SYLLABUS
ELECTION LAW
POLI 5170/6170

6170: Various Law Journal Articles Covering Election Law Issues (TBA)

EXAMS: Two multiple choice exams will be administered to both undergraduate (5170) and graduate students (6170). A research paper is also required for 6170. Each exam will be worth 50% of the final grade for 5170. Each exam and the paper will be equally weighed for the final grade for 6170. Grades will be administered according to a regular 10 point scale with the 90% and better constituting an A for the course and a 59% and below yielding a failing grade for the course.

Graduate Credit: The graduate level course is more advanced than is the undergraduate level course. To that end, the required paper will entail in-depth investigation in a particular area of Election Law. Reading from Law Journals and Election Law Reviews will be essential. The paper will be of a substantial length, e.g., 20 to 25 pagers and academic rigor. The topic of the paper will be determined by the student in consultation with the instructor.

PURPOSE: Election law is of increasing importance not merely to lawyers but to elected officials, policy makers and voters. Effectiveness in litigation, governance, policy making and voting is enhanced by understanding the structure, purpose and problems surrounding the election process within a democratic political system. This course is a component of the Elections Concentration within the MPA Program.

OBJECTIVES:

To investigate:

1. The Right to Vote.
2. The Obstacles to the Right to Vote.
3. The Right to Vote and the Issue of Districting.
4. The Right to Vote and Campaign Donations.

NOTICE: Pursuant to the College of Liberal Arts Fall 2006 Syllabi guidelines, you should be aware that:

1. Each course should be of sufficient scope, rigor, and complexity to justify both the number of credit hours assigned to it and the number-level at which it is taught. (The Tiger Cub identifies 3-3.5 hrs of total work per
week, including class time, as the appropriate amount of student effort to be expected per credit assigned to the course. A 3 credit hour course, in other words, should require approximately 9-10.5 hrs of student effort per week, including time spent in class.)

2. Students with a disability requiring accommodations should register with the Program for Students with Disabilities (1244 Haley Center), then present the instructor with the requisite paperwork.

3. Helping a student do well in class requires that the instructor know the student's needs. This will require that the student disclose to the instructor the relevant intellectual problem the student is experiencing. The student should endeavor to help the instructor help the student.

4. While attendance is not a guarantee of success in an academic class (see #3 above) it is generally necessary. Each student is expected not only to attend class but be prepared and active in class. Failure in any of the aforementioned is its own punishment, however.

5. Remember that withdrawal without negative consequences must be accomplished prior to mid semester.

6. The instructor shall endeavor to respond to email as soon as reasonably possible if not later.

**TOPICS:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>I. The Right to Vote</th>
<th>Weeks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>II. Voting and Representation</td>
<td>1-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. Equally weighed votes</td>
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<td>III. Districting</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. Racial</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Political</td>
<td>5-7</td>
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**APPROXIMATE POINT OF MID-TERM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IV. Campaigning</th>
<th>Weeks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Campaign Finance</td>
<td>8-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Campaign Disclosure</td>
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V. Ballot Propositions 11-12
VI. Parties 13-14
VII. Incumbency 15

**Final Exams:** Final exams will be administered on dates during hours specified in the semester examination schedule.