This course is designed to provide students with a broad survey of the important topics in the area of voting behavior and elections. Although the focus of the course is on voting behavior in general, many of the readings focus specifically on the most recent presidential and congressional elections. And, of course, we will give a lot of attention to the upcoming 2008 election.

The reading list includes a number of books, book chapters, and academic articles covering what I view as the important topics in this subfield of political science. The amount of reading for this course should not pose too great a problem if students are conscientious about keeping up. Students are expected to make this effort and come to class prepared to discuss matters related to the readings and to respond to points presented in lecture.

There are several key elements to the class. First, our time in class will be spent discussing material related to the readings and I will also do a bit of lecturing on that and related material. Much of this material, as well as the assigned readings, will be covered on the three exams.

There are also two projects, a redistricting assignment and an independent research paper. In the redistricting assignment you will be asked to redistrict Wisconsin’s congressional district to achieve a specific partisan outcome, and you must do this while adhering to current legal standards for redistricting. For the research you must assess the existing research on a specific aspect of presidential elections, gather data from the 2016 presidential election to test ideas found in that research, and summarize the extent to which the 2016 election fits the expectations of previous research. The results of your search will be presented to your classmates. More information on these assignments will be distributed during the first few weeks of class.

Grades: Your grade in this class will be determined by the following components:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams (3)</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redistricting Project</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is worth noting that although attendance does not constitute a formal part of your grade, your performance in the class is heavily dependent upon your attendance. The reading assignments are good but frequently require further explanation, and much of what is said in class will not be found in the readings. Hence, attendance is important.

The following scale will be used for assigning letter grades:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>89-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>86-88</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>82-85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>78-81</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>75-77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>71-74</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>67-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>64-66</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>56-59</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Special Needs:** Students who require accommodation due to any physical or other challenge should contact me as soon as possible. Every effort will be made to accommodate your needs.

**Late Work:** As a general rule, I do not give credit for assignments turned in late, nor do I allow students to make up exams that they’ve missed. Exceptions are made in cases of illness or serious personal crises (death in the family, incarceration, etc.) that are unavoidable and can be documented.

**Drop Date:** October 24th is the last day to drop this class. Students should have a good idea how they're doing in the class by that point and are encouraged to use that information to their advantage.

**Academic Honesty:** Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the UWM code of academic honesty and to conduct themselves accordingly. Cheating and plagiarism are intolerable and will be result in a failing grade for the related activity and, possibly, for the course. A statement of the university’s academic honesty policy can be found at the following web site: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/DOS/conduct.html. (Note: I take this stuff very seriously)

The following books can be found at the UWM bookstore and should be purchased as soon as possible:


All other readings are on electronic reserve.

**Schedule**

The following schedule is subject to change but will be followed as closely as possible.

**September 2- September 30**

The United States Electoral Systems

University Press. Chapter 2.


**Political Parties and Elections**


Herrnson, Chapter 4


**Who Participates**


Kaufmann, Petrocik, Shaw, Chapter 7

**Nomination Politics**

Herrnson, Chapter. 2


**October 2: First Exam**

**October 7-November 4**

**Approaches to Studying Voters and Elections**


Social Groups and Voting

Kaufmann, Petrocik, Shaw, chapters 4,5,6


Party Identification


Kaufmann, Petrocik, Shaw, Chapter 2


Issues and Candidates


Kaufmann, Petrocik, Shaw, chapter 3

November 6: Second Exam

November 11-December 11

Congressional Elections

Herrnson, Chapters 1, 9,10


**Money and Elections**

Herrnson, Chapters 5, 6


**Media Effects and Political Campaigns**

Herrnson, Chapters 7, 8


Kaufmann, Petrocik, and Shaw, Chapter 7


**December 16: FINAL EXAM (10AM-Noon)**