

TF: Sima Biondi

Contact: sbiondi@g.harvard.edu

Office hours: (usually) Thursdays 1-3pm, Jenny's Cafe¹, or email me for an alternative appointment.

Section website: https://simab.github.io/gov20_fall24.html

Assignments

Important deadlines to keep in mind

- October 8: Essay 1 (10%)
- October 17: Midterm (20%)
- November 12: Essay 2 (20%)
- Date TBD: Final exam (35%)

Weekly: Section participation (15%)

Section policies and expectations

Email policy

Emailing me (sbiondi [at] g.harvard.edu) is the best way to contact me. I promise to respond to your emails within (usually) 24 hours. All emails should have a subject line that begins with "Gov20:".

Section attendance

Section attendance is mandatory. Sometimes life happens, so every student is permitted one unexcused absence—no questions asked.

The following absence can be excused if: (1) the student notifies the TF in advance of this absence and (2) the student provides a 1-page response paper about that week's readings via email. After that, multiple absences will hit the student's participation grade.

Readings

You are expected to read all assigned materials for section every week. The week before, I will draw your attention to the following week's key readings. In section, I will highlight some salient points from the readings, but you remain responsible for all assigned readings.

¹Harvard Art Museums, Harvard University, 32 Quincy St, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA

Participation

Section participation is crucial for the learning process (and fun!). It constitutes 15% of your grade, and students are expected come prepared to actively engage in section via questions, discussion, and debate. Student can participate by being a:

- *Text Reviewer*: What does the text say?
- *Analyst*: What do you think about what the text says?
- *Respondent*: What do you think about your classmates analysis of the text?
- *Synthesizer*: Where is this discussion going? What are we missing?

We will discuss more about this in our first section. If you have any questions about these roles or how to contribute to discussion, please feel free to reach out to me.

Laptops

Laptops are not permitted for use in section. If you take notes on your laptop during lecture, I highly recommend printing them prior to section for reference and annotation.

Papers

There are two short papers (6-8 pages) in the course. Due via [Canvas](#) on October 8 and November 12 at the beginning of lecture.

- Please come to my office hours to discuss writing strategies and paper ideas prior to the due date of the paper. While I cannot review drafts of papers, I can encourage you to come to my office hours to discuss your ideas and outlines.
- The papers are graded based on the strength of your argument and supporting evidence, not your ability to summarize. If you have any questions, reach out.

Late papers

As a general rule, no extension means no excuse. Sometimes a finished paper is better than a (possibly) perfect paper! If we have not agreed upon an extension prior to the deadline, per course policy you will be knocked down a grade level each day.

Late bank policy: Each student has a 24 hour late bank. What does this mean? Let's say the house WiFi is acting up and you can't turn in your paper on time. Don't panic!! For all papers, you have a (total) 24-hour grace period. Meaning that you could turn the first paper in 1 hour late and the next paper in 3 hours late, but you cannot turn in the first paper in 23 hours after the deadline and the next one 2 hours after the deadline.

Section suggestion box

Please feel free throughout the semester to give your anonymous input about topics, concepts, readings, or news stories you'd like to cover in section [here](#).