

Applied Politics
POL 391
Winter 2023
In Oxford: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM Jan 5-6
In DC: January 8-13

Prof. Jonathan Klingler
237 Deupree Hall
Email: jklingl@olemiss.edu
Cell: 618-363-3533

Office Hours
by appointment

Course Description

Students will spend four class days in the nation's capital learning about applied politics as it relates to political campaigns and elections. Students will meet with consultants and party operatives on both the Democratic and Republican sides. The course will extend beyond campaign connections to include meetings with interest group leaders and media outlets that cover campaigns and elections, as well as several current and former elected officials. Students will leave the class having learned about the parts and pieces of the political apparatus required to run a modern political campaign.

Objectives

- Have a deeper knowledge of how to assess the effects of campaigns.
- Have a deeper knowledge of various phases of the electoral and advocacy process.
- Be able to apply the class concepts, readings, discussion, etc. to contemporary political debates.
- Be better equipped to analyze contemporary research in political science and other social sciences, as well as news reports.
- Have completed a final paper related to the course.

Required Course Materials

Issenberg, Sasha. 2012. *The Victory Lab: The Secret Science of Winning Campaigns*. New York: Crown Publishers.

Sides, John, Michael Tesler, and Lynn Vavreck. 2018. *Identity Crisis: The 2016 Presidential Campaign and the Battle for the Meaning of America*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Supplemental Readings

Readings may be assigned to supplement the required text from online sources or excerpted from other books. Assigned readings derived from online sources are accessible through links within

the course content folders on the class Blackboard page.

You will likely have to log into the UM Library website and search for the article to view it. The links provided on Blackboard are to the correct article but it can be difficult to log in and get full access, so these links exist to allow you to verify you have found the right reading via search.

Format

This course and its accompanying meetings with professionals in Washington, DC will largely proceed in a seminar, not lecture, format. One of your main responsibilities in this course is to come prepared to discuss the readings and the topics we are covering. That is, not only must you read, but you must also spend time analyzing and critiquing the readings and be prepared to ask questions and engage in meaningful conversations with the professionals that are taking time out of their work day to meet with us. As is the case in any course, a great deal of topics germane to the course will not be covered. The interested student is encouraged to consult the instructor for additional material.

Some Practical Reminders

When you check into the Capitol Hill Hotel, you will likely be asked to provide a credit card to cover incidental charges. *Bring a credit card if at all possible.* If you use a debit card you may see a very large temporary charge applied which could prevent you from using your card during the trip.

Dr. Klingler's personal cell is 618-363-3533 in case you need to reach me during the trip.

Even though we will be off campus, you are responsible for following University guidelines during the trip and violations will face the same consequences as on campus.

Dr. Klingler will arrive at Dulles Airport at **TBD** and will wait by Baggage Claim **TBD** until **TBD** before heading to the hotel.

It will likely be cold so bring a coat.

Grading

Attendance and Participation 50%; Daily Journal 20%; Final Paper 30%.

Class attendance and participation counts for 50% of your final grade. Each of the six class days is worth 8.33% of your final grade. Perfect attendance is required. Students will be docked one letter grade off their final average for missing any class in Oxford or a scheduled event on the class's DC travel itinerary. I will score participation based on contributions to in-class discussion and relevant questions on site. This is a short, intensive two-week course. It is imperative that we are not late for any meetings. If you are late, or make the group late, it will reflect in your participation grade.

Importantly, I ask that you respect the diverse views of fellow students and the professionals we meet, regardless of their political views. Always utilize common courtesies during class. Please refrain from eating, reading the newspaper, keep your phones off, etc.

Daily journal entries while in DC count for 20% of your final grade. Students will keep a daily journal chronicling each day of the course in DC (January 9-12). This does not need to be lengthy, but at least a page each day. A foremost requirement is that students keep track of each professional we meet with and how they and/or their organization fits into the larger rubric of understanding American campaigns, elections, and policy. **Journal entries are due via email to me by 11:59 PM Central on Saturday January 14.**

A *final paper* counts for 30% of your final grade. Students will write a three-page paper summarizing their course experience. The paper should select the three most important/revealing experiences from the course and explain why they were so for the student. **Final papers are due via email to me by 11:59 PM Central on Monday January 16.**

Grade Scale

Below is how your final percentage grade will be mapped into a letter grade. There are opportunities for extra credit in this class so there will be no rounding. If you get an 87.9999999%, (for example) when the semester is over your final grade will be a B+. **No exceptions.**

Percentage Point Range	Letter Grade
92-100	A
88-91.99...	A-
85-87.99...	B+
81-84.99...	B
78-80.99...	B-
75-77.99...	C+
71-75.99...	C
68-70.99...	C-
65-67.99...	D+
62-64.99...	D
60-61.99...	D-
0-59.99...	F

Class Policies

Changes to the syllabus may be made in order to correct errors, adjust the schedule, fine tune course details, or address unforeseen issues. Changes will be discussed and announced in class. It is the student's responsibility to attend class to be aware of any syllabus changes. The official syllabus will always be available on Blackboard.

Policy on Readings and Assignment Expectations

Reading and any additional assignments should be completed before the official start time for class on the day assigned. This means that email copies of assignments must be in the instructor/TA's possession at the official start time for class or the assignment is late. Pay careful attention to the syllabus and to any adjustments that may occur. Material in the readings is fair game for exams even if not discussed in class.

Policy on Missed Classes and Assignments

This is an intensive two week class and no missed classes are permitted. Perfect attendance is mandatory.

Do not delay until the end of our two weeks to seek help with any assignments. By then it will be too late. Due to the truncated nature of the course, there will be no opportunity for make-up work. As a result, be exceedingly careful not to miss an assignment.

Policy on COVID-19

The University is taking the pandemic seriously and each of us must take responsibility to limit the spread of the virus until more permanent solutions can be found. Students with COVID-19 should seek immediate medical attention at the Student Health Center and contact Dr. Klingler to let me know that you are sick, quarantined, or have some other health-related absence. If students test positive for COVID-19 at any health care facility, they must contact the Student Health Center at 662-915-7274 and follow directions from the healthcare provider and isolate. If you are exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should contact the Student Health Center to be tested three to five days following exposure and follow the guidance recommended by the Health Center. You should follow quarantine protocols found at <https://coronavirus.olemiss.edu/students/>.

In Washington, there may be a mask mandate and if it is reinstated, some places you may wish to go on your own time may ask for proof of vaccination. In order to maximize the availability of options for using your own time, it is advised that you have multiple masks available as well as a copy or photo of your CDC formatted vaccination card if you have one.

Policy on Grade Appeals

All grade appeals must be made in writing to the instructor. No grade appeals will be considered within the first 24 hours of a grade being posted or an assignment/exam being returned; those that come in within the first 24 hours will be discarded. All grade appeals must be received within ten calendar days of the grade being posted or the assignment/exam being returned; those that come in after this deadline will be discarded. All appeals must contain the following information:

The name of the assignment in question

The reason why you believe your grade should be higher. Be specific and discuss this in the context of the requirements of the assignment.

Determine whether you believe it is an error of calculation (the instructor/TA incorrectly tabulated points), judgment (the grade received does not reflect the quality of the work), or both.

If the instructor/TA determines that an error of calculation is present, then the correct grade will be calculated and the correct grade will be allocated. If it is argued by the student that an error of judgment is present, then the student has the option to have the assignment graded *de novo* by the instructor. As this will be a regrade from scratch, there is the possibility that the grade given to the regraded assignment will be lower than the initial grade given. All decisions by the instructor are final.

Policy on Disabilities

Students facing disabilities or mental health concerns who are not registered should apply for accommodation with Student Disability Services (SDS) *immediately* due to the short nature of the class. Any student who has a documented disability and has received recommendations for accommodations from SDS should speak with the instructor on the very first day regarding accommodations.

Policy on Respect and Civility

The exchange of ideas is an essential part of learning, and you are encouraged to frequently ask questions and share your thoughts during class meetings and in assignments. *Disagree without being disagreeable*. We will be discussing some polarizing issues in class, and conversation should remain civil and conducted in a good faith exchange. In order to maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning, students should use professional language in class discussions and written work and behave professionally. No offensive slang or profanity is permitted.

Policy on Academic Discipline

Academic honesty is expected, and academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Examples of academic misconduct are explored in the M Book and include plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation), using someone else's work as your own, allowing someone else to represent your work as their own, gaining or attempting to gain an unfair advantages, giving false information or altering documents, harming academic support facilities, and any act that violates the principles of honesty or fairness that does not fall into these categories.

Turn in material that you have completed yourself and respect the learning environment. Acts of academic misconduct are serious offenses that will be reported for disciplinary action and appropriate sanction after discussion with the student. Please see the University's Student Academic Conduct and Discipline Policy, the University's Academic Regulations in the M Book and/or speak with Prof. Klingler if you have questions in this area.

Course Outline

Part I: Oxford

Prior to January 5

Read *The Victory Lab*

Thursday January 5

The Modern Campaign Environment

Class in Oxford (Attire: Casual)

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Deupree First Floor Conference Room

Reading Due:

Isenberg, *The Victory Lab* (entire book)

Friday January 6

Turnout, Vote Choice, and Institutional Context

Class in Oxford (Attire: Casual)

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Deupree First Floor Conference Room

Readings Due:

Sides et al. *Identity Crisis* (chapter 8)

Gerber et al. 2003. "Getting Out the Vote In Local Elections."

Bafumi and Shapiro. 2009. "A New Partisan Voter."

Shaw. 1999. "The Methods Behind the Madness."

Abbe et al. 2003. "Agenda Setting in Congressional Elections."

Saturday January 7

No Class

Part II: Washington

Sunday January 8

Check in at Capitol Hill Hotel

Address: 200 C Street SE, Washington DC 20003

Getting to the Hotel from IAD/DCA

If you are arriving at Dulles Airport (IAD):

Go to Arrival Door 4 in the Baggage Claim

Exit the building and look for the "Silver Line Express" Desk

Buy a fare with cash or credit card for \$5

Buses leave for the Wiehle-Reston East Metro station every 15-20 minutes

At Wiehle-Reston East, take the escalator up to the pedestrian bridge, cross the highway, and enter the Wiehle-Reston East Metro station

Buy a ticket and take the Silver Line to the Capitol South Metro station

If you are arriving at Washington Reagan (DCA):

Exit the airport on Level 2 and take the escalator or elevator to the Metro platform

Buy a Metro ticket and take the Blue Line to the Capitol South Metro station

When you get to the Capitol South Metro station:

Exit the station and take a right on C Street

Continue one block (the Library of Congress is on the left, and you will walk to the end of the building on 2nd Street SE)

The Capitol Hill Hotel will be on the corner, diagonally opposite of the church

Monday January 9

Attire: Business

8:15 AM - Meet in Hotel Lobby

9:00 AM - Event at BGR Group

Location: BGR Boardroom, 601 13th Street NW, Eleventh Floor South, Washington DC, 20005 (202-333-4936)

Speakers/Guests: TBD

Time TBD - Event TBD

Location: TBD

Speakers/Guests: TBD

Event Concludes at time TBD

Staying at Capitol Hill Hotel at 200 C Street SE, Washington DC, 20003-1909 (202-543-6000)

Tuesday January 10

Attire: Business

8:15 AM - Meet in Hotel Lobby

9:00 AM - Event at BGR Group

Location: BGR Boardroom, 601 13th Street NW, Eleventh Floor South, Washington DC, 20005 (202-333-4936)

Speakers/Guests: TBD

Time TBD - Event TBD

Location: TBD

Speakers/Guests: TBD

Event Concludes at time TBD

Staying at Capitol Hill Hotel at 200 C Street SE, Washington DC, 20003-1909 (202-543-6000)

Wednesday January 11

Attire: Business

8:15 AM - Meet in Hotel Lobby

9:00 AM - Event at BGR Group

Location: BGR Boardroom, 601 13th Street NW, Eleventh Floor South, Washington DC, 20005 (202-333-4936)

Speakers/Guests: TBD

Time TBD - Event TBD

Location: TBD

Speakers/Guests: TBD

Event Concludes at time TBD

Staying at Capitol Hill Hotel at 200 C Street SE, Washington DC, 20003-1909 (202-543-6000)

Thursday January 12

Attire: Business

8:15 AM - Meet in Hotel Lobby

9:00 AM - Event at BGR Group

Location: BGR Boardroom, 601 13th Street NW, Eleventh Floor South, Washington DC, 20005 (202-333-4936)

Speakers/Guests: TBD

Time 12:30 - Class Wrap Up Discussion

Location: BGR Boardroom, 601 13th Street NW, Eleventh Floor South, Washington DC, 20005 (202-333-4936)

Speakers/Guests: Dr. Klingler

Event Concludes at 4 PM

Staying at Capitol Hill Hotel at 200 C Street SE, Washington DC, 20003-1909 (202-543-6000)

Friday January 13

Depart from DC