

**TF:** Sima Biondi

**Contact:** sbiondi@g.harvard.edu

**Office hours:** Thursdays 1-3pm, Jenny's Cafe<sup>1</sup>, or email me for an alternative appointment.

**Section website:** [https://simab.github.io/gov20\\_fall24.html](https://simab.github.io/gov20_fall24.html)

## Assignments

Weekly: Section participation (15%)

*Important deadlines to keep in mind*

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

## 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) 24-48 hours. All emails should have a subject line that begins with "Gov20:".

### Attendance

Section attendance is mandatory. Sometimes life happens, so every student is permitted one unexcused absence—no questions asked. After that, students must provide written documentation (a doctor's note, a letter from your Dean, etc.) for an absence to be excused.

### 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, please feel free to reach out to me.

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<sup>1</sup>Harvard Art Museums, Harvard University, 32 Quincy St, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA

## Laptops

You are expected to read all assigned materials for section every week. I may highlight the key readings, but you remain responsible for all assigned readings.

## Readings

Laptops are not permitted for use in section except during pre-exam review sessions. 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 by email (sbiondi [at] g.harvard.edu) on October 8 and November 12 at 5 pm.

- 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.

## 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](#).