

PS 140A: Congress (Section)

Derek E. Holliday

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Office Hours: T/TR 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Office: 3288 Bunche Hall

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Class Hours: F 3-3:50 p.m. (2D), 4-4:50 (2E), 5-5:50 (2F)

Class Room: 3156 Bunche Hall

Section Description

The purpose of section is to engage with the literature and make sure that students have a clear understanding of the reading and concepts covered in class, with an emphasis on the readings assigned for section. We will discuss not only the reading, but also expand upon the relationship that the readings and lectures share with our own knowledge of Congress and politics.

Participation

Participation accounts for 10 percent of your overall grade. Students are expected to finish all assigned readings and be prepared to actively participate in discussion. Just being present is not enough. Participation is comprised of multiple components and active engagement and questions are highly encouraged. Should lack of participation become an issue, I reserve the right to cold call or eventually give pop quizzes in section that will be used to determine participation credit.

Attendance Policy

Attendance at each discussion section is **mandatory**. Excused absences will be granted for medically documented emergencies or illnesses (this requires a doctor's letter) or a note from a UCLA administrator explaining your extenuating circumstances. Absences are unexcused for all other reasons. Everyone gets one free unexcused absence from discussion section. After your free unexcused absence, every additional unexcused absence that you miss will lower your final letter grade in this course by half a letter grade.

In addition to being present, it is also important that you are on time. Anyone who is more than 10 minutes late will be marked as absent.

Rules and Guidelines

- **Grievance policy-** You have **one week** to place in writing, via email, a request to re-grade your assignment. All grade requests must be sent to professor Tausanovitch and myself. To submit a re-grade request, you will need to write up a one page outline explaining which

portions of your exam you believe should be re-graded. In addition to submitting a request, you must also set up a time to return your assignment to me so that I can take your request into consideration. When submitting a re-grade request, be aware of that fact that your grade may go up or down. Re-grades will only be considered for the midterm. **Only emailed grade requests will be considered.**

- **Office Hours-** Office hours will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the TA room (Bunche 3288), If office hours conflict with your course schedule, feel free to email me and set up an appointment on a different day.
- **Electronics-** You are welcome to use your laptops in class so long as they do not serve as a distraction. This means no Facebook, iChat, Gchat, Twitter, ESPN, etc. Allowing the use of computers is meant for note taking and to reference previous notes. If it becomes a problem I will ask you to put your computers away. I also ask that you place your phones away and on silent during class in order to minimize disruptions.

Academic Honesty

Your work should consist of your own ideas and your own words. Quotations and ideas used from other authors must be properly cited. If you are unfamiliar with the University's policy on academic dishonesty and associated penalties, see <http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu>. Plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean.

Final Remarks

I reserve the right to make changes to the section syllabus at any point in the quarter should I feel it that it would better enhance our discussion section. Also, I cannot stress enough the importance of communicating with me should problems arise at the time that they happen. It is better to address problems early than wait for someone to come to you.