

Campaigns and Elections- GOVT 332

Summer 2021, Main First Session

June 7, 2021 to July 9, 2021

M, T, W, TH 8:30-10:30AM

Instructor: Cammie Jo Bolin

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Office Hours: by appointment

Class Description

Campaigns and elections are the cornerstones of our democracy. Formally, they are the way we select our elected officials; informally they tell us a lot about the American ethos, the preferences of particular demographics, and the future direction of our country. Last year's elections were no different. This class will examine American campaigns and elections through three lenses: the institutional structures that guide them, the candidates and voters that participate in them, and the political scientists that study them.

Course Materials

Required:

Sides, John, Daron Shaw, Matt Grossmann, and Keena Lipsitz. 2015. *Campaigns and Elections: Rules, Reality, Strategy, Choice*. 2nd edition. New York: W. W. Norton and Company.

Streb, Matthew J. 2011. *Rethinking American Electoral Democracy*. 2nd Edition. New York: Routledge.

Other course readings will be available on Canvas.

I know course books can be expensive and that there are many unknowns about library access, etc. for this summer. Please reach out if you have questions about the suitability of earlier, more affordable, editions.

Class Expectations and Policies

Classroom Decorum

Politics can be controversial, especially around election time. I want our classroom to be a space where we can have meaningful and constructive conversations. This requires mutual respect for individual differences and alternative points of view.

Academic Integrity and Courtesy

As a Jesuit, Catholic university, committed to the education of the whole person, Georgetown expects all members of the academic community, students and faculty, to strive for excellence in scholarship and in character. The University spells out the specific minimum standards for academic integrity in its Honor Code, as well as the procedures to be followed if academic dishonesty is suspected. Over and above the honor code, in this course we will seek to create an engaged and passionate learning environment, characterized by respect and courtesy in both our discourse and our ways of paying attention to one another.

Accommodations and Support

When it comes to issues around health and wellness, you may face challenges in your time at Georgetown. It's important to be aware of the resources available to support you, myself included.

- **Accommodations Requests:** If you have a disability that may affect your academic work or well-being and for which accommodations may be necessary, I encourage you to approach me within the first week of the course (or, in other circumstances, as soon as possible after accommodation becomes necessary) so that I can arrange for your needs to be met in this regard. You will also need to contact the Academic Resource Center (<http://academicsupport.georgetown.edu>), located in the Leavey Center.
- **Student Support:** There are many resources on campus and online available to students for support throughout their time at Georgetown, covering physical and mental well-being. You can find a comprehensive list of these resources at <https://studenthealth.georgetown.edu/student-outreach/campus-resources>.
- **Title IX:** I am committed to supporting survivors of sexual misconduct, including relationship violence and sexual assault. Georgetown has a number of fully confidential professional resources who can provide support and assistance to survivors of sexual assault and other forms of sexual misconduct. These professionals can be reached via sarp@georgetown.edu.

Religious Holidays

As stated on Georgetown's Academic Standards page:

"Georgetown University promotes respect for all religions. Any student who is unable to attend classes or to participate in any examination, presentation, or assignment on a given day because of the observance of a major religious holiday (see below) or related travel shall be excused and provided with the opportunity to make up, without unreasonable burden, any work that has been missed for this reason and shall not in any other way be penalized for the absence or rescheduled work. Students will remain responsible for all assigned work. Students should notify professors in writing at the beginning of the semester of religious observances that conflict with their classes. The Office of the Provost, in consultation with Campus Ministry

and the Registrar, will publish, before classes begin for a given term, a list of major religious holidays likely to affect Georgetown students. The Provost and the Main Campus Executive Faculty encourage faculty to accommodate students whose bona fide religious observances in other ways impede normal participation in a course. Students who cannot be accommodated should discuss the matter with an advising dean.”

Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination

As stated in Georgetown’s Faculty Handbook:

“Georgetown University provides educational opportunities without regard to, and does not discriminate on the basis of, age, color, disability, family responsibilities, familial status, gender identity or expression, genetic information, marital status, national origin, personal appearance, political affiliation, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, source of income, veteran’s status or any other factor prohibited by law in its educational programs and activities.”

Requirements and Grading

This course will have 5 graded components:

- We will talk about each grading component in detail before the assignment is due.

Participation: 10%
In-Class Quizzes: 15%
3 Response Papers: 30%
Discussion Leader: 15%
Final paper: 30%

Grading Scale

93 to 100 A	87 to 89.99 B+	77 to 79.99 C+	67 to 69.99 D+
90 to 92.99 A-	83 to 86.99 B	73 to 76.99 C	63 to 66.99 D
	80 to 82.99 B-	70 to 72.99 C-	60 to 62.99 D-
			Below 59.99 F

Grade appeals or changes

If you have a question or concern regarding your performance on an assignment, you should contact me. I am happy to meet with you in office hours to talk about why you received your grade and how you might improve on the next assignment.

With the exception of arithmetic errors in calculating your score, all challenges must be presented in an email statement that concisely expresses why you believe your grade should be altered. This statement must reference the grading rubric (if there is one) to justify the grade change. All concerns - arithmetic or otherwise- relating to a specific assignment must be raised within one week of when the assignment was distributed. After this one-week period, no grade challenges will be entertained. Also, please note that if you appeal a grade on an assignment and I decide to reexamine the assignment, the grade may go up or down. It will be treated as a new grade on the assignment, and all aspects of the assignment are open to reexamination.

Course Schedule

- Readings are listed on the day we will begin discussing them in class. Please complete the readings before class begins on the assigned day.
 - o “C&E” refers to reading from *Campaigns and Elections*
 - o “Streb” refers to reading from *Rethinking American Electoral Democracy*
 - o Additional readings, where applicable, will be posted on Canvas.

WEEK 1: THE AMERICAN SYSTEM

- **Monday, June 7:** Introductions
 - o C&E: Chapter 1
- **Tuesday, June 8:** American Electoral Process
 - o C&E: Chapter 2
- **Wednesday, June 9:** State and Local Elections
 - o C&E: Chapter 11 (p. 302-315)
 - o Streb: Chapter 3
- **Thursday, June 10:** Political Parties
 - o C&E: Chapter 6
- **Friday, June 11: Response Paper 1 due 11:59 pm**

WEEK 2: WHO RUNS AND HOW DO THEY DO IT

- **Monday, June 14:** Gender and Political Ambition
 - o Canvas Readings
- **Tuesday, June 15:** Modern Campaign Strategies
 - o C&E: Chapter 5
- **Wednesday, June 16:** Advertisements
 - o Canvas Readings
- **Thursday, June 17:** When Campaigns Matter
 - o C&E: Chapter 13
- **Friday, June 18: Response Paper 2 due 11:59 pm**

WEEK 3: CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGNS

- **Monday, June 21:** Congress
 - o C&E: Chapter 10 (p. 274-291)
- **Tuesday, June 22:** Incumbency Advantage/term limits:
 - o C&E: Chapter 10 (p. 292-end of chapter)
- **Wednesday, June 23:** Gerrymandering
 - o Streb: Chapter 7
 - o Canvas readings
- **Thursday, June 24:** Representation (race, gender, class, age)
 - o Canvas readings

WEEK 4: PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

- **Monday, June 28:** Presidential Elections (the primary)
 - o C&E: Chapter 9 (p. 236-251)
 - o Streb: Chapter 8
- **Tuesday, June 29:** Presidential Elections (the general)
 - o C&E: Chapter 9 (p. 252-end of chapter)
- **Wednesday, June 30:** The Electoral College
 - o Streb: Chapter 9
- **Thursday, July 1:** Campaign Finance
 - o Streb: Chapter 10
- **Friday, July 2: Response Paper 3 due 11:59 pm**

WEEK 5: VOTERS: WHO VOTES AND WHY

- **Monday, July 5:** Voter Participation
 - o C&E: Chapter 12 (332-354)
 - o Streb: Chapter 2

- **Tuesday, July 6:** Voter Participation continued
 - C&E: Chapter 12 (355-end of chapter)
- **Wednesday, July 7:** Reforms
 - Canvas readings
- **Thursday, July 8:** Get Out the Vote (GOTV)
 - Canvas readings
- **Friday, July 9th, final paper due by 11:59 pm**

****The syllabus is subject to change. In this event, I will make an announcement in class and post a revised syllabus to Canvas.**