POL S 332
INTRODUCTION TO UNITED STATES POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

FALL 2017
MWF 10-10:50 AM, FAB 2-20

Instructors
Dr. Greg Anderson
contact: greg.anderson@ualberta.ca, 780-492-0632
office hours (11-21 Tory): Wednesday 2-4 or by appointment

Dr. Judy Garber
contact: jgarber@ualberta.ca, 780-492-5859
office hours (12-15 Tory): Monday 1-2:30, Thursday 11:30-1, or by appointment

Teaching Assistants
Luke Sandle
contact: sandle@ualberta.ca, 11-18 Tory
office hours: Friday 11-noon or by appointment

Michael Lincvall
contact: mlindval@ualberta.ca, 12-15 Tory
office hours: Tuesday 1-2 or by appointment

Policy about course outlines can be found in the Evaluation Procedures and Grading System section of the University Calendar.

COURSE INSTRUCTORS
POL S 332 is being co-taught for the first time! Dr. Anderson and Dr. Garber are equally steeped in US politics. We both grew up and majored in political science in the US – indeed, each of us also earned our PhDs (and worked) in the Washington, DC, area. We are teachers, scholars, media sources, and public speakers on a variety of issues related to American politics and policy. Your TAs are also exceptionally well-versed in US politics and culture.

Of course, we have our own approaches, topics of greatest interest, and areas of deepest expertise. This mix of teaching styles and emphases is meant to increase your knowledge of the ins and out of American politics, as well your ability to think about the information and ideas gained in the classroom, via news and social media, and through living in the world.

All assessment of your work, including the awarding of final course grades, will be done jointly by your professors.
COURSE DESCRIPTION
In this course we identify, explain, and evaluate the actors, institutions, and processes of governance and politics in the US, as based on the country’s founding constitutional principles, political ideas, and social arrangements. This context continues to influence the laws and policies produced by Congress, the President, agencies, states and cities, and courts. It shapes what, whose, and how interests are articulated and accepted. We will pay close attention to real-life events, including ideological and political divisions that seem incurable, governability problems dogging the political system, and the winds of domestic events that shift the course of the US in the world.

This course assumes no prior knowledge about the topic, but it is open only to students who have completed a Political Science course beyond POL S 101 (Introduction to Politics).

COURSE PREREQUISITES
Any of the 200-level POL S core courses: 211, 212 (formerly 210); 224, 225 (formerly 220); 235 (formerly 230 or 240); 250 (formerly 350); 261 (formerly 260). If you need and receive permission to register by either Dr. Anderson or Dr. Garber, proceed to Political Science Undergraduate Program Advisor Cindy Anderson (10-11 Tory, cindy.anderson@ualberta.ca).

LEARNING OUTCOMES
Students completing the requirements for this course will develop skills related to:

- thinking critically;
- analyzing the causes and effects of real-world events;
- understanding specialized ideas, theories, and facts;
- working and speaking in groups;
- locating and using various research sources; and
- communicating your ideas as effectively as possible in writing.

CLASS FORMAT
Classes will be organized primarily around lectures, but with some class and group discussions or exercises. Dr. Anderson and Dr. Garber will be teaching equal parts of the course, usually separately but sometimes together. Both of us will bring current events into the class frequently – this approach is important to your really understanding the topic; it’s not disorganization.

If you have questions about a particular class or lecture, it’s best to approach whoever led it; however, in general, each professor is equally happy to see you. We can arrange to meet together if necessary and if feasible.
REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

Student responsibilities

- attending class regularly and on time;
- completing any assigned reading/viewing prior to class;
- taking seriously the viewing, research and writing components of the paper;
- participating in class discussions or exercises;
- paying respectful attention to whoever has the floor;
- following current events through some serious news source(s) -- we have suggestions, including for how to do this for no or very low cost.

Components of Course Grade

Your course grade will be determined by your performance on two in-class essay examinations and one research paper. Students should note that in all but exceptional situations, all components of the course must be completed to receive a passing grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE GRADE: COMPONENTS, DATES, AND WEIGHTING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm exam (one question) – Friday, October 6, in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper (1800-2000 words/6-7 pp.) – due Monday, November 6, 10 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam (two questions) – Friday, December 15, 9-11 AM, in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred final exam (provisional) – Wednesday, December 20, 9-11 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

EXAMS

For the midterm and final exams you will write essays that answer questions covering the lectures, readings/video materials, and class discussions. The final exam is focused on the material after the midterm. The objective of the exams is to evaluate your ability to explain, apply, connect, and craft a discussion about the information and ideas presented in the course.

You will answer one question on the 50-minute mid-term and two questions on the two-hour final; thus, each answer is worth 20% of your course grade. To clarify, exams will be: i) made up of questions we pick ii) verbatim from study questions provided in hard copy and on eClass, and iii) you have some choice in which questions you answer. The exams are closed notes/book.
PAPER
The paper is a researched reflection on the famous and totally relevant film *All The President’s Men*. It should be 1800-2000 words (6-7 pages) plus a briefly annotated bibliography. A separate assignment sheet posted on eClass will detail: the general criteria and goals, research guidelines and sources, sample bibliography entries, citation standards, acceptable formatting, and a grading rubric.

Access to Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material
The exam questions are drawn from study guides, the final exam is the same format as the mid-term, and a grading rubric is included in the instructions for the paper.

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components
Class attendance/participation is not a graded component of this course. That being said, regular, on-time attendance is essential for optimal performance in this and any course. Be aware that unexcused absences from exams, lateness to exams, or late submission of assignments will typically result in partial or total loss of grades for that component of the course.

- Absences stemming from incapacitating illness, severe domestic affliction, or religious reasons are generally excusable under the University’s Duty to Accommodate Procedure. To address the course component missed – exams or papers – as a result, consult the University Calendar’s Attendance (23.3) and Examinations (23.5) sections. All other accommodation requests covered by the Duty to Accommodate Procedure should be discussed with the instructor(s) as soon as the student is able, having regard to the underlying circumstance.
- In all cases, instructors may request adequate documentation to substantiate the reason for the absence at their discretion, which in the Faculty of Arts is a completed Request for Deferral of Term Examinations and/or Term Work. Although a medical note cannot be required, if a student chooses to provide a medical note, the University of Alberta Medical Statement Form may be downloaded from the Online Services section of www.registrarsoffice.ualberta.ca.
- At the discretion of your instructors, penalties may be waived in the case of other genuine, documentable emergencies or life problems. Arrange pleasure, celebratory, or extracurricular events around the exams and the paper due date.

Penalties for Late Papers
An on-time paper is submitted when it is due, with all components, and in a hard copy that meets the assignment criteria. For policy on what counts as excused lateness or a reason for a possible extension, see Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components (above). Otherwise, late penalties attach after the paper due deadline of 10 AM, Monday, November 6.
Penalties are clear. The scheme is fair to those who meet the deadline but also invites you to submit even a really late paper:

- If you submit the paper after 10 AM November 6 but by 1:15 PM November 6, you will be docked one +/- grade.
- If you submit the paper after 1:15 pm November 6 but by 10 AM the next day, you will be docked another +/- grade.
- Every day after that at 10 AM you will be docked another +/- grade, but the penalties stop at 5 +/- grades.

Examples:

- Your paper is 3 ½ - 24 hours late, you get a 2-grade penalty, and your hypothetical B-paper drops to a C.
- Your paper is 4-?? days late, you get the max 5-grade penalty, and your hypothetical A paper drops to a C+ (still worth turning in).

**GRADING**

The grading scale:

In this course, everything — each exam question and the paper — is graded on the University of Alberta grading scale (below), where each letter grade has a numeric value that can be calculated. For clarity and consistency, we assign 4.3 to work that is A+ quality (*though the University doesn’t).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE GRADES OBTAINED BY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Descriptor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bases of assessment:
Exam and papers grades are always evaluated using a combination of absolute measures of achievement and relative performance across all students in the course.

Calculation of the total value of all your graded work:

\[ \text{.20 x midterm exam grade +} \]
\[ \text{.40 x paper grade +} \]
\[ \text{.40 x final exam grade (i.e., .20 for each question)} \]

total value for translation into the closest letter grade

How the total value of all your graded work determines your course letter grade:

- If the total value is \textit{at least half-way} between letter grades, you earn the higher letter grade.
- If the total value is \textit{less than half-way} between letter grades, you earn the lower letter grade

Examples (see chart above):

- To earn a B- for the course, your total value must be at least 2.5.
- To earn a C for the course, your total value must be at least 1.85.
- To earn an A+ for the course, your total value must be at least 4.15.

*The Faculty of Arts recommends that the class average for 300-level Arts courses fall in a range around the Faculty historical average grades of 2.72 - 3.32 (the B range of letter grades).*

Grade Appeals
To appeal a grade on an assignment or exam that was handed back before the final exam you must initiate the appeal – \textit{with either Dr. Garber or Dr. Anderson or both of us} – before the final exam. If your concern is not resolved, see Dr. Linda Trimble, Undergraduate Chair (ltrimble@ualberta, 12-26 Tory, 780-492-0957). \textit{Faculty of Arts Grade Appeals Procedures} come into effect after any appeal at the Department level.

\textbf{ACADEMIC HONESTY}

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. You are particularly urged to familiarize yourself with the provisions of the \textit{Code of Student Behaviour} (below) to avoid any behavior that could result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts, and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offense whose consequences can be suspension or expulsion from the University of Alberta.
Read the course materials carefully. If you are unsure about what is acceptable academic conduct, bring your questions to either Dr. Garber or Dr. Anderson; the Acting Undergraduate Chair, Dr. Linda Trimble; your TAs; or any tutors you are using.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excerpts from the Code of Student Behaviour (30.3 Offences under the Code)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>30.3.2(1) Plagiarism</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Student shall submit the words, ideas, images or data of another person as the Student’s own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, project, assignment, presentation or poster in a course or program of study.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>30.3.2(2) Cheating</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.3.2(2)a No Student shall in the course of an examination or other similar activity, obtain or attempt to obtain information from another Student or other unauthorized source, give or attempt to give information to another Student, or use, attempt to use or possess for the purposes of use any unauthorized material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.3.2(2)b No Student shall represent or attempt to represent him or herself as another or have or attempt to have himself or herself represented by another in the taking of an examination, preparation of a paper or other similar activity. See also misrepresentation in 30.3.6 (4).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.3.2(2)c No Student shall represent another’s substantial editorial or compositional assistance on an assignment as the Student’s own work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.3.2(2)d No Student shall submit in any course or program of study, without the written approval of the course Instructor, all or a substantial portion of any academic writing, essay, thesis, research report, project, assignment, presentation or poster for which credit has previously been obtained by the Student or which has been or is being submitted by the Student in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.3.2(2)e No Student shall submit in any course or program of study any academic writing, essay, thesis, report, project, assignment, presentation or poster containing a statement of fact known by the Student to be false or a reference to a source the Student knows to contain fabricated claims (unless acknowledged by the Student), or a fabricated reference to a source.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>30.3.6(4) Misrepresentation of Facts</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Student shall misrepresent pertinent facts to any member of the University community for the purpose of obtaining academic or other advantage. See also 30.3.2(2) b, c, d and e.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>30.3.6(5) Participation in an Offence</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Student shall counsel or encourage or knowingly aid or assist, directly or indirectly, another person in the commission of any offence under this Code.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All students should consult the very valuable Undergraduate Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity and other resources provided by the Dean of Students. The guide explains clearly how to avoid cheating and plagiarism, in particular, and how to adhere to academic integrity, in general.

Any instructor or teaching assistant (TA) who is convinced a student has handed in work that they could not produce without outside assistance is obliged, out of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts – see the Academic Discipline Process.
LEARNING AND WORKING ENVIRONMENT
The University, Faculty, and Department are committed to ensuring that all students, faculty, and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination or harassment. The University does not tolerate behavior that undermines that environment, as laid out in its *Discrimination, Harassment, and Duty to Accommodate Policy* and *Sexual Violence Policy*. Anyone who feels that this policy is being violated is urged to:

- try to discuss the matter with the person whose behavior is causing concerns;
- if necessary, contact the Chair of Political Science, Dr. Lois Harder (10-16 Tory, 780-492-3429 to book an appointment);
- for additional advice or assistance contact the Office of the Student Ombuds (780-492-4689, ombuds@ualberta to book an appointment); or
- file a report at Disclosure Services (300 Campus Tower).

STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES
If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this course, please let us know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Student Accessibility Services (SAS), contact the office immediately (1-80 SUB, sasrec@ualberta.ca, 780-492-3381). Once registered with SAS, it is your responsibility to provide a Letter of Introduction and, if relevant, the Exam Instruction & Authorization form before any exam.

NEED HELP?
Among other campus student services that may be helpful are: University ealth Services (2-200 SUB), Sexual Assault Centre (2-705 SUB); University Counselling and Clinical Services (2-600 SUB), Student Success Centre (2-300 SUB); Campus Food Bank (1-81 SUB), Student Legal Services of Edmonton (780-492-2226), Emergency Funding (on-line), Bursaries (on-line), SU Peer Support Centre (2-217 SUB), Aboriginal Student Services Centre (2-400 SUB), International Student Services (Telus Centre); and The Landing (0-86a SUB).

CLASSROOM ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY
During class time, your phones, computers, tablets, etc. are for class purposes only; otherwise, they are annoying and you are being disrespectful. To stay engaged, please place the electronic device you’re using for class on your desk. If anyone is expecting a pressing communication we will be excused to take it outside the classroom.

POSTING, RECORDING OF LECTURES
Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the content author(s) or as
a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Thus, if you tweet, post, or blog your instructors’ or TAs’ comments, or those of your colleagues, you’re not paying attention and violating strict University policy.

**REQUIRED BOOK AND FILM**
This textbook is available for purchase at the SU Bookstore at $133.30 (new) and from on-line sellers. Rutherford Library has two copies on two-hour reserve:


This film can be rented through Google Play, iTunes, or YouTube Video for $3.99 - $5.99:

- *All The President’s Men*, Alan J. Pakula, director (Warner Brothers, 1976), 138 min.

**OTHER READINGS**
Also expect that short, topical readings, graphics, or videos will be posted directly on eClass, as news breaks. Familiarizing yourself with these posts forms part of the expectation of your following current events about US politics.

Check eClass frequently.
SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, ASSIGNMENTS, and READINGS

I. Foundations

Introduction
Sept. 6

The Big Ideas
Sept. 8, 11
By The People
  o Chapter 1, The Spirit of American Politics
  o Chapter 2, Ideas that Shape America

The Constitution
Sept. 13
By The People
  o Chapter 3, The Constitution
  o Declaration of Independence (Appendix I)

Sept. 15
By the People
  o Federalist 10 (Appendix II)

Sept. 18, 20
By the People
  o Federalist 51 (Appendix III)

Federalism and Subnational Politics
Sept. 22, 25
By The People
  o Chapter 4, Federalism and Nationalism

Freedoms and Equality
Sept. 27, 29
By The People
  o Chapter 5, Civil Liberties
  o Chapter 6, The Struggle for Civil Rights
The Courts
Oct. 2, 4
*By The People*
  - Chapter 16, *The Judicial Branch*

Friday, October 6
MIDTERM EXAM

Oct. 9  THANKSGIVING

Watch *All the President’s Men*

II. The Elected Branches and the Policy Environment

Congress
Oct. 11, 13, 16
*By The People*
  - Chapter 13, *Congress*

The Executive
Oct. 18, 20, 23
*By The People*
  - Chapter 14, *The Presidency*
  - Chapter 15, *Bureaucracy*
  - Chapter 18, *Foreign Policy*

Mediating Government and Politics
Oct. 25, 27
*By The People*
  - Chapter 9, *Media, Technology, and Government*
Policy or Stalemate?
Oct. 30, Nov. 1
By The People
  o Chapter 17, Public Policymaking and Budgeting

III. Behaviors, Opinions, and Processes

Evaluating Public Opinion
Nov. 3
By The People
  o Chapter 7, Public Opinion

All the President’s Men
Nov. 6 – paper due and discussion

Monday, November 6
PAPER DUE at 10 AM

Public Opinion (cont.)
Nov. 8

(How) Do American Elections Work?
Nov. 10, 20, 22, 24
By The People
  o Chapter 8, Political Participation
  o Chapter 10, Campaigns and Elections

Nov. 12-17 READING WEEK

Political Parties
Nov. 27, 30, Dec. 1
By The People
  o Chapter 11, Political Parties
Varieties of Group Activity
Dec. 4, 6
By The People
  o Chapter 12, Interest Groups

Dec. 8 – final exam review

---

FINAL EXAM
Friday, December 15, 9-11 AM
FAB 2-02 (our classroom)

Deferred final exam (provisional):
Wednesday, December 20, 9-11 AM
Room TBA
Amendments to the Code of Student Behaviour occur throughout the year. For the most recent version of the Code, visit [http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/](http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/)

**NOTICE TO INSTRUCTORS REGARDING PLAGIARISM, CHEATING, MISREPRESENTATION OF FACTS AND PARTICIPATION IN AN OFFENCE**

The U of A considers plagiarism, cheating, misrepresentation of facts and participation in an offence to be serious academic offences. Plagiarism, cheating, misrepresentation of facts and participation in an offence can be avoided if students are told what these offences are and if possible sanctions are made clear at the outset. Instructors should understand that the principles embodied in the Code are essential to our academic purpose. For this reason, instructors will be fully supported by Departments, Faculties and the University in their endeavours to rightfully discover and pursue cases of academic dishonesty in accordance with the Code.

At the beginning of each term, we ask you to review with your students the definitions of plagiarism and cheating. We are now also asking you to review with your students the definition of Misrepresentation of Facts and Participation in an Offence. Your co-operation and assistance in this matter are much appreciated.

### 30.3.2(1) Plagiarism

No Student shall submit the words, ideas, images or data of another person as the Student’s own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, project, assignment, presentation or poster in a course or program of study.

### 30.3.2(2) Cheating

30.3.2(2)a No Student shall in the course of an examination or other similar activity, obtain or attempt to obtain information from another Student or other unauthorized source, give or attempt to give information to another Student, or use, attempt to use or possess for the purposes of use any unauthorized material.

30.3.2(2)b No Student shall represent or attempt to represent him or herself as another or have or attempt to have himself or herself represented by another in the taking of an examination, preparation of a paper or other similar activity. See also misrepresentation in 30.3.6(4).

### Cheating (Continued)

30.3.2(2)c No Student shall represent another’s substantial editorial or compositional assistance on an assignment as the Student’s own work.

30.3.2(2)d No Student shall submit in any course or program of study, without the written approval of the course Instructor, all or a substantial portion of any academic writing, essay, thesis, research report, project, assignment, presentation or poster for which credit has previously been obtained by the Student or which has been or is being submitted by the Student in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.

30.3.2(2)e No Student shall submit in any course or program of study any academic writing, essay, thesis, report, project, assignment, presentation or poster containing a statement of fact known by the Student to be false or a reference to a source the Student knows to contain fabricated claims (unless acknowledged by the Student), or a fabricated reference to a source.

### 30.3.6(4) Misrepresentation of Facts

No Student shall misrepresent pertinent facts to any member of the University community for the purpose of obtaining academic or other advantage. This includes such acts as the failure to provide pertinent information on an application for admission or the altering of an educational document/transcript.

### 30.3.6(5) Participation in an Offence

No Student shall counsel or encourage or knowingly aid or assist, directly or indirectly, another person in the commission of any offence under this Code.

More information can be found at: [http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/en.aspx](http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/en.aspx)
Possible Sanctions

One or more of the following sanctions given in 30.4.3 (2) and (3) of the Code are commonly used for plagiarism, cheating, participation in an offence, and misrepresentation of facts:

30.4.3(2) a.i  a mark reduction or a mark of 0 on any term work or examination for reason of Inappropriate Academic Behaviour
30.4.3(2) a.ii Reduction of a grade in a course
30.4.3(2) a.iii a grade of F for a course
30.4.3(2) a.iv a remark on a transcript of 8 (or 9 for failing graduate student grades), indicating Inappropriate Academic Behaviour, in addition to 30.4.3(2)a.i, 30.4.3(2)a.ii or 30.4.3(2)a.iii
30.4.3(3) b Expulsion
30.4.3(3) c Suspension

The following sanctions may be used in rare cases:

30.4.3(3) e Suspension of a Degree already awarded
30.4.3(3) f Rescission of a Degree already awarded

30.6.1 Initiation of an Appeal

30.6.1(1) When a student has been found to have committed an offence under the Code of Student Behaviour or an Applicant is found to have committed an offence under the Code of Applicant Behaviour, whether or not that Student or Applicant has been given a sanction, the Student or Applicant may appeal that decision, except in the case of a decision of the Discipline Officer under 30.5.6(2)e.ii, which remains final and is not subject to appeal. In cases where a severe sanction has been recommended to the Discipline Officer, once the student receives the final decision of the Discipline Officer, the student can appeal the decisions of both Dean and the Discipline Officer at the same time. The written appeal must be presented to the Appeals Coordinator in University Governance within 15 Working Days of the deemed receipt of the decision by the Student or Applicant. The finding that an offence has been committed, the sanction imposed or both may form the basis of appeal. The written appeal must also state the full grounds of appeal and be signed by the Appellant. The appeal shall be heard by the UAB.

Professor Steven Penney
Chair, Campus Law Review Committee

Dr Steven Dew
Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

* The Campus Law Review Committee is a standing committee of General Faculties Council (GFC) responsible for the review of the Code of Student Behaviour and of student disciplinary procedures.

Updated: 27/08/2015