

**VOTING AND AMERICAN POLITICS
POLITICAL SCIENCE W3290**

Fall 2012

603 Hamilton Hall TR 10:10A-11:25A

Instructor: Dr. Robert Erikson

Office: 726 International Affairs (IAB, 420 W. 118th St.)

Office Hours: 2:00-3:00PM TU.; 4:00-5:00PM TH. or by appointment.

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Teaching Assistant:

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Books:

Abramson, Aldrich, and Rohde. *Change and Continuity in the 2008 and 2010 Elections.*

Erikson and Tedin. *American Public Opinion.* 8th ed.

Maisel and Brewer. *Parties and Elections in America.* 6th ed.

ALL AVAILABLE AT BOOK CULTURE ON 112 ST. BETWEEN AMSTERDAM AVE. AND BROADWAY.

Additional readings will occasionally be assigned, mainly from the WWW as they pertain to the 2012 presidential race.

Tests: One midterm exam and one final exam

Paper

Default topic: Analysis of a battleground state in 2012 campaign or a hotly contested Senate or Governor race. Specific topics will be assigned, unique for each student. Length: 10-12 pages. Students will monitor major newspapers in the assigned states and video ads for the assigned elections as they become available.

Alternative topic: Data analysis paper analyzing Exit Poll data from the 2008 presidential election. Length: 5-6 pages, text; 2-3 pages supporting figures, graphs, and tables.

Or other topic relevant to the 2008 election, with advance permission of the instructor.

All papers due by December 11.

Grades:

Exam 1..... 35%

Exam 235%

Paper..... 25%

Class participation, attendance... 5%

Schedule of Topics:

The schedule of topics and readings follow. Students are responsible for reading the assigned material. Lectures and readings will not always exactly overlap. Classes will have both lecture and discussion. Class time will be devoted to the 2012 campaign, including student reports from the field. The dates of the topics are approximate.

<i>Schedule of Topics. POLS W3290. Voting and American Politics. Fall 2012</i>			
<i>Tu, Th..</i>	<i>Sept. 4, 6</i>	Introduction	Erikson, Chapter 1
<i>Tu..</i>	<i>Sept.11</i>	Predicting Elections	Erikson, Chapter 2
<i>Th., Tu.</i>	<i>Sept.13 Sept. 18</i>	Understanding Public Opinion	Erikson, Chapters. 3,4
<i>Th., Tu.</i>	<i>Sept. 20 Sept. 25</i>	Party Alignments in Electoral Politics	Abramson, Chapter 5 Erikson, Chapter 7 Maisel, Chapter 2
<i>Th.</i>	<i>Sept. 27</i>	Party Identification	Abramson, Chapter 8
<i>Tu., Th.</i>	<i>Oct. 2 Oct. 4</i>	The Campaign I-- from Nomination to Election	Abramson, Chapters 1,2,3 Maisel, Chapters 6,7,8,9
<i>Tu., Th.</i>	<i>Oct. 9 Oct. 11</i>	The Campaign II—Money, Mass Media, and Voters	Erikson, Chapter 8 Maisel, Chapters 5,10
<i>Tu.</i>	<i>Oct. 16</i>	<i>Catch-up, Review</i>	
<i>Th.</i>	<i>Oct. 18</i>	<i>Midterm Exam</i>	
<i>Tu., Th.</i>	<i>Oct. 23 Oct. 25</i>	Voters, Issues, and Presidential Elections	Erikson, Chapter 9 Abramson, Chapters 6,7
<i>Tu.,</i>	<i>Oct. 30</i>	Voters, Issues, and Congressional Elections	Abramson, Chapters 9,10,11
<i>Th.</i>	<i>Nov. 1</i>	<i>Discussion: Previewing the Election</i>	
<i>Tu.</i>	<i>Nov. 6</i>	<i>Election Day Holiday</i>	
<i>Th,</i>	<i>Nov. 8</i>	<i>Discussion: Election Post-Mortem</i>	
<i>Tu., Th.</i>	<i>Nov. 13 Nov. 15</i>	Voter Turnout	Abramson, Chapter 4 Maisel, Chapter 3
<i>Tu. Tu..</i>	<i>Nov. 20, Nov. 27</i>	Democratic Citizenship	Erikson, Chapters 5, 6
<i>Th.</i>	<i>Nov. 22</i>	<i>Thanksgiving Day, NO CLASS</i>	
<i>Tu Th</i>	<i>Nov. 29 Dec. 1</i>	Candidates and Elections Elections & Representation, Elections: Do They Matter?	Erikson, Chapters 10,11 Maisel, Chapters 11, 12 Abramson, Chapter 12
<i>Th.</i>	<i>Dec. 6</i>	<i>Catch-up, Review</i>	