

# UNITED STATES NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Political Science 1100-071 Fall Break Intensive Course



Syllabus & Requirements | D. Porter Morgan  
Sandy Campus

October 8th- October 12th

8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

## Contact Information

Email:dpm4@utah.edu, CANVAS Messages

Office/Office Hours:I will be available to talk during breaks, lunch, before and after class. If you have issues to discuss before or after Fall Break, I will be happy to schedule a meeting with you.

## Course Philosophy

Education and knowledge of the government allows us to hold our government accountable. Politics engage people on a daily basis in innumerable ways, whether or not they are aware of the means, implementation and consequences of law and policy. Political science allows us theoretical and practical means by which we can engage politics. Our task in this course is to demystify as much of the theory and practice of American Politics as possible. One of the largest overarching goals of this course is to elevate our current level of knowledge of politics to become better-informed citizens, members of the electorate and participants in the political process. Political education allows us to identify, discuss and change our own political reality and destiny.

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## Objectives

1. We will learn social science theory to approach, analyze and evaluate American politics.
2. We will challenge our own positions concerning politics.
3. We will deconstruct American governmental institutions to understand the functions and dysfunctions of politics.

4. We will examine institutions and groups outside of the government to grasp American politics from a wider perspective.
5. We will reinforce the value of discussing politics in diverse groups that disagree with one another's positions.

## Required Texts

Theodore J. Lowi, Benjamin Ginsberg, Kenneth A. Shepsle, and Stephen Ansolabehere, *American Government: Power and Purpose*, 13th Core Edition (without Social, Economic and Foreign policy chapters), W.W. Norton, 2013. I will use the short hand "P&P" for power and purpose to reference this book. This textbook is not the most current edition. I chose an earlier edition to save you, the students, about \$60.00. However, in the course of this class, we will cover current events and apply the fundamentals in this older edition to our current political landscape. You may purchase a more current edition; however, they chapter numbers may be inconsistent with this syllabus. In that case, please consult the content of the chapters and adjust accordingly. The topics will be the same.

Students **must** have their texts prior to class. It is required that students read multiple chapters from the textbook before they attend the first day of class. The campus bookstore will have these prior to class. I recommend having your book one week before class begins. Please order your books in advance and ensure they are delivered to you accordingly.

## CANVAS

ESSENTIAL: Learn how to navigate CANVAS before class begins. It will be a skill that assists you throughout your time at the University

of Utah. We will use CANVAS for the following essential coursework, though there may be other uses throughout semester:

- Assignment descriptions
- Reading quizzes
- A study guide for the midterm/final
- Grades and Comments on your papers
- Announcements
- Etc.

There may be technical problems with CANVAS. Let me know if there are any issues as soon as possible.

For network issues you can contact Campus IT:

Campus IT Help Desk URL:

<http://it.utah.edu/services/helpDesk/index.html>

Campus IT Help Desk Phone: 801-581-4000 option 1

## Other Required Materials

You will need (2) two Blue Books found that can be purchased at the campus bookstore for the midterm and final respectively.

At times I will ask students to use their phones/devices for class room activities, however if anyone does not have access to such devices, then their participation grade will not be negatively affected.

## Readings, Assignments, Participation, Exams, and Grading

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### Grade Breakdown

Reading Quizzes 14%

Paper Assignments 30%

Midterm Examination 15%

Final Examination 30%

Participation 11%

Extra Credit- a maximum of 12 points (not percentage points) added to your examinations

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## Readings

Readings must be done prior to class. The textbook readings are a necessary foundation for classroom discussion. The assigned articles and readings will be the centerpiece of discussion on the most important subjects discussed in class. They must be read for you reading quizzes and participation. I suggest you take notes on the chapters (or at least annotate your textbook) to make the reading quizzes more manageable. Other articles will be found on CANVAS in the FILES section.

## Assignments

There will be a single three-part political writing assignment. This will be discussed in class, however the concept behind this assignment is opposition research. The description of the assignments will be found in CANVAS. All papers will be turned in electronically.

Grade Breakdown for the paper assignment

30% Total- 5% Passion Paper, 10% Opposition Research, 15% Reverse Opposition- Formatting will be included on assignment sheets/announcements

1. Passion Paper: Pick on issue that makes you angry, ecstatic, disgusted and write a 1-page paper with at least 3 supporting statements for your position. The passion paper is due October 9th by 6:00 a.m. online.
2. Opposition Research: Take statement you made in your first paper and prove it wrong. Your thesis for this statement for this paper will be the opposite of your Passion Paper. Every

statement you made is wrong according to this assignment.  
Due October 11th at 6:00 a.m. online.

3. Reverse Opposition: You sharpen your original thesis with the information from your Opposition Research paper. Contend against your Opposition Research paper's findings statement by statement, therefore creating a strong passionate political position. Due October 15<sup>th</sup> by 11:59 p.m. online

## Examinations

Examinations will account for a total of 45% of your grade. Details on test format will be given during class as well as study guides. The examinations will be taken during class sessions at the end of Wednesday and Friday.

## Participation

Participation in an intensive course is mandatory and unexcused absence is severely punished. Missing a day is equivalent to missing weeks of class. Attendance will be taken daily. Missing an entire session will result in no participation points for the entire course. Should emergencies occur, communicating with me is the best way to salvage your participation score and I will happily work with you. Late attendance or leaving early will be reflected heavily in your participation score.

## Extra credit

There will likely be no extra credit during the week session, however during the entire spring semester the Hinckley Institute of Politics brings academics, ambassadors and writers from all over the world to speak to the University of Utah students. You may gain up to 12 extra credit points (applied to your final) by attending and entire session at the Hinckley Institute and writing a 1 page opinion paper

on what you learned and how the session made you a more informed student.

#### Grade Break Down

|                  |                  |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>%=Grade</b>   | <b>87-89%=B+</b> | <b>77-79%=C+</b> | <b>67-69+=D+</b> |
| <b>100-93%=A</b> | <b>83-86%=B</b>  | <b>73-76%=C</b>  | <b>63-66%=D</b>  |
| <b>90-92%=A-</b> | <b>80-82%=B-</b> | <b>70-72%=C-</b> | <b>60-62%=D-</b> |

## Class Policies

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**Porter is reasonable:** The preeminent and first rule is that I am reasonable and will work with any student over any policy, any misunderstanding. I will help whenever I am able. Communication (I prefer face to face) with me can resolve a lot of issues, reduce your anxiety and support your education. Always keep in mind that telling me about an issue prior to a due date will be viewed in a far more favorable light than excuses after the fact.

**Food and Drink:** Food and drink will be permitted so long as they are not distracting i.e. potato chips, an entire extra value meal (smell), loud packaging. Also, keep in mind, we have regular breaks, discussion sessions and an hour for lunch.

**Policy on Late Papers, Unsubmitted Work and Incompletes:** Papers will be accepted on the date due and time. Failure to complete any assignment will result in failure of the course. A grade of Incomplete is only available in cases of documented emergency or medical condition. Papers must be submitted through Canvas as MS Word or .pdf compatible files.

**Academic Misconduct:** All quotes must be cited as such and include a clear reference to the work from which they were drawn; they will otherwise be treated as plagiarism. All use of materials other than course materials must be accompanied by full citations. All work in this course is assigned as individual work; working as groups or teams is strongly discouraged (and may be treated as cheating), as is all but the most casual assistance from others; this includes parents, spouses and other family members. Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the course and other disciplinary action, up to expulsion from the University.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement:** The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

**Wellness Statement:** Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive at the University of Utah. For helpful resources contact the Center for Student Wellness - [www.wellness.utah.edu](http://www.wellness.utah.edu); 801-581-7776.

### **Veterans Center**

If you are a student veteran, I want you to know that the U of Utah has a Veterans Support Center on campus. They are located in Room 161 in the Olpin Union Building. Hours: M-F 8-5pm. Please visit their website for more information about what support they offer, a list of ongoing events and links to outside resources: <http://veteranscenter.utah.edu/>. Please also let me know if you need any additional support in this class for any reason.

### **LGBT Resource Center**

If you are a member of the LGBTQ community, I want you to know that my classroom is a safe zone\*. Additionally, please know that the U of Utah has an LGBT Resource Center on campus. They are located in Room 409 in the Oplin

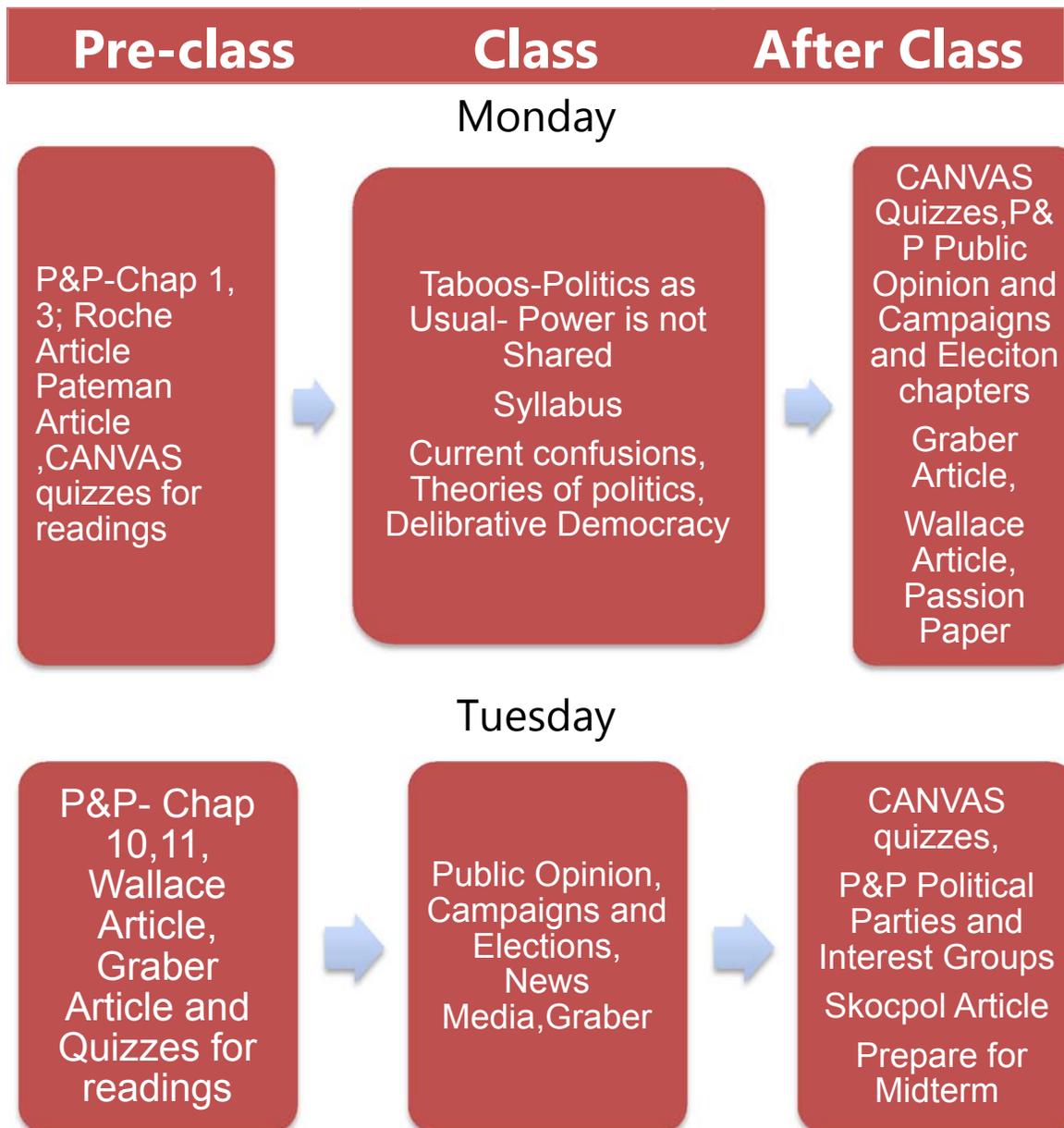
Union Building. Hours: M-F 8-5pm. You can visit their website to find more information about the support they can offer, a list of events through the center and links to additional resources: <http://lgbt.utah.edu/>. Please also let me know if there is any additional support you need in this class.

### **Learners of English as an Additional/Second Language**

If you are an English language learner, please be aware of several resources on campus that will support you with your language development and writing. These resources include: the Department of Linguistics ESL Program (<http://linguistics.utah.edu/esl-program/>); the Writing Center (<http://writingcenter.utah.edu/>); the Writing Program (<http://writing-program.utah.edu/>); the English Language Institute (<http://continue.utah.edu/eli/>). Please let me know if there is any additional support you would like to discuss for this class.

Before your first day of class, you must read the first three chapters and an article found on the course (Roche) CANVAS page.

## Reading and Assignment Schedule



**Pre-class                      Class                      After Class**

**Wednesday**

CANVAS quizzes,  
P&P Political Parties and Interest Groups  
Skocpol Article



Political Parties, Interest Groups  
Foreign Policy  
Midterm



CANVAS quizzes,  
Opposition Research Paper, Read P&P  
Congress, Exec Branch, Presidency and Judiciary

**Thursday**

CANVAS quizzes,  
Opposition Research Paper, Read P&P  
Congress, Exec Branch, Presidency and Judiciary



Branches of Government,  
Myths of SoP



CANVAS quizzes - P&P Civil Liberties/Rights, Social Policy, Romer Article  
Prepare for Final

**Friday**

CANVAS quizzes - P&P Civil Liberties/Rights, Social Policy, Romer Article  
Prepare for Final



Civil Liberties, Civil Rights, Social Policy, Economic policy  
Final



Reverse Opposition Research Paper Due Monday 11:59p

Reverse Opposition Research Paper due Monday 11:59 p.m. at  
my office.

Amazing! You are done! Thank you!