F371U: Politics and Film

Summer First Session: June 1st - July 6th, 2023

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Meeting Location, Time: Online, Asynchronous

Office Hours (Online Only): By Appointment (email)

There is NO TA for this course, only me.

Course Description

Motion pictures were first invented in the 1890s. Thus, the entirety of the 20th century was captured on film. Many of us watch movies simply as a way to entertain ourselves and pass time. However, motion pictures are much more than just entertainment. Political life has been captured on film almost since the beginning of motion pictures. William McKinley was the first president captured on film in 1897. Since then, the medium has expanded from just documentary evidence into also passing on values and ideas in a visual format. This class explores the relationship between politics and film. Films function as a time machine for culture. Film from a period can inform us about the culture and priorities of a time. Film looking back onto a period (a film made in 2021 looking at 1980) tells us about how current culture views the past. Films looking into the future tell us about how some may view the direction a culture is changing.

This course is part of a new initiative to make more (upper-level) government courses accessible online for reduced cost and during the summer short course. To that end, while your lecturer is Dr. Shannon Bow O'Brien, I (Cody Kuhn) will be your instructor- meaning I will be your contact person and responsible for grading your work. I worked closely with Dr. Bow O'Brien in developing this summer short course, and I have designed and constructed the assignments for your summer semester. This is my second summer teaching this course and am excited to work with you all. I've designed the assignments to give you some options to explore important political films, particularly those you might not otherwise be exposed to.

Required Readings

- **TEXTBOOK:** *Projecting Politics,* 2015, 2nd edition, Elizabeth Haas, Terry Christensen, Peter J. Haas, Publisher: Taylor and Francis
  ISBN-10: 0765635976 **ISBN-13:**978-0765635976

*This is available to us through **LONGHORN TEXTBOOK ACCESS (LTA)**, more information below.*

You will also be expected to locate films for the class via **Netflix, Amazon Prime, Youtube, Google Play, Itunes, library, etc**. The <u>Fine Arts Library</u> has an extensive collection of films. **Kanopy** streaming via fine arts library works are free. All written assignments will have *at least one free-to-stream* option.

If you are having trouble finding a film, *"[film name] + streaming"* is a good search term. You may find other platforms where videos are available that are not listed here.

Many movie assignment options are available to loan or view through Austin Public Library (or your local library), or through the UT Austin library system.

Longhorn Textbook Access (LTA)**

The textbook for this class is available through the Longhorn Textbook Access (LTA) program, a new initiative between UT Austin, The University Co-op, and textbook publishers to significantly reduce the cost of digital course materials for students.

You can access your required materials through the "*My Textbooks*" tab in Canvas. You are automatically opted in to the program but can easily opt-out (and back in) via Canvas.

If you do not wish to utilize LTA to access your course materials, you have until the 4th class day **(June 6th, 2023)** to opt-out. Your bill will appear on your "*What I Owe*" page on June 8th, 2023 and is due on the 15th class day (June 14th, 2023).

For UT for Me students, funds will be automatically deducted from your UT for Me account, any remaining balance will be billed to your "What I Owe" page.

Technical Requirements for Politics and Film

All students are required to have *access* to a **laptop** or **desktop computer**, running either Windows or macOS operating systems. Tablets, smartphones, and Microsoft Surface devices are not supported. Your computer should meet the following requirements:
- Modern and up-to-date operating system (macOS or Windows)
- Browser: Chrome (highly recommended), Safari or Firefox. If using Safari or Firefox, be prepared to [download Chrome](#) and use it.
- Internet connection speed: 5 Mbps download speed. [Check your speed here.](#)
- Functional webcam and microphone
- Zoom installed and configured

Confirm that your computer is able to stream video by visiting https://www.laits.utexas.edu/tower/tech.php

For the best experience:

  · Close all unnecessary browser windows and tabs and programs
      · Streaming music (Pandora, Spotify, etc.)
      · Social media sites
      · YouTube or other video sites
      · Online/Offline Gaming
  · Check your computer is free of viruses, malware, and spyware ([UT recommendations](#))
  · Clear the browser's cache before class ([here's how.](#))

Technical Support

If you experience a technical problem, click on the "***Online Course Tech Support***" item in the <u>left-side navigation bar</u>. The Online Course Tech Support chatbot, called "LAITS Bot", will assist with technical problems and can escalate your question to a human if it cannot readily answer your question.

COURSE DESIGN:

- This course is designed on a week-by-week basis
    - It is **very important** that you stay on schedule, as assignments have due dates, after which points will be deducted for lateness
    - This is a *FAST-PACED* course!

- You must complete each module to proceed to the next module
    - Instapolls are within each module and are required

- Except for quizzes 1 & 2, quizzes are due on Sundays at 11:59, but you are encouraged to do them earlier (they are available as soon as you have watched the lectures and the quizzes have been posted)

- There are three writing assignments
    - These are not essays; more like long answers/responses
    - These are also due Sundays at 11:59, these are **made available on certain days, listed in the syllabus**
        - I ONLY ACCEPT .pdf, .doc, .docx file formats. **You will not be able to upload other file format types.**

- <u>LATE ASSIGNMENTS</u> are accepted until the <u>FINAL CLASS DATE</u> for the summer short session, which is 7/6/23;
    - ***Late submissions*** *receive a **5%** reduction for each day of lateness until deductions have reached **50%;** meaning, you will not receive more than 50% off for lateness, but you may receive a lower score for lost points.*

- This is because a 50% is still an "F", but is MUCH easier to recover a course grade from 50% than a 0%
- **Late reductions** happen when you do not *let me know* you need extra time **OR** when you *upload something that is not readable and re-upload at a later date*- e.g., there is a data error, wrong file type, draft instead of final paper;

○ **It is your responsibility to ensure you upload the correct file and that it is <u>readable.</u> You may view your uploads in Canvas.**
- **Keep a copy of all of your assignments for your reference**

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY/MISCONDUCT:

Class Recordings: Class recordings are reserved only for students in this class for educational purposes and are protected under FERPA. The recordings should not be shared outside the class in any form. Violation of this restriction by a student could lead to Student Misconduct proceedings.

Academic Dishonesty/Cheating

You will be expected to adhere to the UT Honor Code: *The core values of the University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.*

Though obvious, cheating is not allowed on any assignments. Plagiarism is prohibited. It refers to copying any work from any source (electronic, paper, etc.) without noting/citing its original source. It is important to note that using ideas (and not just quotes) from other sources without proper citation also counts as plagiarism. For additional information on these items, see the University General Information Catalog at: https://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/ and https://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/appendices/appendix-c/student-discipline-and-conduct/.

Any assignments turned in will be assumed to be the final version of the assignment, and any inappropriate or plaigiarized material will be considered intentional and not accidental.

<u>Any</u> class materials may not be uploaded onto 3rd party websites without the professor's explicit permission. If you do so, it will be considered a violation of the honor code. The professor has the right (even after the class is completed) to submit these violations to Judicial Affairs for adjudication.

Sharing of Course Materials is Prohibited:

No materials used in this class, including, but not limited to, lecture hand-outs, videos, assessments (quizzes, exams, papers, projects, homework assignments), in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets, may be shared online or with anyone outside of the class unless you have my explicit, written permission. Unauthorized sharing of materials promotes cheating. It is a violation of the University's Student

Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty. I am well aware of the sites used for sharing materials, and any materials found online that are associated with you, or any suspected unauthorized sharing of materials, will be reported to Student Conduct and Academic Integrity in the Office of the Dean of Students. These reports can result in sanctions, including failure in the course.

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information, https://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/appendices/appendix-c/student-discipline-and-conduct/

What this means for you:

Your written assignments will be uploaded to CANVAS and screened using TurnItIn.com's plagiarism detection tool. I encourage you to check your assignments using this tool *before submitting them for grading*. Anything more than 10-15% should be edited/reformatted for proper citations as you should expect automatic deductions over this percent (though I may also deduct at my discretion for improper citations or quotations, even under 10-15% similarity).

Your quizzes are to be taken **solo**, and answers not shared between classmates. Your quizzes are drawn from a test bank, minimizing the chances of having the same questions between students.

You **may not share materials** from this course/produced for this course outside of the class.

Accessible, Inclusive, and Compliant Statement:

The university is committed to creating an accessible and inclusive learning environment consistent with university policy and federal and state law. Please let me know if you experience any barriers to learning so I can work with you to ensure you have equal opportunity to participate fully in this course. If you are a student with a disability, or think you may have a disability, and need accommodations please contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). Please refer to SSD's website for contact and more information: http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/ .

If you are already registered with SSD, please deliver your Accommodation Letter to me as early as possible in the semester so we can discuss your approved accommodations and needs in this course.

Course Instructor Survey/Evaluation:

An evaluation of the course and instructor will be conducted at the end of the semester using the approved UT Course/Instructor evaluation forms.

Assignments:

Assignments may be added or removed at my discretion, as well as changing the weight of certain grades (e.g., assigning points to Instapolls).

- (0 pt) Syllabus Quiz, Module Instapolls (Required; Completion Grade)
- (50 pts) 14 Quizzes, drop lowest and highest (~4pts/quiz)
- (50 pts) 3 Written Assignments (1 x 10%, 2 x 20%)

Grading Scale:

A	93-100	B-	80-82	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	C+	77-79	D	63-66
B+	87-89	C	73-76	D-	60-62
B	83-86	C-	70-72	F	0-59

SCHEDULE:

	Topics	DUE
Week 1 start- 6/1	Ch 1, 2	Syllabus Quiz (To Begin Course)
W2 6/5	Ch, 3, 4	Q1 and Q2 at 11:59PM - WEDNESDAY 6/8 Q3 and Q4 at 11:59PM - SUNDAY 6/11 WA1 at 11:59PM - SUNDAY 6/11
W3 6/12	Ch 5. 6, 7, 8	Q5-8 at 11:59 SUNDAY 6/18 at 11:59PM WA2 at 11:59 SUNDAY 6/18
W4 6/19	Ch, 9, 10 , 11	Q9-11 SUNDAY 6/26 at 11:59PM
W5 6/26	Ch, 12, 13, 16	Q12-14 SUNDAY 7/3 at 11:59PM
W6 7/4		WA3 THURSDAY 7/6 at 11:59PM