FOCUS

This course explores the political behavior of minority voters and political actors in American politics. Specifically, attention will be paid to the ongoing demographic shifts in the population of the United States and the impact that it is and will have on the American political system; party identification and political participation; social movements; representation and, political attitudes, values, and beliefs.

TEXTS

Required:


Recommended:


There will be additional readings handed out over the course of the semester.

REQUIREMENTS

Midterm Examination 30%

Research Paper 20%

Final Examination 30%
The midterm examination and the final examination are both in essay format.

CLASS POLICIES

1) Students are responsible for all materials covered in the lectures and assigned readings. You must read the relevant chapters before the lecture pertaining to those readings.

2) Failure to attend class, tardiness and failure to participate in class discussion will negatively affect your grade in this class (class citizenship portion of the course grade).

3) Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated, and will be punished to the fullest extent allowable by the Academic Committee at the University of St. Thomas. (See Below)

4) Other than in exceptional cases of personal or family emergencies, no make-up exams will be given for students missing any of the regularly scheduled assignments during the semester. Every calendar late that an assignment is will result in a reduction of a full letter grade.

5) A grade of “I” (Incomplete) will not be given in this course except in the most extraordinary of circumstances.

PLAGIARISM

The following are some dictionary definitions of plagiarism:

• “The action of copying someone else’s idea or work or pretending that you thought of it or created it” (Collins).

• “To take words, ideas, etc., from someone else’s work and use them in one’s own work without admitting one has done so” (Longman).

• “To steal or pass off as one’s own the ideas or words of another” (Webster).

Plagiarism also includes:

• “Double-dipping - This is submitting a paper or other assignment which had previously earned credit from another course.”

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2 Dr. Miguel Roig (University of St. Thomas Spring 2004 Faculty Study Day Speaker, January 12, 2004.
• “Text recycling - Reusing in a new assignment large portions of a previously submitted paper(s) or other written assignment (computer code, speech, etc.) without acknowledging their former use.”

Common student misconceptions on plagiarism³:

• “Many students believe that as long as a citation is included, they can simply appropriate portions of text from another source and use that text as their own writing.”

• “Many are also confused as to what constitutes common knowledge believing that anything on the internet is common knowledge.”

Some General Tips to Students⁴:

• Citation Guidelines

  - Common Knowledge: Did you look up the information? If so, then a citation is needed

  - An emphasis should be placed on proper paraphrasing *(This will be discussed in greater detail when the paper topics are handed out).*

• Student assignments should always be crafted and turned in with the understanding that the professor will be operating under the assumption that:

  - unless otherwise properly noted in the assignment, the assignment submitted is the student’s own.

  - the representation of their own or others’ work is accurate (e.g., data fabrication).

  - that the assignment turned in/presented is exclusive to that course.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS, LECTURES, AND EXAMS

August 24 - Introduction to the Course

Topic One: Demography is Destiny! Or…You Just Never Know… (Bowler and Segura, Chapter 1)

³ Dr. Miguel Roig (University of St. Thomas Spring 2004 Faculty Study Day Speaker, January 12, 2004.
⁴ Dr. Miguel Roig (University of St. Thomas Spring 2004 Faculty Study Day Speaker, January 12, 2004.
**Topic Two:** Demography, Identity, and a Changing America: A Not So Simple Explanation of Rapid Change (Bowler and Segura, Chapter 2)

**Topic Three:** Electoral Competition and the Democratic Reliance on Minority Vote (Bowler and Segura, Chapter 3)

**Topic Four:** Party Identification and the Two-Party Vote among Minority Citizens (Bowler and Segura, Chapter 4)

**Topic Five:** The Political Distinctiveness of American Minorities (Bowler and Segura, Chapter 5)

**Topic Six:** Taking Part in Politics: The Essence of Democracy (Bowler and Segura, Chapter 6)

**Topic Seven:** Participation Beyond Voting and Minority Politic (Bowler and Segura, Chapter 7)

**Topic Eight:** Representation: Representatives, Elections, and Electoral Reform (Bowler and Segura, Chapter 8)

**Topic Nine:** Core Orientations to the Political System (Bowler and Segura, Chapter 9)

**Topic Ten:** Values and Beliefs: Is There a “Culture War” Across Racial and Ethnic Groups? (Bowler and Segura, Chapter 10)

**Topic Eleven:** Immigration and Its Discontents (Bowler and Segura, Chapter 11)

**Topic Twelve:** Intergroup Conflict and Cooperation (Bowler and Segura, Chapter 12)

**Topic Thirteen:** “We Have Seen the Future, and the Future is Ours” (Bowler and Segura, Chapter 13)

**Important Dates:**
- No Class, Monday, September 7, Labor Day
- No Class, Monday, October 12, Fall Break
- Monday, October 19, Midterm Examination
- No Class, 2015 CSOTTE Annual Conference, October 26
- No Class, Wednesday, November 25 and Friday, November 27, Thanksgiving Break
- Last Day of Class, Monday, December 7
- Research Paper is due on December 7
- Wednesday, December 9, Final Examination, 8:00-10:30AM
PAPER REQUIREMENTS

The paper must be 8 to 10 pages in length (graduate students, 15 to 20 pages in length). It must be typed, double-spaced, paginated, stapled and must use an academically accepted format for footnotes, citations and reference pages. A list of possible paper topics will be handed out next week. The topic, once chosen, will have to be turned in to the instructor on October 19. This will have to be accompanied by a brief bibliography. Since this is a research project, 6 to 8 sources must be cited, with at least four being from recent scholarly publications. In addition, periodicals, magazines and newspapers may be used. Some of the major scholarly journals in political science are:

American Political Science Review
American Journal of Political Science
Journal of Politics
Political Behavior
Public Opinion Quarterly
American Politics Research
Legislative Studies Quarterly
Presidential Studies Quarterly
Congress & the Presidency
PS: Political Science & Politics
Perspectives in Politics
Review of Politics
Political Research Quarterly
Policy Studies Review
Journal of Public Policy
Policy Studies
State Politics and Policy Quarterly
Southeastern Political Review
Polity

Examples of other sources are periodicals such as The Brookings Review, and Cato; magazines such as The New Republic, The Progressive, and The National Review; and newspapers such as the New York Times, the Washington Post, The Christian Science Monitor and the Washington Times.