

POL472, Section 02
Political Attitudes and Behavior
Fall 2008: TH 6:00 – 8:50 PM, TUC 213

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Office: AB1 315M (enter room 315K, then turn right)
Office Hours: MWF 9:00 – 9:50, 11:00 – 11:50 AM
TH 5:00-5:50 PM (at UCTR)
& by arrangement everyday

Course Description: An examination of political socialization, political recruitment, voting behavior, and public policy outputs. The approaches examined include role, group, political culture, systems analysis, and functional analysis. Prerequisites: 6 hours of Political Science.

Course Objectives: Specific course objectives include:

- Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories.
- Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.
- Learning to apply course materials (to improve rational thinking, problem solving and decisions).

Required Materials:

Flanigan, William H. and Nancy H. Zingale. 2006. *Political Behavior of the American Electorate*. 11th ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Kahn, Kim Fridkin and Patrick J. Kenney. 2004. *No Holds Barred: Negativity in U.S. Senate Campaigns*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education.

Shea, Daniel and John C. Green, eds. 2006. *Fountain of Youth: Strategies for Mobilizing America's Young Voters*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Additional readings will be handed out in class, posted on the course Blackboard website, or placed on reserve in Newton Gresham Library.

Exams and Grading: Your grade for this course will be determined by your performance in class and on an electronic discussion board, and on 10 take-home/in-class assignments, two exams, and one 3-5 page paper, as follows:

Class Participation (Attendance & Engagement)	30 pts
Discussion Board Entries	30 pts.
Take-home & In-Class Assignments (10@4 points each)	40 pts
Paper (Due dates vary, see below)	100 pts
Exam #1 (Thursday, October 2 nd)	100 pts
Exam #2 (Thursday, December 18 th)	100 pts

Discussion Board Entries. You are expected to engage in an electronic discussion of on-going political events and how they relate to this class. You are expected to post six (6) original entries (worth a maximum of 4 points each) and six (6) replies (worth a maximum of 1 point each) over the course of the semester. More detailed information on this assignment is posted on the course Blackboard website and will be handed out in class.

Assignments. The take-home/in-class assignments are posted on the course Blackboard website or will be handed out in class. You must be present in class (or have a documented excused absence) to earn credit for these assignments. Each assignment is worth a maximum of 4 points (A=4 points; B=3 points; C=2 points; D=1 point; F=0 points). You are expected to complete 12 of these assignments and turn them in at the beginning of the appropriate class meetings. No late assignments will be accepted. You will receive a grade of zero (0) for each assignment you fail to complete. Your lowest two scores will be dropped from the grade calculation.

Exams. Exams are in-class, closed book, closed notes. The exams will require you to answer several short answer questions and/or at least one longer essay question. You are expected to take the exams at the scheduled times. If you must miss an exam for some legitimate reason, you must contact me **before** the date of the exam if at all possible. Requests to take a make-up exam will require some documentation or other evidence attesting to your circumstances. If you fail to contact me within 24 hours of the date of the missed exam, you automatically forfeit the opportunity to take a makeup exam, and your grade for the exam will be recorded as zero (0).

Paper. You must complete one of the following 5-7 page papers:

Paper #1 (Due Date: October 23rd): Causes of Negative Advertising & Press Coverage

Paper #2 (Due Date: October 30th): Negative Media's Impact on Citizens

Paper #3 (Due Date: November 20th): Youth Voting & Political Parties

Paper #4 (Due Date: December 4th): Youth Political Engagement & Campus Activities

Paper #5 (Due Date: December 11th): Youth Political Participation & Nonpartisan Organizations

By the end of the second week of classes (Friday, September 5th), you must let me know which paper you will be completing (by signing up in class or contacting me via e-mail). Anyone not selecting a paper will be assigned one. You **MUST** complete the paper you select (or are assigned), and may not turn more than the one required paper. More detailed information on this assignment is posted on the course Blackboard website and will be handed out in class.

Course grades will be calculated according to the following scale: A = 360 points or more; B = 320 to 349.999 points; C = 280 to 319.999 points; D = 240 to 279.999 points; F = less than 240 points (*students asking me to calculate their grade for them will be penalized 50 points on their overall course grade*).

Instructor Evaluations: Students will be given the opportunity to complete a course/instructor evaluation form near the end of the semester.

Attendance Policy: Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student at Sam Houston State University. Because class attendance and course grade are demonstrably and positively related, I expect students to attend all class sessions of this course. Regular attendance is important because we will cover information in class that is not found in the texts. Attendance will be taken in every class meeting. If you are absent for any reason, it is your responsibility to become informed on what was covered in class. Please get class notes from a fellow student. It is not my policy to give out my lecture notes.

Academic Dishonesty: All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>.

Americans with Disabilities Act: SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. *NOTE:* No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.pdf.

Religious Holidays: Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code. For a complete listing of the university policy, see: http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf.

Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students are expected to abide by the Classroom Rules of Conduct as outlined by the Dean of Students: <http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>.

CLASS SCHEDULE & READING ASSIGNMENTS

Note: This schedule and the reading assignments are tentative. Changes will be announced in class.

(1) August 28: Voter Turnout

Trends & Causes: Flanigan & Zingale, Chapter 2

Possible Consequences:

Lijphart, Arend. 1997. "Unequal Participation: Democracy's Unresolved Dilemma." *American Political Science Review* 91(1): 1-14. {Available on Blackboard}

Highton, Benjamin and Raymond E. Wolfinger. 2001. "The Political Implications of Higher Turnout." *British Journal of Political Science* 31(1): 179-192. {Available on Blackboard}

Increasing Turnout - Choose **One** of the Following {All Available on Blackboard}:

Addonizio, Elizabeth M., Donald P. Green, James M. Glaser. 2007. "Putting the Party Back into Politics: An Experiment Testing Whether Election Day Festivals Increase Voter Turnout." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 40(4): 721-727.

Boyd, Richard W. 1986. "Elections, Calendars, and Voter Turnout." *American Politics Quarterly* 14(1/2): 89-104.

Demos: A Network for Ideas & Action. 2002. "Expanding the Vote: The Practice and Promise of Election Day Registration."

Gomez, Brad T., Thomas G. Hansford, and George A. Krause. 2007. "The Republicans Should Pray for Rain: Weather, Turnout, and Voting in U.S. Presidential Elections." *Journal of Politics* 69(3): 649-665.

Gronke, Paul Eva Galanes-Rosenbaum, and Peter A. Miller. 2007. "Early Voting and Turnout." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 40(4): 639-645.

Haspel, Moshe and H. Gibb Knotts. 2005. "Location, Location, Location: Precinct Placement and the Costs of Voting." *Journal of Politics* 67(2): 560-573.

Nickerson, David W. 2005. "Partisan Mobilization Using Volunteer Phone Banks and Door Hangers." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. 601: 10-27.

Stein, Robert M. and Greg Vonnahme. 2008. "Engaging the Unengaged Voter: Vote Centers and Voter Turnout." *Journal of Politics* 70(2): 487-497.

(2) September 4: Sources & Stability of Opinions

Political Socialization:

Erikson, Robert S. and Kent L. Tedin. 2003. "Political Socialization and Political Learning." In *American Public Opinion*. 6th ed. New York: Addison Wesley Longman, Inc. Pp. 112-141. {Available on Blackboard}

"Attitude Stability and Attitude Change." Chapter 4 in Clawson, Rosalee and Zoe M. Oxley. 2008. *Public Opinion: Democratic Ideals, Democratic Practice*. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Pp. 95-122. {Available on Blackboard}

Bio-Politics:

Alford, John R., Carolyn L. Funk, and John R. Hibbing. 2005. "Are Political Orientations Genetically Transmitted?" *American Political Science Review* 99(2): 153-167. {Available on Blackboard}

Fowler, James H., Laura A. Baker, and Christopher T. Dawes. 2008. "Genetic Variation in Political Participation." *American Political Science Review* 102(2): 233-248. {Available on Blackboard}

(3) September 11: Sociological Model of Voting

Original Sociological Model

Evans, Jocelyn A. J. 2004. "Social Structural Theories of Voting," Chapter 3 (pp. 42-47) in *Voters and Voting*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. {Available on Blackboard}
WikiSummary: "Berelson, Lazarsfeld, and McPhee: Voting." {Available on Blackboard}
(Skim) Berelson, et al. 1954. *Voting: A Study of Opinion Formation in a Presidential Campaign*. Chicago, IL: Chicago University Press. {Excerpts Available on Blackboard}

Sociological Model Today

Flanigan & Zingale, Chapter 5

(4) September 18: Psychological Model of Voting

Original Psychological Model

Evans, Jocelyn A. J. 2004. "The Historical Development of Voting Studies," Chapter 2 (pp. 23-28) in *Voters and Voting*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. {Available on Blackboard}
WikiSummary: "Campbell, Converse, Miller, and Stokes: The American Voter." {Available on Blackboard}
(Skim) Campbell, Angus, Philip E. Converse, Warren E. Miller, and Donald E. Stokes. 1960. *The American Voter*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. {Excerpts Available on Blackboard}

Psychological Model Today

Flanigan & Zingale, Chapters 3 & 4
Abramowitz, Alan I. and Kyle L. Saunders. 2008. "Is Polarization a Myth?" *Journal of Politics* 70(2): 542-555. {Available on Blackboard}

(5) September 25: Rational Model of Voting

Original Rational Model (and an Update)

Evans, Jocelyn A. J. 2004. "Rational Choice Theories of Voting," Chapter 4 (pp. 71-87) in *Voters and Voting*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. {Available on Blackboard}
WikiSummary: "Downs: An Economic Theory of Democracy." {Available on Blackboard}
(Skim) Downs, Anthony. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. New York: Harper Collins Publishers, Inc. {Excerpts Available on Blackboard}
WikiSummary: "Riker and Ordeshook: A Theory of the Calculus of Voting." {Available on Blackboard}

Public's Ability to Behave Rationally

WikiSummary: "Converse: The Nature of Belief Systems in Mass Publics." {Available on Blackboard}
"Knowledge, Interest, and Attention to Politics." Chapter 7 in Clawson, Rosalee and Zoe M. Oxley. 2008. *Public Opinion: Democratic Ideals, Democratic Practice*. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Pp. 183 - 213. {Available on Blackboard}

Rational Model Today

WikiSummary: "Popkin: The Reasoning Voter." {Available on Blackboard}

(6) October 2: *Exam #1*****

(7) October 9: Vote Choice and Electoral Decisions

Flanigan & Zingale, Chapter 8

(8) October 16: Issues & Opinions

Flanigan & Zingale, Chapter 6

Mulligan, Kenneth. 2008. "The "Myth" of Moral Values Voting in the 2004 Presidential Election."
PS: Political Science and Politics 41(1): 109-114. {Available on Blackboard}

(9) October 23: Media – Negative Advertising & Press Coverage

Kahn & Kenney, Chapters 1-3

Choose one of the following chapters from Swint, Kerwin C. 2006. *Mudslingers: The Top 25 Negative Political Campaigns of All Time*. Westport, CT: Praeger Publishers. {Available on Blackboard}:

"#25: From Vietnam to Iraq: George W. Bush v. John Kerry, President, 2004"

"#22: Electronic Mudslinging: Lyndon Johnson v. Barry Goldwater, President, 1964"

"#13: In This Corner, Little Lord Fauntleroy: John Tower v. Robert Krueger, U.S. Senate, Texas 1978"

"#11: Claytie versus the Lady: Clayton Williams v. Ann Richards, Governor, Texas, 1990"

"#8: America, Meet Willie Horton: George H.W. Bush v. Michael Dukakis, President, 1988"

(10) October 30: Media – Impact on Citizens

Flanigan & Zingale, Chapter 7

Kahn & Kenney, Chapters 4-6

(11) November 6: Election Outcome

To be Determined - see Take Home Assignment for Today

(12) November 13: Young Voters Today

No Readings, View Video: "18 in '08"

(13) November 20: Political Participation of Young Adults, Part I

Shea & Green, Chapters 1-4

(14) November 27: No Class Meeting – Thanksgiving Break

(15) December 4: Political Participation of Young Adults, Part II

Shea & Green, Chapters 5-7

(15) December 11: Political Participation of Young Adults, Part III

Shea & Green, Chapters 8-11

December 18: *Exam #2: 8:00 – 10:00 PM*****