

**PSCI 1101-113/111: Introduction to American Government Recitation
Fall, 2019**

Time: Wednesday's 12:00-12:50 PM/1:00-1:50 PM

Location: EKLCE 1B50

TA: Damon Roberts (damon.roberts-1@colorado.edu)

Office: Ketchum Arts and Sciences 412

Office Hours: Wednesday 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

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, by having someone as a point of contact to ensure you are grasping the material. In the recitation, broadly speaking, we will review the content discussed in the lecture and will clarify any points of confusion. 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. 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 be discussions where we tie relevant current events into the topics that we are covering that week, and there sometimes may be activities. 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 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 office 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).

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.

Participation-5%:

Recitations are heavily discussion based. Again, the purpose of a recitation is to apply (and review) what you learned from the lecture. 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.

Attendance-5%:

Since the purpose of this recitation is to give you the complete experience of this course, you are expected to attend recitation. Life happens, though. Recognizing that, students will have 3 days where there is no impact on their attendance grade. For those 3 excused absences, there are no questions asked. If you miss more than 3 recitation meetings, however, you will begin to lose points. Attendance to recitation accounts for 5% of your overall grade for this course. For each meeting you miss beyond the 3, you will lose 1% from your grade (0.5% for Attendance and 0.5% for participation). So, if you miss 5 recitation meetings, you will lose 2% from your grade. If you have had 3 absences, and will need to miss class for illness, emergency, or other reasons, please let me know before class begins! Whether you lose points will depend on a case by case basis. I do not require “doctor’s notes,” just to be notified before class begins that you will be unable to make it. Also, keep in mind that if you are not in class, you will not be able to participate; so be sure to not miss class too often. There is also the opportunity to turn in one (1) write up for an event that you attend to make up an attendance point.

Quizzes – 10%:

There will be 10 quizzes over the course of the semester. These quizzes will cover the material covered in the lectures and/or the assigned reading from the previous week. Answering questions right or wrong on the writing responses **will have an impact on your grade**. The primary purpose of these quizzes will act as a check-in to see how well you grasp the material. For me, it will give me a chance to see how well you understand that topic. Each writing response will happen at some point during our meeting time on random weeks. There is no specified point during recitation (i.e., I will not hand out the writing response every week at the beginning of class) that I will be handing out the writing response. If you fail to turn in a writing response with your name on it, you will be considered absent. If you will be late or have to leave early for a recitation and may miss the writing response, let me know **before class**.

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 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; 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. 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*:

September 2nd – Labor Day (No Classes campus wide)

September 11th – Last day to drop a class without Tuition/Fee charges & without a W grade

November 25th-29th – Fall Break (No classes campus wide)

December 12th – Last Day of classes

December 14th – 18th Final Exams

**Check syllabus provided by Dr. Griffin for major assignment and exam due dates specific to PSCI 1101.*