



## Expectations

College is an environment in which you learn how to manage your time and set your priorities. I do not take attendance. There is, however, a strong correlation between course attendance and performance (not to mention that a substantial portion of exam material is drawn from lectures). Part of your grade will also come exclusively from in-class quizzes. If you choose to come to class, you should do so responsibly. I fully expect that you will have done any assigned readings before coming to class. Class is much more interesting when you engage with both your instructor and the material. I also expect that you make a reasonable effort to maintain classroom decorum by refraining from reading newspapers, doing crossword puzzles, sleeping, texting, or playing on whatever social network/game/trend that I'm oblivious to. Please silence all cell phones. These ideas are formally outlined in the Auburn University Classroom Behavior policy: see [tinyurl.com/au-st-pol](http://tinyurl.com/au-st-pol) for more details. Consist with Auburn University policy, I encourage class attendance from all students.

## Required Materials

There are no required texts. However, I'm going to ask you to read weekly articles, selections from Wikipedia, news articles, and other selections to help supplement our classroom discussion. Please do these readings. If the readings are a scholarly article or book chapter, I will post them on **Canvas**. I understand this reading is fairly technical and complex; accordingly, I'll post a reading guide with each article. You are responsible for reading the assigned reading by the *Monday* of that week of class.

## Assignments

The course is divided into the following components:

In-class quizzes	20%
Policy memos	20%
Midterm examination	30%
Final examination	30%
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 100%

In order, those components are ...

**In-class quizzes:** each week, you are assigned reading. Most weeks, this will be academic (as in written by political scientists) articles on the nature of organizing, political parties, and interest groups. You are expected to do these readings and to contribute to the class discussion around them. As an extra incentive to do the readings, there will be unannounced quizzes at least six times through the semester. They will cover straightforward questions from the readings. They will be in a variety of styles. Only your four highest grades will count toward your final grade. These quizzes are also meant to be useful material to study for the exams. (Each quiz is worth 5% of your overall grade, for a total of 5% \* 4 quizzes = 20%.)

**Policy memos:** the beauty of this course is that its fingerprints are *all over* American politics. Parties and interest groups are two of the most important determinants of public policy and political discourse. As such, you'll be responsible for writing two policy memos. For each memo, you will be writing from the perspective of a political party operative/interest group representative. You will need to outline the policy landscape, summarize popular (media) coverage of the policy, connect that coverage to the political science theories we will discuss in class, and make a recommendation. (Each memo is worth 10% of your overall grade, for a total of 10% \* 2 memos = 20%.)

More specific instructions, including length and formatting, will be available on **Canvas**. You can (but are not required to) submit one rough draft of each memo for comments from the instructor before your final submission. If you want to do this, it must be submitted one week before the due date.

The *party* memo is due on March 25, which means a rough draft (if desired) must be submitted by March 18.

The *interest group* memo is due on April 28, which means a rough draft (if desired) must be submitted by April 22.

**Midterm examination:** there is a midterm exam on March 3. Details of the midterm exam can be found under the assignment on **Canvas**.

**Final examination:** there is a final exam on May 3. See the final exam schedule at [tinyurl.com/AU-S-Finals-2022](http://tinyurl.com/AU-S-Finals-2022). Details of the final exam can be found under the assignment on **Canvas**.

I do not believe in closed-book exams. The exams will be open-book, open-note, and taken on **Canvas**. However, I have absolutely zero tolerance for two things: cheating (taking the answers from others) and plagiarizing. Both earn an automatic zero for the entire exam.

## Makeups and Grades

Writing assignments and homework assignments must be turned in, electronically, on the day assigned. Makeup examinations will only be offered to those with a University excused absence, which can be found at [tinyurl.com/au-st-pol](http://tinyurl.com/au-st-pol). It is your responsibility to ensure that your absence is covered by the University, and it is your responsibility to comply with all policies. These policies require that you notify me of your absence prior to the date of absence if such notification is feasible, but within one week from the missed class. Your makeup examination must be scheduled within two weeks of this notification (though I recommend much, much earlier). If I need additional information on your absence (doctor's notes, for instance), you must provide this additional documentation within one week of the last date of the absence. Note that this policy also allows for makeup examinations for reasons deemed appropriate by the instructor. If you do not have a University excused absence, and you are going to miss an examination, it is much easier for me to work with you if you notify me promptly, especially if you can provide some sort of documentation.

If you turn in an assignment late, you will be penalized 10 points each day that the relevant assignment is late.

I use the following grading scale. To maintain fairness, I do not change grades under any circumstances except when I make a mathematical error in computing your grade.

89.5-100:	A
79.5-89.49:	B
69.5-79.49:	C
59.5-69.49:	D
59.49↓:	F

There is a course grade calculator on **Canvas**. There is no extra credit. All grades will be posted to **Canvas**.

### **Contacting Me**

I will be in Haley 8024 (my physical office) daily from around 9 AM to 2 PM. I am also an adamant email checker, I have regular office hours, and I will supplement them (including virtually) as required (by appointment). If you do contact me over email, I encourage you to follow these guidelines. First: include the course number [3400] in the subject of your email. Your email will almost certainly get lost in the abyss if it missing this information. Second: wait at least 48 hours, not including weekends, to send a second email. I promise I will get to it, but it may not be immediate. Third: email me only from your Auburn University official email address. In the event that I need to contact you, it will almost certainly be at your **@auburn.edu** email address. You should check this email often!

### **Student Academic Honesty**

Auburn University is a institution committed to integrity and honor. It is your job as a University citizen to uphold those values. I will not tolerate any cheating or plagiarism, broadly defined as using unauthorized aids during examinations or attempting to represent someone else's work as your own. You are not as sly as you think you are. Be aware that academic dishonesty can lead directly to failing the course and being referred to the Academic Honesty Committee. Penalties include expulsion from Auburn, as per Chapter 1202 of Title XII. For additional information visit [tinyurl.com/au-st-pol](http://tinyurl.com/au-st-pol).

### **Emergency Contingency**

If normal class is disrupted due to illness, emergency, or crisis situation, the syllabus and other course plans and assignments may be modified to allow completion of the course. If this occurs, an addendum to your syllabus and/or course assignments will replace the original materials.

## Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please electronically submit your approved accommodations through AU Access and make an individual appointment with me during the first week of classes (or as soon as possible if accommodations are needed immediately). If you have not established accommodations through the Office of Accessibility, but need accommodations, make an appointment with the Office of Accessibility, 1228 Haley Center, 844-2096 (V/TT).

Any requests or arrangements made with the instructor in person must be followed up with an official email request for documentation. If you believe you may need an accommodation, it is your responsibility to secure it before the first exam.

## Copyrighted Materials

The lectures, presentations (including slides), readings, and exams for this course are copyrighted, so you do not have the right to copy and distribute them. This includes recording class lectures.

## Important Dates

- January 19 (Wednesday): Last day to add course.
- February 2 (Wednesday): 15th Class Day (last day to drop with no grade assignment).
- March 3 (Thursday): Mid-semester grades posted.
- March 8 and 10 (Tuesday and Thursday): Spring Break (no class).
- March 17 (Thursday): 41st Class Day (deadline to request moving final exam).
- April 7 (Thursday): No in-person class.
- April 22 (Friday): Last day to withdraw with no grade penalty (W).

## Course Outline

### Week 1 (January 13): Read the Syllabus

- The syllabus
- Regression intro (skim): [tinyurl.com/mini-reg-primer](http://tinyurl.com/mini-reg-primer). (Many articles for this semester will feature regression as a method and include regression tables)
- “Reading and Taking Notes on Research Articles.” (From Meriam Library, California State University, Chico)

### Week 2 (January 18 - 20): Why is Organizing So Important?

- The collective action problem. [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collective\\_action\\_problem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collective_action_problem)
- *Federalist 10*. [avalon.law.yale.edu/18th\\_century/fed10.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/fed10.asp)
- *Federalist 51*. [avalon.law.yale.edu/18th\\_century/fed51.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/fed51.asp)

Week 3 (January 25 - 27): The Foundations of Party Identification

- Summary of Campbell, Converse, Miller, and Stokes: *The American Voter*.  
tinyurl.com/ccms-is-old
- Fudge, Daniel and Miles T. Armaly. “Place or Partisanship? The Conditional Role of Identities on Candidate Support.” Forthcoming at *American Politics Research*.  
DOI: 10.1177/1532673X211027859

Week 4 (February 1 - 3): The Intersection (Or Not?) of Party Identification and Ideology

- Barber, Michael and Jeremy C. Pope. 2019. “Does Party Trump Ideology? Disentangling Party and Ideology in America.” *American Political Science Review* 113(1): 38-54. DOI: 10.1017/S0003055418000795
- Lupton, Robert N., Steven M. Smallpage, and Adam M. Enders. 2020. “Values and Political Predispositions in the Age of Polarization: Examining the Relationship between Partisanship and Ideology in the United States, 1988-2012.” *British Journal of Political Science* 50(1): 241-260. DOI: 10.1017/S0007123417000370

Week 5 (February 8 - 10): Polarization ... Or, What in the World is Happening?

- Enders, Adam M. 2021. “Issues versus Affect: How Do Elite and Mass Polarization Compare?” *The Journal of Politics* 83(4): 1872-1877. DOI: 10.1086/715059
- Mason, Lilliana. 2018. “Ideologues without Issues: The Polarizing Consequences of Ideological Identities.” *Public Opinion Quarterly* 82(S1): 866-887. DOI: 10.1093/poq/nfy005

Week 6 (February 15 - 17): “Culture Wars”

- Baldassarri, Delia and Barum Park. 2020. “Was There a Culture War? Partisan Polarization and Secular Trends in US Public Opinion.” *The Journal of Politics* 82(3): 809-827. DOI: 10.1086/707306
- Castle, Jeremiah J. and Kyla K. Stepp. 2021. “Partisanship, Religion, and Issue Polarization in the United States: A Reassessment.” *Political Behavior* 43: 1311-1335. DOI: 10.1007/s11109-020-09668-5

Week 7 (February 22 - 24): Polarization, Democracy, and Democratic Norms

- Kingzette, Jon, James N. Druckman, Samara Klar, Yanna Krupnikov, Matthew Levendusky, and John Barry Ryan. 2021. “How Affective Polarization Undermines Support for Democratic Norms.” *Public Opinion Quarterly* 85(2): 663-677. DOI: 10.1093/poq/nfab029
- Schaffner, Brian F. and Matthew J. Streb. 2002. “The Partisan Heuristic in Low-Information Elections.” *Public Opinion Quarterly* 66(4): 559-581. DOI: 10.1086/343755

Week 8 (March 1 - 3): Review + Midterm

**March 3 (Thursday): Midterm.**

Week 8.5 (March 8 - 10): No Class (Spring Break)

Week 9 (March 15 - 17): Polarization and the Media

- Guess, Andrew M. 2021. “(Almost) Everything in Moderation: New Evidence on Americans Online Media Diets.” *American Journal of Political Science* 65(4): 1007-1022. DOI: 10.1111/ajps.12589
- Osmundsen, Mathias, Alexander Bor, Peter Bjerregaard Vahlstrup, Anja Bechmann, and Michael Bang Petersen. 2021. “Partisan Polarization Is the Primary Psychological Motivation Behind Political Fake News Sharing on Twitter.” *American Political Science Review* 115(3): 999-1015. DOI: 10.1017/S0003055421000290

**March 18 (Friday): Rough Draft of Party Memo due by 11:59 PM (if submitting).**

Week 10 (March 22 - 24): The Party Organization in Elections and Government

- Aldrich, John: *Why Parties?* (chapters on Canvas).
- Rosenfeld, Sam: *The Polarizers* (chapters on Canvas).

**March 25 (Friday): Party Memo due by 11:59 PM.**

Week 11 (March 29 - 31): The Other Organizer: Interest Groups

- Browne, William P. 1990. “Organized Interests and Their Issue Niches: A Search for Pluralism in a Policy Domain.” *The Journal of Politics* 52(2): 477-509. DOI: 10.2307/2131903

Week 12 (April 5 - 7): Interest Groups as Agenda Setters

- Garlick, Alex. 2017. “National Policies, Agendas, and Polarization in American State Legislatures: 2011 to 2014.” *American Politics Research* 45(6): 939-979. DOI: 10.1177/1532673X17719719

**April 7 (Thursday): No in-person class.**

Week 13 (April 12 - 14): Interest Groups as Lobbyists

- Grumbach, Jacob M. 2020. “Interest Group Activists and the Polarization of State Legislatures.” *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 45(1): 5-34. DOI: 10.1111/lsq.12244
- Kalla, Joshua L. and David E. Broockman. 2016. “Campaign Contributions Facilitate Access to Congressional Officials: A Randomized Field Experiment.” *American Journal of Political Science* 60(3): 545-558. DOI: 10.1111/ajps.12180

Week 14 (April 19 - 21): Leading or Responding? Parties, Interest Groups, and Social Movements

- Fagan, E. J., Zachary A. McGee, and Herschel F. Thomas. 2021. “The Power of the Party: Conflict Expansion and the Agenda Diversity of Interest Groups.” *Public Opinion Quarterly* 74(1): 90-102. DOI: 10.1177/1065912919867142
- Wasow, Omar. 2020. “Agenda Seeding: How 1960s Black Protests Moved Elites, Public Opinion and Voting.” *American Political Science Review* 114(3): 638-659. DOI: 10.1017/S000305542000009X

**April 21 (Friday): Rough Draft of Interest Group Memo due by 11:59 PM (if submitting).**

Week 15 (April 26 - 28): Can We Fix This?

- Costa, Mia. 2021. “Ideology, Not Affect: What Americans Want from Political Representation.” *American Journal of Political Science* 65(2): 342-358. DOI: 10.1111/ajps.12571
- Fishkin, James, Alice Siu, Larry Diamond, and Norman Bradburn. 2021. “Is Deliberation an Antidote to Extreme Partisan Polarization? Reflections on ‘America in One Room.’ ” *American Political Science Review* 115(4): 1464-1481. DOI: 10.1017/S0003055421000642

**April 29 (Friday): Interest Group Memo due by 11:59 PM.**

**May 3 (Tuesday): Last Exam.**