Professor: Mona Lena Krook
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Course Time: Tuesdays, 2.15-5.15 PM
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1.00-2.00 PM, at
https://rutgers.webex.com/meet/mk1041

Course Description

This course explores dynamics of political representation from multiple angles, surveying classic concepts and theories, new directions in research, and empirical studies of political representation. Introducing students to the nuances in these debates, course materials focus on a variety of identity groups, world regions, and time periods.

Learning Objectives

This course seeks to introduce students to the study of political representation, with a particular focus on the political representation of various groups. By the end of this course students should be able to:

- Explain major concepts and theories in the study of political representation;
- Identify dynamics of political representation at work in American and global politics;
- Articulate the role that class, gender, race, sexual orientation and gender identity, age, and disability play in advancing or inhibiting political representation. *Course meets CCD Core Requirement.

Course Requirements

This course seeks to promote the learning goals via a diverse array of course assignments. Grades for the course will be calculated as follows:

- **Class participation** (20%) which includes coming to class prepared and participating actively in class discussions. Students are expected to read all assigned materials prior to class and arrive with questions and observations to contribute to class discussions. A copy of the readings should be brought to each class. *Attendance is included as part of this grade.* See further details in Appendix 1. **COVID adaptation:** PowerPoint presentations will be posted on Sakai (in the Lectures subfolder under Resources) prior to class each week. Attending synchronous online lectures is **not required** but **strongly encouraged**. Lectures will be recorded, with links circulated via email after each class.

- **A quiz** (10%) on classic concepts and theories of political representation, reviewing materials covered in readings and lectures during Weeks 1-4. This quiz will be administered in class on **October 6**. **COVID adaptation:** The quiz will be distributed at the beginning of the class session, posted as a presentation in Webex as well as emailed directly to students. Completed quizzes should be uploaded via the Dropbox on Sakai by **3.30 PM on October 6**. See further details in Appendix 2.

- **A mid-term essay** (20%) comparing one new theory of representation to classical theories of representation. Due on **October 27**, this essay should be approximately 2500 words long and turned in before class via the Drop Box on Sakai. See further details in Appendix 2.

- **A presentation** (20%) on intersectionality and political representation during class on **December 8**. Students should choose one article and deliver a short 5-10 minute presentation. See Appendix 3 for a list of possible readings and further details on the content of this assignment.

- **A final essay** (30%) evaluating and comparing the case for and against group-based quotas in relation to two different identity groups. Due on **December 21**, this essay should be approximately 5000 words long and be turned in via the Drop Box on Sakai. See further details in Appendix 2.

- Work for the course will be assessed overall in relation to **Core CCD Requirement, Goal 1**. See Appendix 3.
Class Sessions

The course will take place synchronously on Tuesdays, 2.15-5.15 PM, using the Webex platform.

Students have two options for joining class sessions:

- **By computer**, using the following link:
  - [https://rutgers.webex.com/rutgers/j.php?MTID=mfc8bfaa7d03655149bbcfdc018115520](https://rutgers.webex.com/rutgers/j.php?MTID=mfc8bfaa7d03655149bbcfdc018115520)
  - Meeting number: 120 286 9966
  - Password: fZ2pWYNWg37
  - Host key: 199334

- **By telephone**, using the following call in number:
  - (650) 429-3300
  - Access code: 120 286 9966
  - Please contact me for the list of global call-in numbers, if required.

Required Readings

All of the readings will be posted on the course’s Sakai page (login at [https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal](https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal)), with the exception of one book which can be ordered online:

  - **ISBN-10**: 0520021568  
  - **ISBN-13**: 978-0520021563

Academic Integrity Policy

Students are expected to adhere to the Rutgers Honor Pledge in all work submitted for this course. For further details on university policy, see: [http://nbacademicintegrity.rutgers.edu/home/academic-integrity-policy/](http://nbacademicintegrity.rutgers.edu/home/academic-integrity-policy/)

COVID-19 Exceptions

The global pandemic has disrupted many aspects of our everyday lives, including academic coursework. Please get in touch with me at [m.l.krook@rutgers.edu](mailto:m.l.krook@rutgers.edu) if you require additional support in accessing or understanding course materials. Please also contact me if you might need extensions for any deadlines due to illness, care work, or other COVID-related disruptions.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**CLASSIC CONCEPTS AND THEORIES OF POLITICAL REPRESENTATION**

**September 1: Introduction to Political Representation**

Introduction to the course and the study of political representation.

**September 15: Types of Political Representation**


September 22: Representation and Democracy


September 29: Inclusion and Political Representation


NEW DIRECTIONS IN STUDYING POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

October 6: Interest Groups, Representation, and Representativeness


October 13: Representation as Claims-Making


October 20: Rethinking Political Inclusion/Exclusion


EMPIRICAL STUDIES OF POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

October 27: Class


November 3: Gender


November 10: Race


November 17: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity


**November 24: Age**


**December 1: Disability**


**CONCLUSIONS AND REFLECTION**

**December 8: Intersectionality and Political Representation**

Student presentations.
APPENDIX 1

PARTICIPATION GRADE

As noted on page 1, **20% of the final grade** for this course is determined by your participation. This grade is determined by a number of elements:

- **Attending class regularly:** Student attendance is vital to the life of a seminar. **Multiple, unexcused absences** will result in a reduction of the participation grade. Coming unduly late or leaving early will also be treated as lack of attendance.

- **Coming to class prepared:** Students should do all assigned course readings prior to class. All articles and book chapters are posted in Sakai. These materials should be brought to each class session, with notes and annotations of your questions and observations.

- **Participating actively in class discussions:** Students are expected to not only be present in class but to be present in class. This entails being an active listener, answering questions, or offering observations and reflections on the class materials. Reading emails, checking social media, surfing the internet, etc., on your phone or laptop during class will be treated as lack of participation.

Participation in class sessions is an essential and valuing part of the learning experience. The following studies demonstrate the importance of attendance and active engagement with class materials. I do not ban laptops in the classroom, but I instead encourage all students to consider the value of using a pen and paper for note-taking.

Class Attendance in College: A Meta-Analytic Review of the Relationship of Class Attendance With Grades and Student Characteristics
Marcus Crede, Sylvia G. Rech, Urszula M. Kiesczynka
First Published June 1, 2010 | Research Article
https://doi.org/10.3102/0034854110062998

Abstract
A meta-analysis of the relationship between class attendance in college and college grades reveals that attendance has strong relationships with both class grades ($k = 21, N = 21,195$, $r = .44$) and GPA ($k = 33, N = 9,243$, $r = .41$). These relationships make class attendance a better predictor of college grades than any other known predictor of academic performance, including scores on standardized admissions tests such as the SAT, high school GPA, study habits, and study skills. Results also show that class attendance explains large amounts of unique variance in college grades because of its relative independence from SAT scores.

The Pen Is Mightier Than the Keyboard: Advantages of Longhand Over Laptop Note Taking
Pam A. Mueller, Daniel M. Oppenheimer
First Published April 23, 2014 | Research Article
https://doi.org/10.1177/0956797614524561

Abstract
Taking notes on laptops rather than in longhand is increasingly common. Many researchers have suggested that laptop note taking is less effective than longhand note taking for learning. Prior studies have primarily focused on students’ capacity for multitasking and distraction when using laptops. The present research suggests that even when laptops are used solely to take notes, they may still be impeding learning because their use results in shallower processing. In three studies, we found that students who took notes on laptops performed worse on conceptual questions than students who took notes longhand. We show that whereas taking more notes can be beneficial, laptop note takers’ tendency to transcribe lectures verbatim rather than processing information and rephrasing it in their own words is detrimental to learning.
APPENDIX 2

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

Student grade assessments will include **three writing assignments**:

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A **quiz (10% of the final grade)** on classic concepts and theories of political representation, reviewing materials covered in readings and lectures during Weeks 1-4. **Date: October 6**

The quiz will ask students to define a list of approximately 10 terms provided at the beginning of the class period, posted on the Webex meeting as well emailed directly to students.

**Sample terms:** descriptive representation, principle of distinction, and direct democracy. To prepare for the quiz, students should review all the readings and lecture materials to identify potential concepts and theories.

**Completed quizzes should be uploaded via the Dropbox on Sakai by 3.30 PM on October 6.**

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A **mid-term essay (20% of the final grade)** comparing one new theory of representation (from Weeks 5-7) to one or more classical theories of representation (from Weeks 1-4). **Deadline: October 27**

This essay should integrate materials from the first two sections of the course, with the aim of reviewing the theoretical ideas covered in the course prior to turning to empirical studies.

**Sample topics:** who represents; where representation happens; the process/acts of representation; criteria of ‘good’ representation; inclusion/exclusion in representation

**Essays should be approximately 2500 words long and turned in before class via the Drop Box on Sakai.**

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A **final essay (30% of the final grade)** evaluating and comparing the case for and against group-based quotas in relation to two different identity groups. **Deadline: December 21**

This essay should focus on two of the six groups covered in the third part of the course (Weeks 8-13): class, gender, race, sexual orientation and gender identity, age, and disability.

Concepts, theories, and evidence from Weeks 1-7 of the course should also be incorporated, where relevant – for example: Phillips, Mansbridge, Dovi, and Murray.

**Essays should be approximately 5000 words long and be turned in via the Drop Box on Sakai by 11.59 PM.**
APPENDIX 3

CLASS PRESENTATIONS

Students should choose one article to read for the last class and develop a short 5-10 minute presentation that:

- Summarizes the article’s main points;
- Addresses how the article relates to, extends, and/or challenges some of the concepts, theories, and findings we have been discussing this semester; and
- Explores what an intersectional lens (the interaction of multiple identities) brings to our understanding of political representation.

PowerPoint presentations are welcomed but not required.

Potential readings

Possible articles include, but are not limited to, the following list. All of these articles can be found in a folder labeled ‘Intersectionality Articles’ in the Resources folder on Sakai. Students are welcome to go beyond these sources, but please seek my prior approval if you seek to do a presentation on an article not included on this list.


APPENDIX 3

CCD CORE CERTIFICATION

Core Curriculum Rubrics  [revised Core goals ratified May 2018]

Contemporary Challenges –

CCD: Diversities and Social Inequalities (3 credits) - Students must take one course that meets one or both goals.

| GOAL CCD-1 | Specifically explicates how forms of human difference, stratifications among social groups, and the unequal distributions of power that result shape individual or group experiences of, and perspectives on, contemporary issues. Demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of those differences or social stratifications, their connections to unequal distributions of power, and their effects on a contemporary challenge. |
| OUTSTANDING | Examines how some types of human difference or social stratification relevant to the course generate unequal distributions of power and are linked to individual or group experiences of, and perspectives on, contemporary issues. Demonstrates an understanding of some effect(s) of those differences or stratifications on unequal distributions of power and a contemporary challenge. |
| GOOD | Identifies links between a type of human difference or social stratification relevant to the course, unequal power distributions, and individual or group experiences of, and perspectives on, contemporary issues, largely through satisfactory presentation of course materials. Demonstrates some understanding of how some differences or social stratifications affect unequal distributions of power and a contemporary challenge. |
| SATISFACTORY | Fails to link significant forms of human difference or social stratification relevant to the course to power inequalities or individual or group experiences of, and perspectives on, contemporary issues as relevant to focus of the particular course. Fails to delineate the impact of differences or social stratifications on the issues that are central to the course. |
| UNSATISFACTORY |