

# Advanced Topics in American Politics (84-421) & American Politics Graduate Seminar (84-721)

**BETA VERSION (v. August 26, 2023)**

Instructor: Prof. Jonathan Cervas

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Location: Porter Hall 226A: (*Find it here*)

Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00p-3:20p Eastern

Office Hours by appointment (arrange via email)

*CMU Academic Calendar*

## Course Schedule

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<b>Class Meetings:</b>	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00 PM - 3:20 PM EST
<b>Labor Day (University Closed):</b>	September 4, 2023
<b>Fall Break (University Closed):</b>	October 16-20, 2023
<b>Democracy Day (University Closed until 5pm):</b>	November 7, 2023
<b>Thanksgiving Break (University Closed):</b>	November 22-24, 2023
<b>Last Day of Classes:</b>	December 8, 2023

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## Scope and Purpose

- This course examines prominent classic and contemporary works in the two major subfields in American politics, political institutions, and political behavior.
- The seminar will address topics such as Congress, presidency, and courts, but also public opinion, elections, campaigns, political parties, and the importance of geography, wealth, race and ethnicity, and gender, among other subjects.
- There will be an emphasis on analyzing and appraising the theory, methodology, and contributions of the selected readings.
- This course will include advanced undergraduates as well as graduate students.

## Course Objectives

- The purpose of this course is to introduce students to major themes and some of the best scholarship from political science literature. The course emphasizes breadth over depth.
- To facilitate discussion, it is important that you write as well as read and think in advance about how the readings address the overall topic for that session. The course will attempted to include empirical data to better examine theoretical questions and to situate the course in modern politics and current events.
- The two most important skills that introductory graduate students need to master are the abilities to understand the development of literature and the ability to write critically, succinctly, and objectively about these literatures. To this end, the main writing requirements for this course are papers that seek to help students develop these skills. These papers are not summaries or personal responses (thus, lines of thoughts and phrases such as “I really liked...”, “My feelings on the matter...” etc. are irrelevant to these assignments).

## Important Dates

Date	Assignment
August 30, 2023 (Tuesday)	First day of class
September 19, 2023 (Tuesday)	Book Review Selection due
September 26, 2023 (Tuesday)	First Draft of op-ed due, circulated for comments
October 1, 2023 (Sunday)	Return peer review to your classmate
October 8, 2023 (Sunday)	Final Draft of op-ed due
October 18 & 20, 2023	Fall Break
October 28, 2023 (Tuesday)	Book review papers due; topic selection for area specialization
November 7, 2023 (Tuesday)	Election Day, no class
November 23, 2023 (Thursday)	Thanksgiving break, no class
December 7, 2023 (Thursday)	Last Day of class
December 15, 2023 (Friday)	Area Specialization Paper due
December 20, 2023 (Thursday)	Grades Due (4:00 pm)

## Syllabus

Download the current syllabus here: <https://github.com/jcervas/class-cmu-84-721/blob/main/syllabus.pdf>

## Course Requirements

(Assignments due by 11:59 pm)

- **Participation (includes attendance and contributions to conversation): 10%** - **Additional Reading Assignments/Outlines/Mini lecture (10 per student, 3% each): 30%** - **Op-ed/Editorial/Blog: + First Draft: 5% + Peer Review: 5% + Final Draft: 15%** - **Book Review/Summary: 15%** - **Area Specialization Paper: 20%**

## Participation

It is important that you discuss the readings with your fellow students (who benefit from hearing how others interpret the literature); you will also be expected to contribute to the overall knowledge of the class. Your perspective on the political world, the news media you consume, and your interpretation of both historical and contemporary politics are different than others, and I expect that you will share those. To this end, you will be encouraged to track presidential approval ratings, political polls, election forecast predictions, economic indicators (like unemployment), and other such data. Following current events will help facilitate discussion throughout the semester.

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Everyone has an equal voice in this course. When you disagree, challenge, or respond to the idea, not the person. Nobody has a monopoly on opinion or time, and I will do my best to allow each of you to speak your mind and adjust the course accordingly so that everyone gets value from their time. My main goal is to give you value, and I am open to changes that allow for that.

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I have divided the class into roughly eight sections/topics. Unfortunately, we will not have enough time to cover all topics pertinent to American politics in full. You will find additional topics and recommended readings at the end of the syllabus. If these topics are of interest to you, I encourage you to select papers from those sections and write your area specialization papers on them (or request to present them in lieu of what appears on the main part of the syllabus).

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## Writing Assignments

**(1) Weekly additional reading:** On ten occasions (roughly once per week), you are to select one paper on the syllabus in which you will be in charge of lecturing on. You will read this paper and create an outline (a bullet point outline, literally) that tells us the thesis, findings, and conclusions. You may choose to write in prose (should not exceed one page, max), but it is not required. We will share these with the class for others to use when preparing their area specialization papers.

The purpose of this exercise is to help you find the key insights from the readings, understand the empirical or intellectual contribution, and how it fits into the field more broadly. This is additionally helpful because it will allow for quick reference if you are writing a term paper on the subject. This is the equivalent of an annotated bibliography, but you can structure them in whatever way is most helpful for you. These are the notes you take while you read. I am not interested in grading grammar or spelling for this task. We will combine everyone's contribution in a shared, editable document, so each person has a summary of all articles assigned this quarter and can contribute additional insights.

**(1a) Mini lecture:** You will present your paper to the class; a mini "lecture". PowerPoints are not necessary, though you are welcome to use any additional presentation skills, including analyzing new data or sharing YouTube videos, PowerPoint, and other visual aids, if applicable. This is part of your participation grade, along with the reading assignment grade. You should be sure to tell us everything we need to know to understand the main premise of the paper, with the expectation that we will not have read these papers beforehand (and may or may not know much about the literature it cites). You will only have to present roughly *five* times, since we will have duplicate students doing each reading. You should also be prepared to answer questions and have discussion questions for the class, when applicable.

**(2) Op-ed/Editorial/Blog:** Prepare a short essay advocating for (or against) any social or political issue of your choosing (topics relating to American politics). The idea is that you will write something that can be submitted to a newspaper or internet blog. There is a strict 1,250-word limit. Concise arguments made for a more general audience are the goal of this assignment; something your parents can read and understand. The use of data and visualizations is strongly encouraged and is not included in the word count. We will circulate drafts on September 26 to one other graduate student who will offer critiques and/or proofreading. On October 8, all final drafts will be due. We can share all the drafts with the rest of the class.

**(3) Book Review/Summary:** You are to choose one book of your choice of academic nature, regarding any subject on American politics. I have a wide selection of books you can choose from, or you can utilize the library to find a book. Your instructor will help you find something that is relevant to your interests along with being germane to the subjects in the course. In total, the book review should be no longer than 6-8 pages, double-spaced. It should tell the reader the subject of the book, what it did well, what it left out, and your own thoughts about its relevance or importance. You may choose a book that can help give insight into your area specialization paper.

**(4) Area Specialization Paper:** In lieu of a final exam, you are to choose either one of the subjects we explore during the course or a topic of your choosing (see below) and do a literature review and develop one, or several, hypotheses. The professor can help you find relevant articles and provide strategies for conducting research. You will submit a 5-8 single-spaced page paper (not including references and title page) that does the following: + Synthesizes the contributions made by the assigned readings to current scholarly understanding in the specific field area (e.g., campaigns and elections; mass or elite polarization; judicial independence; gerrymandering) + Identifies one or two lingering questions raised by the readings

and explains specifically why those questions are important to furthering our understanding of the field area + Outlines and discusses a research design with the potential to answer the lingering question(s). Explain why the design is optimal for addressing the question(s) and acknowledge limitations of the design.

The specialization paper will help you build your skills in the areas of synthesizing works for a literature review, formulating research questions, and devising appropriate methodologies for answering those questions. This paper is a critical evaluation that explains the literature's strengths and weaknesses with respect to the goals and process of social scientific research and that charts their impact on subsequent research. Students may find it helpful to consult many published articles in preparing their papers. Any information taken from these sources must be cited appropriately and is used to augment students' own analysis. To create a literature review you need not read thoroughly every paper you cite, just well enough to make the connection between your through/story and their findings. Though I am asking you to produce a research design that proposes tests for one or several hypotheses, you will not need to conduct empirical analyses (though you certainly may, and I encourage you to, if possible). You should describe the data that would be necessary to evaluate your hypotheses. The paper you write in this class may be the basis of your master's thesis or other future publications. Formatting should be consistent throughout, though no style is required. You will, during the final week, give the class a presentation of your papers, summarizing the books and articles you have read. ~20 mins

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Examples of deep dives topics include incumbency advantage in American elections, state legislative professionalization, polarization (mass and elite), economic inequality, racial resentment, election forecasting, women in politics, segregation and other spatial context issues, gerrymandering, policy diffusion, and so on. The amount of research done on American politics is infinite, so we cannot cover everything during the semester. This assignment allows us to dial into a topic you find most interesting.

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## Readings

The assigned readings present only a starting point for people looking to specialize in American politics. You should consult the instructors for recommendations of further essential readings beyond those assigned here. It is expected that every week you will have engaged the readings closely and critically, and that you come to class prepared to participate in rigorous discussion of them. Specifically, you should be able to address the following upon reading each work.

- What are the main themes of the work?
- What are the main contributions of this work to our understanding of politics?
- What are the limitations of or areas for improvement for this work (focusing on its theoretical argument, hypotheses, evidence, analysis, interpretation of results, etc.)?
- What did you not understand about this work?
- What next steps can you envision to effectively build on the major contributions of this work?

Readings will draw heavily from the *Annual Review of Political Science*, a journal that “covers significant developments in the field of Political Science.” This allows you to get a considerable overview of the field, while not costing you any money!

My expectation is that you will “read” all the assigned articles, but I recognize that I have assigned quite a lot. You should minimally *skim* all the assigned readings. Learning good skimming skills is particularly important; arguably, the most important thing you can learn as a graduate student. Journal articles follow a very formulaic outline, which makes skimming easy. You will need to be sure to capture enough of the content to discuss the article with your peers. *Annual Review* articles are to be read more thoroughly since they cover a larger amount of literature than other types of one-issue articles.

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Like American democracy itself, this syllabus is subject to amendment. The process of amendment is as follows: (1) all students and the professor get one vote; (2) a simple majority of voters agree to a change; (3) a student's vote is weighted as  $1/n$  where  $n$ =number of students and a professor has a vote weighted as  $n+1$ . All amendments will be announced publicly, and no student shall be injured by changes.

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Class will be organized under several general topics, ranging from theory and design of American democracy to polarization, identity formation, political communication, and others. The readings listed below are required. You are also expected to choose from the other reading list a series of articles throughout the semester, as detailed above.

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## Class Schedule

- **Tuesday, August 29:**
  - Introductions and discussion of the semester & syllabus

## American Democracy Theory and Design

- **Thursday, August 31:**
  - **Choose dates for presentations**
  - Smith, Rogers M. 1993. "Beyond Tocqueville, Myrdal, and Hartz: The Multiple Traditions in America." *The American Political Science Review* 87(3): 549–566. (EVERYONE)
  - Fiorina, Morris P. "A Historical Perspective." [Read Here](#) (EVERYONE)
- **Tuesday, September 5:**
  - A Different Democracy
    - \* Preface (EVERYONE)
    - \* Chapter 1. Introduction (EVERYONE)
    - \* Chapter 2. Political Engineering and the US Constitution (EVERYONE)
- **Thursday, September 7:**
  - A Different Democracy
    - \* Chapter 3. Constitutions (STUDENT)
    - \* Chapter 4. Federalism and Division of Power (STUDENT)
    - \* Chapter 5. Elections and Electoral Systems (STUDENT)
    - \* Chapter 6. Political Parties, Election Campaigns, and Interest Groups (STUDENT)
    - \* Chapter 7. Legislative Power (STUDENT)
    - \* Chapter 8. Executive Power (STUDENT)
    - \* Chapter 9. Judicial Power (STUDENT)
    - \* Chapter 10. Comparative Conclusions (EVERYONE)
- **Tuesday, September 12:**
  - How Democratic Is the American Constitution? Dahl, R. A. (2003). Yale University Press. [Read Here](#) (EVERYONE)

## Class and Economics

- **Thursday, September 14:**

- Hersh, Eitan. 2023. “The Political Role of Business Leaders.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 26(1): 97–115. Read Here (EVERYONE)
- Erikson, R. S. (2015). Income Inequality and Policy Responsiveness. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 18(1), 11–29. Read Here (EVERYONE)
- Franko, William W., and Christopher Witko. 2023. “Unions, Class Identification, and Policy Attitudes.” *The Journal of Politics* 85(2): 553–567. (STUDENT)
- Gelman, Andrew. 2007. “Rich State, Poor State, Red State, Blue State: What’s the Matter with Connecticut?” *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* 2(4): 345–367. Read Here (STUDENT)
- Gilens, Martin, Shawn Patterson, and Pavielle Haines. 2021. “Campaign Finance Regulations and Public Policy.” *American Political Science Review* 115(3): 1074–1081. (STUDENT)
- Trounstein, Jessica. 2016. “Segregation and Inequality in Public Goods.” *American Journal of Political Science* 60(3): 709–725. Read Here (STUDENT)

## Party Identification, Ideology, Attitudes, and Opinion Formation

- **Tuesday, September 19:**

- **Book Selection for Book Review Due**
- Kinder, Donald R., and Nathan P. Kalmoe. 2017. *Neither Liberal nor Conservative: Ideological Innocence in the American Public*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
  - \* Introduction: Innocent of Ideology? (EVERYONE)
  - \* Chapter 1. Converse’s Claim (EVERYONE)
  - \* Chapter 2. The Great Debate (EVERYONE)

- **Thursday, September 21:**

- Zaller, John R. 1992. *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
  - \* *Carefully review pages 53-54, summary of axioms on page 58, pages 74-75, 91-96, 113-114, figure 7.4 (p. 143), figure 8.2 (p. 156).*
  - \* Chapter 2. Information, predispositions, and opinion (EVERYONE)
  - \* Chapter 3. How citizens acquire information and convert it into public opinion (EVERYONE)
  - \* Chapter 4. Coming to terms with response instability (EVERYONE)
  - \* Chapter 7. Basic processes of “attitude change” (EVERYONE)

- **Tuesday, September 26**

- ***First Drafts of Op-Ed/Editorial/Blog Post Due and Circulated***
- Kinder and Kalmoe, *Neither Liberal nor Conservative*
  - \* Chapter 3. Meaning and Measurement of Ideological Identification (STUDENT)
  - \* Chapter 4. Becoming Ideological (STUDENT)
  - \* Chapter 5. In the Long Run (STUDENT)
  - \* Chapter 6. Consequences? (STUDENT)
  - \* Chapter 7. Findings and Implications (EVERYONE)
- Converse, Philip E. 2000. “Assessing the Capacity of Mass Electorates.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 3(1): 331–353. Read Here (EVERYONE)
- Zaller, John. 2012. “WHAT NATURE AND ORIGINS LEAVES OUT.” *Critical Review* 24(4): 569–642. Read Here (EVERYONE)

- **Thursday, September 28:**

- Canes-Wrone, Brandice. 2015. “From Mass Preferences to Policy.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 18(1): 147–165. Read Here (STUDENT)

- Sears, David O., and Carolyn L. Funk. 1990. “The limited effect of economic self-interest on the political attitudes of the mass public.” *Journal of Behavioral Economics* 19(3): 247–271. Read Here (STUDENT)
- Hatemi, Peter K., and Rose McDermott. 2016. “Give Me Attitudes.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 19(1): 331–350. Read Here (EVERYONE)
- Carmines, Edward G., and Nicholas J. D’Amico. 2015. “The New Look in Political Ideology Research.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 18(1): 205–216. Read Here (EVERYONE)

## Political Polarization

- **Tuesday, October 3:**

- Zingher, Joshua N. 2022. *Political choice in a polarized America: how elite polarization shapes mass behavior*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
  - \* Chapter 1. America the Polarized (EVERYONE)
  - \* Chapter 2. Mass Opinion in Context—How Elite Polarization Has Shaped Political Behavior (STUDENT)
  - \* Chapter 3. Elite Polarization and Americans’ Perceptions of the Political Parties (STUDENT)
  - \* Chapter 4. Measuring Policy Orientations and Political Sophistication (STUDENT)
  - \* Chapter 5. A Test of the Recursive Relationship between Policy Orientations and Partisanship (STUDENT)

- **Thursday, October 5:**

- Zingher, Political choice in a polarized America
  - \* Chapter 6. The Relationships between Policy Orientations, Partisanship, and Vote Choice (STUDENT)
  - \* Chapter 7. A Test of How Elite Polarization Shapes Mass Political Behavior (STUDENT)
  - \* Chapter 8. How Political Sophistication Shapes Responses to Elite Polarization (STUDENT)
  - \* Chapter 9. The Implications of Our Polarized Politics (EVERYONE)

- **Saturday, October 8:**

- *Final Drafts of Op-Ed/Editorial/Blog Post Due*

- **Tuesday, October 10:**

- Hopkins, David A. 2017. *Red Fighting Blue: How Geography and Electoral Rules Polarize American Politics*. 1st ed. Cambridge University Press.
  - \* Chapter 1. A Nation Votes, Ohio Decides (EVERYONE)
  - \* Chapter 2. Solid States: The Regional Bases of the American Parties (STUDENT)
  - \* Chapter 3. The Geographic Roots of Party Strength and Cohesion (STUDENT)
  - \* Chapter 4. Mapping the Cultural Battlefield: How Social Issues Fuel the Regional Divide (STUDENT)

- **Thursday, October 12 - Topic Selection for Book Review and Area Specialization Due**

- Hopkins, *Red Fighting Blue*
  - \* Chapter 5. Regional Polarization and Partisan Change in the U.S. Congress (STUDENT)
  - \* Chapter 6. Rural Red, Big-City Blue, and the Pivotal Purple Midwest (STUDENT)
  - \* Chapter 7. A Locked-Up Nation (EVERYONE)
- Martin, Greg, and Steven Webster. 2018. “Why Are Americans So Geographically Polarized?” *The Atlantic*. <https://web.archive.org/web/20221119174825/https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2018/11/why-are-americans-so-geographically-polarized/575881/> (EVERYONE)

- **Tuesday, October 24:**

- Lee, Frances E. 2016. *Insecure Majorities: Congress and the Perpetual Campaign*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

- \* Chapter 1. The Ins versus the Outs (EVERYONE)
- Dalton, R. J. (2016). Party Identification and Its Implications. In Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics. Oxford University Press. (EVERYONE)
- Lee, F. E. (2015). How Party Polarization Affects Governance. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 18(1), 261–282. (STUDENT)
- Abramowitz, A. I., & Webster, S. W. (2018). Negative Partisanship: Why Americans Dislike Parties But Behave Like Rabid Partisans. *Political Psychology*, 39(S1), 119–135. (STUDENT)
- Pierson, Paul, and Eric Schickler. 2020. “Madison’s Constitution Under Stress: A Developmental Analysis of Political Polarization.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 23(1): 37–58.(STUDENT)
- **Thursday, October 26:**
  - Iyengar, S., Lelkes, Y., Levendusky, M., Malhotra, N., & Westwood, S. J. (2019). The Origins and Consequences of Affective Polarization in the United States. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 22, 129–146. Read Here (EVERYONE)
  - Prior, Markus. 2013. “Media and Political Polarization.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 16(1): 101–27. Read Here. (EVERYONE)
  - Dalton, R. J. (2020). The Blinders of Partisanship. In *Research Handbook on Political Partisanship* (pp. 74–88). (EVERYONE)

## Political Participation

- **Tuesday, October 31:**
  - Schlozman, Kay Lehman, Henry E. Brady, and Sidney Verba. 2018. *Unequal and Unrepresented: Political Inequality and the People’s Voice in the New Gilded Age*. Princeton University Press.
    - \* Chapter 1. Introduction (EVERYONE)
    - \* Chapter 2. What Do We Mean by Political Voice? Does Equal Voice Matter? (EVERYONE)
    - \* Chapter 3. The Roots of Citizen Participation: The Civic Voluntarism Model (EVERYONE)
    - \* Chapter 4. Who Exercises Political Voice? (STUDENT)
    - \* Chapter 5. The Noisy and the Silent: Divergent Preferences and Needs (STUDENT)
    - \* Chapter 6. Do Digital Technologies Make a Difference? (STUDENT)
- **Thursday, November 2:**
  - Schlozman et al., *Unequal and Unrepresented*
    - \* Chapter 7. Social Movements and Ordinary Recruitment (STUDENT)
    - \* Chapter 8. Who Sings in the Heavenly Chorus? The Shape of the Organized Interest System (with Philip E. Jones) (STUDENT)
    - \* Chapter 9. Representing Interests through Organizational Activity (with Philip E. Jones) (STUDENT)
    - \* Chapter 10. Growing Economic Inequality and Its (Partially) Political Roots (STUDENT)
    - \* Chapter 11. Has It Always Been This Way? (STUDENT)
    - \* Chapter 12. Can We Do Anything about It? (EVERYONE)
    - \* Chapter 13. Unequal Voice in an Unequal Age (EVERYONE)

## Campaigns and Elections

- **Tuesday, November 7:**
  - *Democracy Day, no class*
- **Thursday, November 9:**
  - Green, Donald P. et al. 2016. “The effects of lawn signs on vote outcomes: Results from four randomized field experiments.” *Electoral Studies* 41: 143–150. Read Here (EVERYBODY)



- Jacobson, Gary C. 2015. “How Do Campaigns Matter?” *Annual Review of Political Science* 18(1): 31–47. Read Here (EVERYONE)
- Key, Jr., V.O. 1955. “A Theory of Critical Elections.” *The Journal of Politics* 17(1): 3–18. Read Here (EVERYONE)
- Warshaw, Christopher. 2019. “Local Elections and Representation in the United States.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 22(1): 461–479. Read Here (STUDENT)
- Willeck, Claire, and Tali Mendelberg. 2022. “Education and Political Participation.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 25(1): 89–110. Read Here (STUDENT)
- **Tuesday, November 14:**
  - Carson, Jamie L., and Jeffery A. Jenkins. 2011. “Examining the Electoral Connection Across Time.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 14(1): 25–46. Read Here (EVERYONE)
  - Caughey, Devin, and Christopher Warshaw. 2022. *Dynamic Democracy: Public Opinion, Elections, and Policymaking in the American States*. University of Chicago Press.
    - \* Chapter 1. Introduction (EVERYONE)
    - \* Chapter 2. Measurement: Public Opinion and State Policy (STUDENT)
    - \* Chapter 3. Preferences: Partisanship and Ideology in State Publics (STUDENT)
    - \* Chapter 4. Policies: The Outputs of State Government (STUDENT)
    - \* Chapter 5. Parties: The Policy Effects of Party Control (STUDENT)
    - \* Chapter 6. Elections: Selection, Incentives, and Feedback (STUDENT)
- **Thursday, November 16:**
  - Caughey and Warshaw, *Dynamic Democracy*
    - \* Chapter 7. Responsiveness: The Public’s Influence on State Policies (STUDENT)
    - \* Chapter 8. Proximity: The Match between Preferences and Policies (STUDENT)
    - \* Chapter 9. Deficits: Gaps in American Democracy (STUDENT)
    - \* Chapter 10. Reforms: Improving American Democracy (EVERYONE)
    - \* Chapter 11. Conclusion (EVERYONE)
- **Tuesday, November 21:**
  - *Book Review Final Draft Due*
  - Jardina, Ashley. 2019. *White Identity Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
    - \* Chapter 1. The New American Minority (EVERYONE)
    - \* Chapter 2. Making the Invisible Visible (STUDENT)
    - \* Chapter 3. The Measurement and Meaning of Group Ties (STUDENT)
    - \* Chapter 4. Who Identifies as White? (STUDENT)
    - \* Chapter 5. The Content and Contours of Whiteness (STUDENT)
    - \* Chapter 6. The Preservation of Whiteness (STUDENT)
    - \* Chapter 7. Policies that Protect the Group (STUDENT)
    - \* Chapter 8. A Black Man in the White House (STUDENT)
    - \* Chapter 9. The Future of White America (EVERYONE)
- **Thursday, November 23** - Thanksgiving Day, no class

## Race and Ethnic Politics

- **Tuesday, November 28**
  - Acharya, Avidit, Matthew Blackwell, and Maya Sen. 2018. *Deep Roots*. Princeton University Press.
    - \* Chapter 1. Introduction (EVERYONE)
    - \* Chapter 2. A Theory of Behavioral Path Dependence (EVERYONE)
    - \* Chapter 3. How Slavery Predicts White Political Attitudes Today (EVERYONE)

- \* Chapter 4. An Alternative Account: Contemporary Demographics and Racial Threat (EVERYONE)
  - \* Chapter 5. Antebellum Politics of Slavery and Race in the South (STUDENT)
- **Thursday, November 30:**
  - Acharya et al., *Deep Roots*
    - \* Chapter 6. Emancipation as a Critical Juncture and the Timing of Divergence (STUDENT)
    - \* Chapter 7. Persistence and the Mechanisms of Reproduction (STUDENT)
    - \* Chapter 8. Interventions and Attenuation (STUDENT)
    - \* Conclusion: What Lessons Can We Draw from Southern Slavery? (EVERYONE)
  - Grumbach, Jacob. 2022. *Laboratories against Democracy*. Princeton University Press.
    - \* Preface (EVERYONE)
    - \* The Crises of 2020 (EVERYONE)
    - \* Chapter 1. Introduction (EVERYONE)
    - \* Chapter 9. Conclusion (EVERYONE)
- **Tuesday, December 5:**
  - Lenz, Gabriel. 2018. “Time for a Change.” *Critical Review* 30(1–2): 87–106. [Read Here](#) (EVERYONE)
  - Gilens, Martin. 2023. “Race, gender, and partisan politics in the United States.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 120(25): e2307714120. [Read Here](#) (EVERYONE)
  - Balfour, Lawrie. 2023. “The Politics of Reparations for Black Americans.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 26(1): 291–304. [Read Here](#) (STUDENT)
  - Wong, Janelle S., and Karthick Ramakrishnan. 2023. “Asian Americans and the Politics of the Twenty-First Century.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 26(1): 305–323. [Read Here](#) (STUDENT)
  - Slaughter, Christine, Chaya Crowder, and Christina Greer. 2023. “Black Women: Keepers of Democracy, the Democratic Process, and the Democratic Party.” *Politics & Gender*: 1–20. [Read Here](#)
  - Jardina, Ashley, and Spencer Piston. 2023. “The Politics of Racist Dehumanization in the United States.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 26(1): 369–388. [Read Here](#) (STUDENT)

## Election Law

- **Thursday, December 7**
  - Hasen, Richard L. 2019. “Polarization and the Judiciary.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 22(1): 261–276. [Read Here](#) (EVERYONE)
  - McGhee, Eric. 2020. “Partisan Gerrymandering and Political Science.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 23(1): 171–185. [Read Here](#) (EVERYONE)
  - Hasen, R. L. (2020). The Supreme Court’s Pro-Partisanship Turn. *The Georgetown Law Journal*, 109, 50–80. [Read Here](#) (STUDENT)
  - Hasen, Richard L. 2022. “Identifying and Minimizing the Risk of Election Subversion and Stolen Elections in the Contemporary United States.” *Harvard Law Review Forum* 135: 265–301. [Read Here](#) (STUDENT)
  - Douglas, Joshua A. 2014. “The Right to Vote Under State Constitutions.” *Vanderbilt Law Review* 67(1): 89–149. [Read Here](#) (STUDENT)
- **Friday, December 15**
  - *Area Specialization Paper Due*

## Academic Integrity:

Academic Integrity is a core CMU value, and as a member of the CMU community, it is important that the work you turn in for this class is wholly your own. As your instructor, I will strive to ensure that you develop the necessary knowledge and skills to meet the learning objectives for this class, just as it is your task to put in the effort to complete the work and ask for help if you need it. I am flexible if you need accommodations – just reach out!

As a reminder all students should follow CMU's Academic Integrity Policy.

## Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

If you have a disability and have an accommodation letter from the Disability Resources office, I encourage you to discuss your accommodation and needs with me as early in the semester as possible. I will work with you to ensure that accommodation is provided as appropriate. If you suspect that you may have a disability and would benefit from accommodations but are not yet registered with the Office of Disability Resources, I encourage you to contact them at [access@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:access@andrew.cmu.edu).

## Student Wellness:

As a student, you may experience a range of challenges that can interfere with learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, substance use, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may diminish your academic performance and/or reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. CMU services are available, and treatment does work. You can learn more about confidential mental health services available on campus at: <http://www.cmu.edu/counseling/>. Support is always available (24/7) from Counseling and Psychological Services: 412-268-2922

### TimelyCare at CMU:

Counseling and Psychological Services has partnered with TimelyCare to offer virtual wellbeing services and programs for students. As an addition to the wide range of mental health services that CaPS provides, TimelyCare will expand availability of mental health services to a wider range of days, times and locations, offer on-demand self-care content through its app, and provide emotional support services with professional counselors 24/7. All of this will be available 24/7 from anywhere in the United States, with no cost to visit.

- *TalkNow*: 24/7, on-demand access to a mental health professional to talk about anything at anytime
- *Scheduled Counseling*: scheduled options to speak to a licensed counselor (up to 12 visits per year)- evening and weekend appointments are available
- *Health Coaching*: access to a nutritional specialist to help students adopt healthier lifestyle behaviors related to sleep issues, weight management and more
- *Group Sessions*: Weekly Guided Meditation and Yoga Group Sessions, plus specialized discussions throughout the year.

TimelyCare FAQs

### [Food Insecurity:]

If you are worried about affording food or feeling insecure about food, there are resources on campus that can help. Email the CMU Food Pantry Coordinator to schedule an appointment:

Pantry Coordinator [cmu-pantry@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:cmu-pantry@andrew.cmu.edu)

412-268-8704 (SLICE office)

## **Diversity Statement:**

It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength, and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students or student groups. In addition, if any of our class meetings conflict with your religious events, please let me know so that we can plan accordingly.

## **Late Work:**

In general, submitting assignments on time lets me provide feedback in a more timely and efficient manner. Assignments build on each other, so timely submissions are crucial to your progress in the class. However, sometimes life happens. If you cannot submit an assignment on time, the default will be that you will be eligible for 90% of the grade the first 48 hours that the assignment is late. If you must submit beyond 48 hours past the due date, please contact me [cervas@cmu.edu](mailto:cervas@cmu.edu) as soon as possible so we can plan.

## **Other Readings (Optional)**

<https://github.com/jcervas/class-cmu-84-721/blob/main/other-reads.md>