

American Political Systems  
Political Science 11501  
Fall 2022

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Office/Student Question Hours:

Class time: MWF 11:00am-11:50am  
Class Location: Xavier G08



class period. If a student is absent for more consecutive classes due to health reasons, excused absences will require documentation of the health reason (e.g., from University Health Services). If unable to attend a lecture, Professor Rogers will make an honest effort to post recorded lectures to CanvasIt, however, will not be assured that all lecture material will be recorded (e.g. to technical difficulties). Regardless of attendance, all students are responsible for all material covered in lecture.

## Grades

Your grade for this course will consist of the following components and relative weights:

| Item            | Overall Course Grade Weight | Due Date            |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Assignments     | 7%                          | Throughout Semester |
| Attendance      | 5%                          | Throughout Semester |
| Reading Quizzes | 5%                          | Throughout Semester |
| Review Quizzes  | 12%                         | Throughout Semester |
| Midterm         | 13%                         | March 8             |
| Final Exam      | 25%                         | May 15              |
| Paper 1         | 13%                         | February 20         |
| Paper 2         | 20%                         | April 24            |

There will be no make-up tests or deadline extensions given in this course. Exceptions will only be made with written (e.g. email) prior consent for planned events such as sponsored SLU activities, religious observances, or under unusual circumstances such as a documented medical emergency. It is the student's responsibility to request and obtain this consent. Late papers and assignments will be marked down 10% for each day after the due date and there will be no extensions for Reading or Review Quizzes. There will be no exceptions.

When determining the final grade, the following grading scale will be used. Professor Rogers will round final grades. Depending on the distribution of grades, Professor Rogers reserves the right to impose curves to assignments and final grades.

| Letter Grade | Percentage | Letter Grade | Percentage | Letter Grade | Percentage |
|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| A            | 93%- 100%  | B            | 83%- 86%   | C            | 73%- 76%   |
| A-           | 90%- 92%   | B-           | 80%- 82%   | C-           | 70%- 72%   |
| B+           | 87%- 89%   | C+           | 77%- 79%   | D            | 60%- 69%   |
|              |            |              |            | F            | below 60%  |

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## Topic3: Congress

Topic4: TheExecutive Branch

## Topic5: Representation

### Learning Objectives

- x Students will be able to
  - o Define the concepts of delegate representation and trustee representation
  - o Explain how majority/minority districts promote descriptive representation but potentially inhibit substantive representation
  - o



## Topic6: The Judiciary

### Learning Objectives

- x A student will be able to
  - o Describe the main functions of District Courts, Courts of Appeals and the US Supreme Court, along with the basic structure of the federal court system
  - o Identify differences between the legal and strategic models of decision making
  - o Explain some of the strategies justices will partake in to achieve their policymaking goals, according to Epstein and Knight
  - o Identify differences between the dynamic and constrained views of the court and why the court is constrained

### Readings

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## Topic 8: Rational Choice

### Learning Objectives

- x Students will be able to
  - o Describe why it could be rational to vote
  - o



Topic10

## Topic 11: Groups and Self Interest

### Learning Objectives

- Students will be able to

Define minimal group theory, social identity theory, black utility heuristic, and linked fate

Describe the evidence White provides to show the extent to which political behavior is shaped by linked fate or the black utility heuristic compared to self-interest

Understand why rural voters feel resentment according to Cramer

Explain what predicted support of the Bush tax cut, according to Bartels

### Readings

-

## Topic 12

## Topic 13: Public Policy Taxes

x



## University Services

### Student Success Center

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. The Student Success Center assists students with academic-related services. Students create an appointment with the Student Success Center to learn more about tutoring services, university writing services, disability services, and academic coaching. For more information, visit <https://www.slu.edu/lifeat-slu/studentsuccesscenter/index.php>

### University Writing Services

Students are encouraged to take advantage of University Writing Services in the Student Success Center; getting feedback benefits writers at all skill levels. Trained writing consultants can help with writing projects, multimedia projects, and oral presentations. University Writing Services offers one-on-one consultations that address everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. For more information, visit <https://www.slu.edu/lifeat-slu/studentsuccesscenter/academic-support/universitywriting-services/index.php> or call the Student Success Center at 314.484.4744.

## University Policies

### Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible academic conduct. The Mission of Saint Louis University is to lead in the pursuit of truth and the advancement of knowledge. All acts of falsehood

the Student Handbook. Non-compliance with this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including any of the following:

- dismissal from the course(s)
  - removal from campus housing (if applicable)
  - dismissal from the University
- x To immediately protect the health and well-being of all students, instructors, and staff, instructors

5. As a temporary amendment to the current [University Attendance Policy](#), all absences due to illness or an isolation/quarantine directive issued by a qualified health official, or due to an adverse reaction to a COVID-

### Disability Accommodations

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations must formally register their disability with the University. Once successfully registered, students also must notify their course instructor that they wish to use their approved accommodations in the course.

Please contact the Center for Accessibility and Disability Resources (CADR) to schedule a meeting to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Most students on the St. Louis campus will contact CADR, located in the Student Success Center and available by email at [accessibility\\_disability@slu.edu](mailto:accessibility_disability@slu.edu) by phone at 314.977.3484. Eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors by email from CADR and they may have one also are encouraged to contact to CADR. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.

### Title IX

Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual harassment, including sexual assault, stalking, domestic or dating violence, we encourage you report this to the University. If you speak with a campus member about an incident that involves a Title IX matter, the basic facts of your experience.