

Syllabus for
GOV 370 Area Studies: Politics of Public Opinion
3 Credit Hours
Summer 2017

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Focuses on a specific area of the world, such as Asia or Latin American. Content varies.

In the United States, the views of the “public” are presumed to inform political decision making. By examining public opinion in contemporary American politics, this course seeks answers to the following questions: Where does public opinion come from? How is public opinion measured? What is the public’s opinion on various salient policy issues? Does politics impact opinion formation? Does public opinion impact policymaking.

II. COURSE GOALS

This course enables the student to do the following:

- A. To provide students with experience and knowledge in engaging political campaigns and elections from the perspective of a professional practitioner.
- B. To provide students with experience and knowledge in engaging political campaigns and elections from the perspective of a research specialist.
- C. To provide students with experience and knowledge in engaging political campaigns and elections from the perspective of a candidate.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Terminal Objectives
 - 1. Experience a political campaign or election firsthand.
 - 2. Understand historical trends of campaigns and elections.
 - 3. Understand campaigns and election within their contemporary context.
 - 4. To understand the roll of various actors and institutions in elections and campaigns, including the role of strategy, money, issues, media, groups, parties, consultants, rules, and voting behavior.

IV. TEXTBOOKS

- A. Required Materials
NONE

*Assigned readings will be required but are available online or via the ORU Library

- B. Optional Materials
NONE

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- A. University Policies and Procedures
 - 1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student’s grade or deny credit for the course.

2. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
3. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
 - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
 - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
 - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
 - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
 - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.

By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.
4. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
5. Students are to be in compliance with University, school, and departmental policies regarding the Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the Whole Person Assessment handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
 - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an artifact is a zero for that assignment.
 - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

B. Department Policies and Procedures

1. **Tardies**—Tardies are an inconvenience to the other class members and the professor, and they prevent the late student from obtaining maximum value from the class. Therefore, excessive tardies may adversely affect the semester grade. It is to the student's advantage to make sure that the professor is informed immediately following the close of the class that the student was tardy and not absent. It is not the professor's responsibility to stop the class to mark the tardy; the student is the one responsible for conveying that information immediately following that class, not at a later time.
2. **Incompletes**—As stated in the University catalog, incompletes are granted only for "good cause," such as extended hospitalization, long-term illness, or a death in the family. Students must petition for an incomplete using the form available in the History, Humanities, and Government Department. Very few incompletes are granted.
3. **Late Work**
 - a. The student is responsible for obtaining class assignments and material covered during an absence. All work must be completed as scheduled. Late work may result in a lower grade. An absence is not an excuse for turning in late work or

for being unprepared with assignments for the class following the absence. Computer or printer malfunction does not constitute an excuse for late work; students should have their work prepared in time to ensure that they can get it proofread, edited, and printed prior to the instructor's due date. Any test taken late incurs a \$15 late-test fee. These responsibilities assist the student in professional development.

- b. Each instructor has his or her own late-work policy that is given to students at the beginning of a course. Instructors use their own judgment in accepting late work resulting from all other absences. In cases where these absences can be anticipated, such as for non-University sponsored mission trips, the work should normally be submitted prior to the absence. In unanticipated absences, such as sickness or family crises, the instructor should be notified as soon as possible and agreement reached on due dates and possible penalties.

Dr. Ellis' Late Policy: All late work is accepted. Late work is penalized 10 points per-day (no more than 50 points).

- 4. **Attendance**—Because unavoidable circumstances can prevent perfect attendance, each student is allowed to miss class the number of times per week a class meets. This allowance is for absences such as illness, personal business, and emergency. The student may consider this "sick leave." If a student has absences in excess of this number, the earned grade for the course may be affected. A student who leaves class before dismissal may be marked absent. Extended illnesses are handled on an individual basis and require verification from a doctor.

Dr. Ellis' Attendance Policy: 20% of the Participation grade will be deducted for every unexcused absence beyond 2 absences (excused or unexcused). Meaning, if you know you will have multiple excused absences, do not take unexcused days off.

- 5. **Administratively Excused Absences**—Only absences that are required by approved University activities are given administrative excuses. Students who must miss class for University-sponsored activities must follow these procedures:
 - a. Inform the professor before the event and make arrangement for the work to be submitted prior to the absence or at a mutually agreed upon deadline.
 - b. Present an administrative excuse form with appropriate signatures when he or she returns to class. Doctors' or nurses' notes, or letters from groups sponsoring mission trips or activities do not qualify a student for an administratively excused absence.
 - c. Obtain information covered during an absence. All work must be completed as scheduled.
 - d. Not commit to class presentation (oral reports, speeches, group presentations, etc.) on a date that the student will be gone. Makeup work is not permitted if the student voluntarily committed to a performance on the date of an administratively excused absence.
- 6. **Extra Credit**—Students should not expect extra credit to help raise a grade.
- 7. **Plagiarism** – Each student attending Oral Roberts University is required to do his or her own academic work and must not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments. Students must document all sources and ideas that are not their own original information by following correct APSA (American Political Science Association) documentation procedures. A copy of the APSA style guide will be available to students via D2L and [can be downloaded online directly from the APSA](#).

Failure to do this produces a plagiarized paper, which results in an F for the paper. A detailed and correctly formatted works cited page must be submitted with every paper. Flagrant cheating results in an F for the course.

8. **Whole Person Assessment** – An ePortfolio assignment is not required.

C. Other Course Policies and Procedures

1. Students are responsible for assigned readings. Further, students are expected to attend all class meeting and participate in class discussions. It is each student's personal responsibility to sign the attendance sheet each class meeting.
2. **Laptop/electronic device policy:** You will frequently make use of computers in this course to conduct research. Please be respectful of your instructors and peers by using your computers only for class-related purposes. Please also make sure to put your phone away before class starts and not take it out during class (except in case of emergency).
Laptops, cell phones, and other electronic devices may otherwise not be used during class without the permission of the instructor. You should therefore make sure to print all readings before class. This policy is motivated by the growing body of research which finds that the [use of laptops hinders learning](#) not just for the people who use them but the students around them as well. Multitasking is unfortunately [distracting and cognitively taxing](#). In addition, research suggests that students take notes [more effectively](#) writing in longhand than when they type on laptops.
3. Students are expected to prepare for each class session by studying and reading the material assigned in the course schedule prior to the lecture/class period in order to make positive contributions to the class discussions. Students also are expected to take and review their notes systematically – at least once each week.
4. Students are responsible for additional assignments as made in class.
5. Students are evaluated on each writing and research project for their knowledge of class lectures, the assigned readings, independent thought, and writing skills.
6. Evaluation Procedures:
 - a. All course activities and assignments count toward student grades. Points earned for each activity or assignments are accumulated for the semester.
 - b. The grading scales is as follows:
A=90-100% B=80-89.99% C=70-70.99% D=60-60.99% F<60
7. Semester grades will be available in D2L and computed as follows:

Participation & Attendance	20%
- Attendance and class contributions	
Quizzes/Homework Assignments	50%
Survey Project Contribution	30%

Detailed descriptions of these items will be given to students and made available on D2L

VII. COURSE CALENDAR (*Subject to Change*)

Day	Topic
July 10	Introduction to Course Introduction to D2L Introduction to Politics Introduction to Public Opinion
July 11	What is Public Opinion? How is Public Opinion Measured? Using Survey Monkey
July 12	Survey Design Survey Interpretation
July 13	Development of Political Views The Role of Self-Interest Public Opinion Formation
July 14	The Role of Race and Ethnicity
July 17	Media Influence Ideology
July 18	Partisanship Political Polarization
July 19	Political Information and Heuristics
July 20	Public Opinion on Selected Policy Issues
July 21	Public Opinion and Public Policy

Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes
Public Administration—GOV 341
Fall 2015

This course contributes to the ORU student learning outcomes as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

No Contribution – Does not address the outcome.

The Student Learning Glossary at <http://ir.oru.edu/doc/glossary.pdf> defines each outcome and each of the proficiencies/capacities.

	OUTCOMES & Proficiencies/Capacities	Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
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1	Outcome #1—Spiritually Alive Proficiencies/Capacities				
1A	Biblical knowledge			X	
1B	Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit			X	
1C	Evangelistic capability			X	
1D	Ethical behavior	X			

2	Outcome #2—Intellectually Alert Proficiencies/Capacities				
2A	Critical thinking	X			
2B	Information literacy	X			
2C	Global & historical perspectives		X		
2D	Aesthetic appreciation			X	
2E	Intellectual creativity		X		

3	Outcome #3—Physically Disciplined Proficiencies/Capacities				
3A	Healthy lifestyle		X		
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle		X		

4	Outcome #4—Socially Adept Proficiencies/Capacities				
4A	Communication skills	X			
4B	Interpersonal skills	X			
4C	Appreciation of cultural & linguistic differences		X		
4D	Responsible citizenship	X			
4E	Leadership capacity	X			