

PS 4164: Political Participation and Voting Behavior

“Democracy is the art of running the circus from the monkey cage” – H.L. Mencken

Fall Semester 2014
Stillman Hall 0235
Tuesday/Thursday 3:55PM – 5:15PM

Instructor: Lauren Elliott
Elliott.466@osu.edu
Derby Hall 2081

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00pm – 3:00pm

Course Description:

Why do some people participate in politics, while others choose to abstain? How do people decide for whom to vote – and are they informed enough to make this decision? In this course, we will delve into key controversies in political participation and voting behavior in the United States. In particular, we will focus upon topics such as: who votes, who doesn't, and why? What encourages participation, and what suppresses it? What role has the Internet and other new technologies had in changing the way we interact with the political world? Throughout the semester, we will challenge the conventional understanding of these issues by focusing upon leading empirical evidence, as well as the testimonies of several experts in the field.

Course Aims and Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain the key determinants of political participation and partisanship in American politics
- Explain the key barriers to political participation in American politics
- Describe the broader implications of the changing pattern and modalities of political participation today
- Evaluate the effectiveness of mechanisms designed to increase or decrease participation
- Draw upon empirical evidence to substantiate their claims regarding political participation and voting behavior

Required Materials:

1. *Text Book*: Flanigan, W. H., Zingale, N. H., Theiss-Moore, E.A., and Wagner, M. W. (2014). *Political Behavior of the American Electorate*. CQ Press: Los Angeles, CA. (About \$35-\$45 on Amazon)
2. *Students are required to bring a Turning Technologies clicker to class each day.*
Clickers can be purchased online or through the OSU Bookstore for about \$38, or rented through the OSU Bookstore for about \$28. The required clicker for this course is the ResponseCard RF LCD (Model RFC-03-BX). You will need to link your clicker to your student account, which can be done through Carmen.
3. *Additional Readings*: Additional required course readings can be found on Carmen

Assignments:

1. Class Participation (15%)

Students can earn participation points in five ways: (1) speaking in class, (2) using their clickers to respond to in-class discussion questions, (3) participating in in-class assignments, (4) attending office hours, and (5) sending items relevant to the class to the instructor (news articles, Youtube videos, etc) with a written explanation of how it pertains to the course. Participation grades will be calculated on a curve where the top 10% of the scores will be discarded to obtain an adjusted top score. Points will be then calculated as:

$$\frac{[\text{Your Score}]}{[\text{Class High Score} - 10\%]} = \text{Participation Grade}$$

I will e-mail students their updated participation grades at two points during the semester: (1) the week of the midterm exam; and (2) November 18th. While you can do reasonably well in participation by simply relying on the clicker and in-class assignments, to get an A in this area you will likely also need to speak in class as well. **Please note that attendance is required on days featuring guest speakers.**

2. Daily Reading Quizzes (20%)

Students are required to complete assigned readings prior to the start of each class. There will be a reading quiz at the beginning of each session assessing basic recall and comprehension of the key facts from that day's readings. *Quizzes missed due to absences or tardiness – for any reason – cannot be made up, however the lowest four scores will be discarded.*

3. Student Interest Survey (5%)

In order to better tailor the course to the needs and interests of those taking the class, students will be required to complete a short online questionnaire regarding their existing knowledge of the subject area, goals for the class, and other information that will be helpful in designing course content and lectures. The Student Interest Survey is due at the beginning of class on September 9th. The survey can be found on Carmen under Activities → Surveys.

4. Midterm Exam (30%)

The midterm will consist of a multiple choice exam and a take-home component featuring two essay questions. The multiple choice portion will take place during class on October 21st. At least half of the questions for the multiple choice portion will come from the reading quizzes. The take-home portion will be distributed in class on October 14th, and is due at the beginning of class on October 21st.

5. Final Exam (30%)

The final will consist of a multiple choice exam and a take-home component featuring two essay questions. The take-home portion will be distributed in class on November 18th, and is due at the beginning of class on November 25th. The multiple choice portion will take place December 4th from 3:55pm – 5:15pm.

***All written assignments and exam essay questions must be uploaded to the appropriate dropbox on Carmen. Physical copies of assignments are not required; printed copies will not be accepted as a substitute for electronic submissions. E-mailed copies of take-home assignments will not be accepted. To avoid a late penalty, the assignment must be uploaded to the correct dropbox on Carmen by the beginning of class on the day it is due.*

Academic Integrity:

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>.

Students are required to upload their written exams to Carmen, which utilizes Turnitin.com for plagiarism detection. This online service analyzes student submissions for plagiarism from published or online sources and from other students (including students who have taken the course in earlier years). To avoid plagiarism charges, students must cite all sources from which they get their information and use quotation marks when quoting directly from these sources. **Students are responsible for knowing how to correctly cite their sources; ignorance about proper citation standards will not be accepted as an excuse for plagiarism.** The following website is a great resource for citation styles and writing in general: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>.

Late and Make-Up Policy

All assigned readings must be completed at the beginning of that day’s class. All written assignments must be uploaded to Carmen by the start of class on the due date. Assignments submitted after the first 15 minutes of class will receive a 5% reduction. An additional 10% will be taken off for each additional day the assignment is late. *Assignments will not be accepted more than one week late – no exceptions.*

Make-up exams and extensions will be approved only in the event of a medical or family emergency or a University-sanctioned event. Extensions **must** be arranged before the assignment is due. Accommodations will **not** be provided after the assignment is due – no exceptions. You must have documentation of your emergency to the instructor’s satisfaction to be able to take a make-up exam or get an extension. After you provide this documentation, a decision will be made regarding whether and when you may take a make-up exam/get an extension. Because you have a full week to work on all take-home assignments, extensions will only rarely be granted. Any request for an incomplete must be accompanied by written medical documentation.

Grade Appeals:

You have one week from when the exam and assignment grades are posted on Carmen to appeal the grade. You must submit a one-page typed, double-spaced statement to the instructor explaining why you are appealing your grade and justify it with evidence from your paper, exam, readings, and lectures. After you provide this document, a decision will be made regarding whether your grade will be changed.

Technology Use:

Students are strongly discouraged from utilizing laptops and tablets during class. Not only are they distracting for you, but these devices are often distracting to others. Students who have refrained from using these items in class have historically done significantly better than students who do use them in class. The instructor reserves the right to ban laptops and tablets at any point in the semester if they are deemed to be detrimental to the quality of the learning environment.

Accommodations for Disabled Students:

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs, as accommodations will not be provided retroactively. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

Course Schedule

Topic(s)	Required Readings	Assignment
Theme 1: Participation		
August 28th No Class – Instructor at Conference	None	Obtain clickers Obtain textbook
September 2nd Introduction	None	
September 4th Political Participation: Who Participates? Pt. I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verba, S., Schlozman, K. L., & Brady, H. E. (1995). <i>Voice and equality: Civic voluntarism in American politics</i>. Harvard University Press. Chapters 7 and 8 	Must have clicker by this date
September 9th Political Participation: Who Participates? Pt. II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brady, H. E., Verba, S., & Schlozman, K. L. (1995). Beyond SES: A Resource Model of Political Participation. <i>American Political Science Review</i>, 89(2), 271–294. Bond, R. M., Fariss, C. J., Jones, J. J., Kramer, A. D. I., Marlow, C., Settle, J. E., & Fowler, J. H. (2012). A 61-million-person experiment in social influence and political mobilization. <i>Nature</i>, 	Student Interest Survey Due

	489(7415), 295–298.	
September 11th Political Non-Participation I: Who Doesn't Participate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doppelt, J. C., & Shearer, E. (1999). <i>Nonvoters: America's no-shows</i>. Sage. Chapters 1, 2 	
September 16th Political Non-Participation II: Why Don't People Participate?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Levi, M., & Stoker, L. (2000). Political Trust and Trustworthiness. <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i>, 3, 475–507. 	Must have textbook for next class
September 18th Voter Turnout - Does Low Turnout Matter?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flanigan & Zingale, Ch. 3 “Turnout and Elections” Rubenson, D., Blais, A., Fournier, P., Gidengil, E., & Nevitte, N. (2007). Does low turnout matter? Evidence from the 2000 Canadian federal election. <i>Electoral Studies</i>, 26(3), 589–597 	
September 20th Social Capital I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Putnam, R. D. (2000). <i>Bowling alone: The collapse and revival of American community</i>. Simon and Schuster. Chapters 1 and 2 	
September 23rd Social Capital II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Putnam, R. D. (2000). <i>Bowling alone: The collapse and revival of American community</i>. Simon and Schuster. Chapter 6 Paxton, P. (2000). Is Social Capital Declining in the United States? A Multiple Indicator Assessment. <i>American Journal of Sociology</i>, 105(1), 88–127. 	
September 25th Policy Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mettler, Suzanne. 2002. “Bringing the State Back In to Civic Engagement: Policy Feedback Effects of the G.I. Bill for World War II Veterans.” <i>American Political Science Review</i> 96(2): 351-365. Campbell, A. L. (2002). Self-interest, social security, and the distinctive participation patterns of senior citizens. <i>American Political Science Review</i>, 96(03), 565-574. 	
Theme 2: Voter Decision-Making		
September 30th Voting Determinants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flanigan & Zingale, Ch. 5 “Public Opinion and Ideology” p. 139-165 Flanigan & Zingale, Ch. 8 “Vote Choice and Electoral Decisions” 	

<p>October 2nd Voter Decision-Making I: Becoming Informed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Popkin, S. L. (1994). <i>The reasoning voter: Communication and persuasion in presidential campaigns</i>. University of Chicago Press. Chapters 1 and 2 	
<p>October 7th Voter Decision-Making II: Information Shortcuts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lau, R. R., & Redlawsk, D. P. (2001). Advantages and Disadvantages of Cognitive Heuristics in Political Decision Making. <i>American Journal of Political Science</i>, 45(4), 951–971. • Lupia, A. (1994). Shortcuts Versus Encyclopedias: Information and Voting Behavior in California Insurance Reform Elections. <i>The American Political Science Review</i>, 88(1), 63–76. 	
Theme 3: Voter Turnout & Mobilization		
<p>October 9th Guest Speaker – Sarah Spence, Co-Chair; Ohio Young Republicans</p>	None	Guest Speaker – Mandatory Attendance
<p>October 14th Guest Speakers: Kathryn Wagonrod and Melanie Murphy; United Way of Central Ohio</p>	None	Guest Speaker – Mandatory Attendance
<p>October 16th Movie: <i>Electoral Dysfunction</i></p>	None	
<p>October 21st Midterm Exam</p>	None	Take-Home Midterm Questions DUE In-Class Multiple Choice Exam
<p>October 23rd Mobilization I</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ansolabehere, S. D., Iyengar, S., Simon, A., & Valentino, N. (1994). Does Attack Advertising Demobilize the Electorate? <i>American Political Science Review</i>, 88(4), 829–838. • Barreto, M. a., Nuño, S. a., & Sanchez, G. R. (2009). The Disproportionate Impact of Voter-ID Requirements on the Electorate—New Evidence from Indiana. <i>PS: Political Science & Politics</i>, 42(01), 111 	

October 28th Scott Britton, League of Women Voters	None	Guest Speaker – Mandatory Attendance
October 30th Mobilization II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gerber, A. S., Green, D. P., & Larimer, C. W. (2008). Social Pressure and Voter Turnout: Evidence from a Large-Scale Field Experiment. <i>American Political Science Review</i>, 102(1), 33 – 48 Burden, B. C., Canon, D. T., Mayer, K. R., & Moynihan, D. P. (2013). Election Laws, Mobilization, and Turnout: The Unanticipated Consequences of Election Reform. <i>American Journal of Political Science</i>, 58(1) 	
Theme 4: Partisanship		
November 4th Partisanship I <i>Election Day</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flanigan & Zingale: Ch. 2 “Electoral Context and Strategy, and Ch. 4 “Partisanship and Party Change” 	
November 6th Partisanship II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flanigan & Zingale, Ch. 6 “Group Characteristics and Social Networks” Graham, J., Haidt, J., & Nosek, B. (2009). Liberals and conservatives rely on different sets of moral foundations. <i>Journal of Personality and Social Psychology</i>, 96(5), 1029–46. 	
Theme 5: New Trends in Political Participation		
November 11th Veterans’ Day – No Class	None	
November 18th Participation in Higher Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valenzuela, S., Park, N., & Kee, K. F. (2009). Is There Social Capital in a Social Network Site?: Facebook Use and College Students' Life Satisfaction, Trust, and Participation. <i>Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication</i>, 14(4), 875-901. Vitak, J., Zube, P., Smock, A., Carr, C. T., Ellison, N., & Lampe, C. (2011). It’s complicated: Facebook users' political participation in the 2008 election. <i>Cyberpsychology, Behavior and Social Networking</i>, 14(3), 107–14. 	Take-Home Exam Questions Handed Out
November 20th Guest Speaker – AJ Stokes, Principal; JVA Campaigns	None	Guest Speaker – Mandatory Attendance

<p>November 25th Guest Speaker – Meredith Tucker, Communications Director; Ohio Democratic Party</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Guest Speaker – Mandatory Attendance Deadline to make alternative arrangements for final exam</p>
<p>November 27th Thanksgiving Break – No Class</p>	<p>None</p>	
<p>December 2nd Course Wrap-Up</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD based on student feedback 	
<p>December 4th Multiple Choice Exam</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Final Multiple Choice Exam</p>

*****Remaining Schedule Pending Guest Speaker Confirmations*****

Other important dates include:

- **October 14th:**
 - Midterm Take-Home Questions Handed Out
 - Mandatory Attendance for Guest Speakers Kathryn Wagonrod and Melanie Murphy from the United Way
- **October 21st:**
 - Take-Home Midterm Questions DUE
 - In-Class Multiple Choice Exam
- **October 28th:**
 - Mandatory Attendance for Guest Speaker Scott Britton from the League of Women Voters
- **November 11th:**
 - Veteran's Day – No Class
- **November 18th:** Take-Home Final Exam Questions Handed Out
- **November 20th:**
 - Mandatory Attendance for Guest Speaker AJ Stokes from JVA Campaigns
- **November 25th:**
 - Take-Home Final Exam Questions DUE
 - Deadline to make alternate arrangement for in-class multiple choice exam
 - Mandatory Attendance for Guest Speaker Meredith Tucker from the Ohio Democratic Party
- **November 27th:**
 - Thanksgiving Break – No Class
- **December 4th:** In-Class Multiple Choice Final Exam