabrication**: Unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. Furthermore, the use of artificial intelligence to generate written work is also prohibited.
* **Facilitation**: Intentionally and knowingly assisting another student in violating a provision of the institutional code of academic misconduct.

Course materials prepared by the instructors of this course, including the course syllabus, together with the content of all lectures presented by the professor are the property of the professor. Unless explicit permission is obtained from the professor, recordings of lectures and review sessions may not be modified and must not be transferred or transmitted to any other person, whether or not that individual is enrolled in the course. Any individual or organization violating the professor’s copyright on course materials and lectures could be subject to charges of academic misconduct and/or to civil action for copyright violations.

Pursuant to the University of Kansas’ Policy on Commercial Note-Taking Ventures, commercial note-taking is not permitted. Lecture notes and course materials may be taken for personal use, for the purpose of mastering the course material, and may not be sold to any person or entity in any form. Any student engaged in or contributing to the commercial exchange of notes or course materials will be subject to discipline, including academic misconduct charges, in accordance with University policy. Please note: note-taking provided by a student volunteer for a student with a disability, as a reasonable accommodation under the ADA, is not the same as commercial note-taking and is not covered under this policy.

*Electronic Devices & Technology Policies*

This course requires computer and internet access. Students should be adept at using web browsers, KU’s email services, and word processors for accessing the course website and completing assignments. If computer access or internet use is beyond your means, let me know ASAP so we can meet your needs.

Laptops, tablets, and cell phones are permitted in class for viewing Dr. Joslyn’s materials online, but I reserve the right to revoke this privilege should they prove disruptive or distracting. Students may not use any device to record audio from class without the proper disability accomodation paperwork under the ADA. Please leave cell phones on vibrate or silent during discussion.

*Late Work Policy*

No late work will be accepted in this discussion section.

*Concealed Carry*

Individuals who choose to carry concealed handguns are solely responsible to do so in a safe and secure manner in strict conformity with state and federal laws and KU weapons policy. Safety measures outlined in the KU weapons policy specify that a concealed handgun:

* Must be under the constant control of the carrier.
* Must be out of view, concealed either on the body of the carrier, or backpack, purse, or bag that remains under the carrier’s custody and control.
* Must be in a holster that covers the trigger area and secures any external hammer in an un-cocked position.
* Must have the safety on and have no round in the chamber.

Students who choose to carry a concealed handgun in a purse, backpack, or bag must review and plan each day accordingly, and are responsible for making alternate arrangements as necessary. The university does not provide appropriate secured storage for concealed handguns.

*Disability Services*

Students who require accomodations for disabilities are responsible for requesting such accomodations from the university and their instructors. Please contact me as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to remove barriers to course access and facilitate your educational opportunities. For more information about university resources, please visit

http://access.ku.edu/student-access-services-home

*Illness*

Please contact me *ahead of time* if you are feeling sick. If you are ill, you can’t learn effectively; moreover, your peers will appreciate your consideration in not bringing potentially communicable disease into the classroom. Your first unexcused absence will automatically apply, if you have any. Post-hoc notices of medical absences without a doctor’s note will be marked as unexcused absences.

If you need to report an extended illness or serious accident, please contact Student Support and Case Management at course-adapt@ku.edu or 785-864-4060. A case manager will send email notifications to your instructor(s) on your behalf. When you are able, you will need to follow up with your professors to coordinate a temporary arrangement regarding missed instruction and coursework.

*Legitimate Reasons for Absence*

* Religious observance
* Military service
* Personal verifiavle mental health or medical crisis of that of a relative or friend
* Unforeseen life event or compelling circumstances beyond the student’s control
* Academic field trips
* Participation in university activities
* Jury duty or mandatory court appearance
* Professional association or conference participation