

# Preliminary Syllabus POS3233: Politics & Public Opinion<sup>1</sup>

## Instructor

Charles Dahan-Garrigan

## Classroom

Pugh Hall 120

## Lecture Times:

M/W/F, 8:30-9:20am

## Email

cdahan@ufl.edu

## Office Location

Anderson \_\_\_\_\_

## Office Hours

Wednesdays, 9:30-12:30

## Supplementary Site:

[www.charlesgarrigan.com/pos3233](http://www.charlesgarrigan.com/pos3233).

## Course Overview

POS3233 asks two questions: How do people make decisions, and how do elites both shape these opinions and mobilize Americans to engage in politics? The substantial readings offer perspectives from biology, psychology, and political science, as well as a unit on public opinion and the 2012 election. Students will learn how Americans acquire their preferences, how these preferences are measured, as well as “best practices” for these measurements.

## Required Text

*Affective Intelligence & Political Judgment*, Marcus, George, W. Russell Neumann & Michael Mackuen

*Understanding Public Opinion*, Norrander, Barbara and Clyde Wilcox

*Predisposed: Liberals, Conservatives, and the Biology of Political Differences*, Hibbing, John, Kevin Smith & John Alford

*The Victory Lab: The Secret Science of Winning Elections*, Issenberg, Sasha

*The Nature & Origins of Mass Opinion*, Zaller, John

## Course Guidelines:

**Plagiarism:** Don't cheat. Don't reuse your own paper, or the work of others without citing it. Don't misquote sources, and don't paraphrase a writer without giving them credit. You will be caught, you will receive an F in the course, and you will be reported to the appropriate departments.

---

<sup>1</sup> A final version of this syllabus will be available on the first day of class.

**If you have any questions, contact me prior to submitting the assignment. Consult this site more details:** <http://web.uflib.ufl.edu/msl/07b/studentplagiarism.html>. ALL WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH [TURNITIN.COM](https://www.turnitin.com).

**Electronics:** The use of computers and tablets is discouraged, and their usage is only for note taking.

**Course Calendar:** Supplementary (non-mandatory) resources will be provided at [www.charlesgarrigan.com/pos3233](http://www.charlesgarrigan.com/pos3233).

### **Assignments:**

#### **30% (30 Points) Quizzes:**

The goal of quizzes is to ensure students have taken the time to thoughtfully consider the readings and lectures. There will be 11 unscheduled quizzes, each worth 3 points. You will receive 1 point for simply taking the quiz, and 1 point for each correct answer. It is possible to receive up to 33 points, with any points over 30 counting as extra credit. Students who complete all 12 quizzes will receive an extra 3 points.

#### **30% In-Class Exams (2) (15 Points Each): 2/26: & 4/21**

Exams are designed as extended versions of quizzes, requiring students to identify links between different readings and topics covered in the course, as well as demonstrate mastery of the course content. Each exam will be 50 minutes.

#### **20% (10 points each) Case Studies (2):**

This course offers a unique opportunity to work with actual election data from private election, including elections run by workers unions and professional teams. Students will analyze the data based upon the literature they have read, discussing the ballot design, question wording, mobilization techniques, interpretation of election results, and proactive steps the organization may take in response to the election results and future efforts to increase turnout and clarity. Students may also design work to design a sample ballot or survey for an organization.

#### **20% (20 points) Final Paper:**

Students will have the opportunity to choose from a selection of final paper research topics that will be discussed later in the course. Students will this opportunity to demonstrate mastery of the course material and be provided with an opportunity to explore a topic of interest from the course.

## **Grade breakdown:**

UF grade policies can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

**100 points (not including extra credit) are possible in the course. The course grades allow for one point below the traditional 10 point range, thus no rounding will occur. For example, a final course grade of 88.9 is a B+, not rounded to an A-.**

<b>100-92: A</b>	<b>91-89: A-</b>	<b>88-86: B+</b>	<b>85-82: B</b>	<b>81-79: B-</b>	<b>78-76: C+</b>	<b>75-72: C</b>
<b>71-69: C-</b>	<b>68-66: D+</b>	<b>65-62: D</b>	<b>61-59: D-</b>	<b>&lt; 59: F</b>		

## **Attendance**

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

## **Student Disability Center:**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester, as retroactive accommodations cannot be made for assignments or exams which have already occurred.

Date	Week Day	Lecture Topic & Deadlines	Chapter
6-Jan	Monday	Syllabus	
8-Jan	Wednesday	Overview	
10-Jan	Friday	Zaller	1
13-Jan	Monday	Zaller	2
15-Jan	Wednesday	Zaller	3
17-Jan	Friday	Zaller	4-5
20-Jan	Monday	Zaller	6-7
22-Jan	Wednesday	Zaller	8-9
24-Jan	Friday	Zaller	10-12
27-Jan	Monday	Marcus	1-3
29-Jan	Wednesday	Marcus	4
31-Jan	Friday	Marcus	5
3-Feb	Monday	Marcus	6-7
5-Feb	Wednesday	Cam	1
7-Feb	Friday	Cam	3
10-Feb	Monday	Cam	9
12-Feb	Wednesday	Cam	10
14-Feb	Friday	Midterm Review	
17-Feb	Monday	POTUS DAY	
19-Feb	Wednesday	<b>Midterm</b>	
21-Feb	Friday	Case Study #1	Green & Gerber
24-Feb	Monday	Case Study #1	TBD
26-Feb	Wednesday	Case Study #1	TBD
28-Feb	Friday	<b>Case Study #1 Due</b>	

Date	Week Day	Lecture Topic & Deadlines	Chapter
3-Mar	Monday	SPRING BREAK	
5-Mar	Wednesday	SPRING BREAK	
7-Mar	Friday	SPRING BREAK	
10-Mar	Monday	Hibbing	1 & 2
12-Mar	Wednesday	Hibbing	3 & 4
14-Mar	Friday	Hibbing	5 & 6
17-Mar	Monday	Hibbing Recap	7 & 9
19-Mar	Wednesday	Norrander	1
21-Mar	Friday	Norrander	2 & 6
24-Mar	Monday	Norrander	4 & 12
26-Mar	Wednesday	Norrander	7
28-Mar	Friday	Norrander	8 & 9
31-Mar	Monday	Issenberg	Prologue-2
2-Apr	Wednesday	Issenberg	3-5
4-Apr	Friday	Issenberg	6-7
7-Apr	Monday	Issenberg	8-9
9-Apr	Wednesday	Issenberg	10-Afterward
11-Apr	Friday	Case Study #2	TBD
14-Apr	Monday	Case Study #2	TBD
16-Apr	Wednesday	Case Study #2	TBD
18-Apr	Friday	Case Study #2	None
21-Apr	Monday	Final Review	None
23-Apr	Wednesday		None
30-Apr	Wednesday	<b>Final Exam: 5:30-7:30pm</b>	