

**PSCI 1101-107/103: Introduction to American Government, Recitation  
Spring, 2020**

**Time: Mondays, 9:00 AM – 9:50 AM/Tuesdays, 12:00 PM – 12:50 PM**

**Location: [Hellems Arts and Sciences, 185/ Economics, 2](#)**

**TA: Damon Roberts ([damon.roberts-1@colorado.edu](mailto:damon.roberts-1@colorado.edu))**

Office: Ketchum Arts and Sciences, 382

Student Hours: Mondays, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM, or by appointment

Purpose of a Recitation:

Recitations meet separately from lecture but are still required. The purpose of a recitation, especially for large classes, is to help you, the student, to have someone as a point of contact to reach out to if you are having a hard time with the material. Recitations are a supplement to what you learn in lecture. In the recitation, broadly speaking, we will review and discuss the assigned readings for the class and will clarify any points of confusion from the material covered in the lecture. For this recitation, we will also take a deeper dive into the content from the lecture as a means to apply the theory to current events (if time allows). As a student, your goal for the recitation is to make sense of the content covered in the lecture and the assigned readings so that you are well prepared for your assessments and so that you can walk away from PSCI 1101 knowing the fundamentals of American Politics. My goal, as the TA for the recitation, is to ensure that the students are well prepared for the exams and can gain an appreciation for the complexity but also just how interesting American politics is!

What to Expect:

Our recitation meetings will be primarily discussion based. There may be a lecture portion, there will be time set aside to answer questions about the course and the material covered in lecture, there will also be a significant amount of time dedicated to discussing that week's readings. For the most part, I am happy to be flexible to accommodate different learning styles and preferences. My goal is to make sure that you understand the material.

Contacting Me:

You should feel free to contact me throughout the semester. I encourage you to come to office hours (what I call Student Hours) so that I can help answer any questions you have about the course policies, the material covered in the class, any concerns you have, questions about navigating University, offering additional materials if there is a topic you are really interested in, etcetera. You are also welcomed to email me. If neither of my student hours work for you, feel free to send me an email and we can schedule something. I am usually responsive to email Monday-Friday from 9 AM – 5 PM (I may take a day or two, but I will get back to you).

*Student Hours:*

Many faculty call these office hours. I prefer to use the term student hours since it is what they really are. Student hours are designated times I (and all faculty and TA's) set aside each week for students to visit me in my office. I will always be in my office during these designated times, so

feel free to stop by. These hours are your chance to ask questions about the course material, about university in general, or just to chat so that we can get to know one another. As indicated above, I am also happy to meet with you outside the designated hours if they do not work for you. For that, you need to email me to schedule an appointment in advance.

Many students come to student hours after a test wondering what they need to know to prepare for an exam. Student hours are most helpful to students if you have done some studying before coming to my office and having concrete questions about material you are struggling with. When you come in with substantive questions about the course material, I can explain a course concept a different way or help you work through a problem.

#### Recitation Policies:

What you get out of recitation, and this course, will match what you put into it. Students should be mentally and physically present at our meeting time.

#### *Expectations:*

Students should come prepared to recitation every week. I will ask questions about the material covered in the lecture and in the assigned readings. Students should conduct themselves according to the Student Code of Conduct set by the University. We may discuss sensitive and politically charged topics at many points in the semester. When this occurs, I will largely allow the discussions to run freely (hearing differing perspectives is important). But, be sure to remain professional during these discussions.

For grades, at the end of the semester I will not offer additional extra credit or make adjustments to grades; you should be sure to take advantage of any opportunity during the course of the semester to do this (if these opportunities are offered, they will be created and proposed by Dr. Donovan; I will not create exceptions in fairness to the students in the other recitation sections). I know that life happens, and various life events may impact your grades. Please reach out to me about this. As the semester draws to a close, the ability for me and Professor Donovan to work with you becomes narrower and narrower. So, if there is something occurring that is affecting your course work, let me know sooner rather than later.

#### *Participation:*

Recitations are heavily discussion based. Again, the purpose of a recitation is to apply (and review) what you learned from the lecture and the assigned readings. As such, it is important that each student participates. Participation will be graded based on quality, not quantity. Being distracted and/or distracting others severely hampers the ability of having effective recitation sessions. See Dr. Donovan's syllabus for more details about grades for the course.

#### *Attendance:*

Since the purpose of this recitation is to give you the complete experience of this course, you are expected to attend recitation. See Dr. Donovan's syllabus for more details about grades for the course.

#### University-Wide Statements:

##### ACCOMMODATION FOR DISABILITIES

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to me or to Dr. Griffin in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu) for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

##### CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

We each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Class rosters are provided to me and Dr. Griffin with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

##### HONOR CODE

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](#).

##### SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND/OR RELATED RETALIATION

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct intimate partner abuse (including dating or domestic violence), stalking, protected-class discrimination or harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or [cureport@colorado.edu](mailto:cureport@colorado.edu). Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](#), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

#### RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, I will accommodate your requests so long as you contact me early in the semester. See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

#### Important Dates\*:

Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> – Last day to add a class

Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> – Last day to drop a class without tuition/fee charges and a W

Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> – Last day to drop a class

*\*For dates associated with enrollment and grades, please see the Office of the Registrar's Website. These deadlines may be different, so be sure to check with them and not entirely rely on the dates listed here.*