

POL 311 – Political Parties and Public Opinion (WI)

Instructor: Dr. Young Hun Kim

Contact Information:

Class: online

Course Description

This is a writing intensive undergraduate course designed to introduce students to the citizen's role within the democratic process. More specifically, this course will focus on citizen's patterns of participation, values, ideological orientations, political parties, party support bases, elections, and voting behavior. In addition, the course will ask whether citizen's participation overall is in decline and what effects it may have on democracy if it is.

"The only purpose of education is to teach a student how to live his life-by developing his mind and equipping him to deal with reality. The training he needs is theoretical, i.e., conceptual. He has to be taught to think, to understand, to integrate, to prove. He has to be taught the essentials of the knowledge discovered in the past-and he has to be equipped to acquire further knowledge by his own effort" (Ayn Rand, 1905-1982).

Text and Readings

There is one required text for this course. It is available at the college bookstore.

Dalton, Russell J. 2020. *Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies*. 7th edition. Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Press. [In the rest of the syllabus, this book will be referred to by **Dalton**]

Also, students are strongly encouraged to read The New York Times (<http://www.nytimes.com>), Washington Post (<http://www.washingtonpost.com>), or other newspapers on a daily basis to keep track of current developments in American and Comparative politics and International Relations.

Requirements

- **Exams: 45%**

Three online exams (two midterms and one final) will be given for this course. These consist of short answer questions (further details on the exam format will be announced later). Many of exam questions will come from homework assignments (see below). All students must take the exams in order to complete this course successfully. The first midterm will become available from November 2 to 4, second midterm from November 16 to 18, and the final from December 7 to 9. The second midterm and final are not cumulative. Each exam is worth 15% of a student's overall grade.

- **Homework assignments: 30%**

Students should complete six homework assignments to be submitted via *my.ncwc.edu* every Monday except for the first week. The assignments are based on the assigned readings. Answers should be as detailed and professional as possible and come from the textbook with proper citations. If answers are from online sources, have excessive typos, and/or lack citations, I will deduct some or all points.

Students will have at least one week to do each homework assignment.

I will post graded assignments to the course website in a timely manner. Note that it is very important for students to read and understand my feedback on answers. Each homework is worth 4.28% of a student's overall grade and no late submission will be accepted. More details on the homework assignments will be announced as the session progresses.

- **Research Proposal: 15%**

There will be one academic research proposal. Any topics pertaining to political parties and public opinion will be accepted (more details about the research proposal will be discussed later). To get feedback and approval from me, students should submit a one-page long research proposal by November 13 (Saturday). There will be a 10% grade deduction for failure to do so.

The final proposal, not exceeding 10 double spaced pages in length, should be typed and uploaded in a Word file on *my.ncwc.edu* by December 6 (Monday). I will put comments and a grade and email it back to students. Failure to follow the instructions will result in no grade. No late submissions will be accepted. Students are strongly encouraged to submit a draft and get feedback from me. These drafts should be submitted several days before the deadline so that I can have enough time to read. Also, students may utilize the Writing Center, which offers both online and face-to-face tutoring.

- **Forum participation: 10%**

Students should participate in a weekly forum starting the second week. In the forum, students need to post three brief summaries on three contemporary political events related to political parties and public opinion around the world (i.e., one summary for each event). Then they also need to post three comments to other students' summaries. The summaries are due every Sunday and the comments, every Monday. More details on this requirement will be announced later. Each forum participation is worth 1.42% of a student's overall grade.

Grading Scale

Letter grade	Numeric grade	Quality points
A	94–100	4.0
A-	90–93	3.7
B+	87–89	3.3
B	83–86	3.0
B-	80–82	2.7
C+	77–79	2.3
C	73–76	2.0
C-	70–72	1.7
D+	66–69	1.3

D	60–65	1.0
F	below 60	0

Grade Appeal Policy

Students are welcome to appeal their grade, which should be done within one week after graded exams are given back.

Makeup Exam Policy

No makeup exams will be allowed unless written proof is provided of a serious emergency (e.g., hospitalization, death of a parent). In such cases, students must contact me as soon as possible (when possible, prior to the exam). Failure to do so will result in an F for the exam.

Academic Dishonesty

North Carolina Wesleyan College is committed to intellectual integrity in its academic pursuits. The college's policy prohibits all forms of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is normally defined by, though not necessarily limited to, the following:

- Cheating: defined as using inappropriate sources of information on a test or assignment.
- Plagiarism: defined as presenting, as one's own, the ideas, works or products of another.
- Falsification: defined as a statement of untruth, either verbal or written, regarding any circumstances relative to academic work
- Attempting any act which if completed would constitute an academic integrity violation as defined above

The academic dishonesty policy, as stated in the North Carolina Wesleyan College catalog, applies to all courses, regardless of learning format. The academic dishonesty policy also applies to any assignment or exam submitted by a student, whether in person or by electronic means.

APS Attendance Policy

APS classes are accelerated and are offered in 8-week and 5-week sessions. Because of this, students are required to attend every class session. Missing any class will have a negative impact on the student's learning and course performance. In the event of an absence, the student is required to notify the instructor ahead of time and follow the instructor's course of action for dealing with the missed class time. This may include the completion of additional assignments or a reduction in the final grade due to the missed class. An instructor or campus director may administratively withdraw any student who misses more than twenty-percent of a course (6 hours for an 8-week course, 4 hours for a 5-week course) before the withdrawal deadline. If a student misses more than twentypercent of a course after the withdrawal deadline, the student will receive an "F" in the course unless it is for documented medical reasons. A student who is administratively withdrawn, under any circumstances, for missing more than twenty-percent of a course will be responsible for

payment of the full tuition for that course. Ultimately, it is the instructor's decision to determine how to handle absences.

The College reserves the right to administratively withdraw any student not attending the first class meeting. Any student administratively withdrawn for this reason after the drop period will be responsible for payment of the full tuition for that course.

Note: Absences of any kind and length in an accelerated class should be avoided. This instructor strongly endorses the APS Attendance Policy, and reserves the right to review the circumstances involved in any student absence to determine an appropriate course of action.

Disabilities

North Carolina Wesleyan College seeks to fully comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to speak privately with the Instructor and contact Counseling and Disability Service at 252-985-5369 or 252-985-5178 as soon as possible to coordinate and implement accommodations in a timely fashion. Counseling and Disability Services is located in the Hardee's Building on the Rocky Mount Campus. Students requesting accommodations must contact the Counseling & Disability Services Office who will determine the appropriate accommodations.

Disruptive Academic Behavior (Not Applicable to This Course)

North Carolina Wesleyan College is committed to providing each student with a rich, distinctive educational experience. To this end, students who do not follow reasonable standards of behavior in the classroom may be removed from the course following appropriate notice. Examples of disruptive academic behavior include, but are not limited to, making loud or distracting noises; using cell phones and other electronic devices without prior approval; repeatedly speaking without being recognized; frequently arriving late to class; and making threats or personal insults. A verbal expression of disagreement with me or other students on an academic matter that is discussed within the course during a time that I have permitted is not in itself disruptive academic behavior.

Religious Accommodations Policy

North Carolina Wesleyan College accommodates a student's religious practices and observances. I will excuse absences that result from religious observances and practices and provide, without penalty, an option to reschedule exams and additional required class work in a timely manner.

Class Schedule

I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus as the course progresses. Students are responsible for keeping up with these changes. Please check an NCWC email account and/or the class site on *my.ncwc.edu* regularly.

Week of

Topic: Introduction

Preparation: read chapter 1 in Dalton

Work Due: Take a quiz based on the course syllabus and post a paragraph discussing US public opinion on any issue for extra credit and attendance (due

Week of

Topics: The Nature of Mass Beliefs

Preparation: read chapter 2 in Dalton

Requirements: homework assignment 1 (due

Week of

Topics: How We Participate

Preparation: read chapter 3 in Dalton

Requirements: homework assignment 2 (due first midterm (due

Week of

Topics: Who Participates; Values in Change

Preparation: read chapters 4 and 5 in Dalton

Requirements: homework assignment 3 (due one-page research proposal (due

Week of

Topics: Issue and Ideological Orientations; Elections and Political Parties

Preparation: read chapters 6 and 7 in Dalton

Requirements: homework assignment 4 (due), second midterm (due

Week of

Topics: The Social Bases of Party Support; Participation and Voting

Preparation: read chapters 8 and 9 in Dalton

Requirements: homework assignment 5 (due

Week of

Topics: Attitudes and Voting Choice; Political Representation

Preparation: read chapters 10 and 11 in Dalton

Requirements: homework assignment 6 (due

Week of

Topics: Citizens and the Democratic Process

Preparation: read chapter 12 in Dalton

Requirements: homework assignment 7 (due), research proposal (due), final (due