GVPT 423 SG91
Elections and Electoral Behavior
University of Maryland College Park – Shady Grove
Criminology and Criminal Justice
*Wednesday 3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Instructor: Samantha Davis Phelps
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Phone Number: (703) 598-8550
Office Hours: By appointment
Locations: Building III, 4216

GVPT 423 SG91: Elections and Electoral Behavior

Course Description
An examination of various topics relating to elections; the focus includes the legal structure under which elections are conducted, the selection and nomination process, the conduct of election campaigns, and patterns of political participation and voting choice in different types of elections.

Evaluation (Grading)

Online and in Class Assignments 20%
Campaign Profile Project 20%
Campaign Analysis Paper 20%
Midterm 20%
Final 20%

Online and In-Class Assignments: As we are all aware, this is a Presidential Election year. It is important that you utilize this opportunity to directly apply what you are learning to current events. You will be called upon to do this in online assignments on Canvas as well as in practical applications in class. It is important for you to stay well-versed about the campaign so that you can apply this knowledge in the classroom setting even without the benefit of online resources. Please read print or online newspapers and watch news on multiple stations to gain information and perspective.
**Campaign Profile Project:** In week three, you will be assigned a candidate in a high-profile congressional race. You will chronicle all of the campaign stages and strategies that the candidate applies. There will be assignments throughout the semester that will focus on this candidate so you cannot wait until the last minute to be familiar with their campaign. You will present your findings on the last day of class. A rubric will be distributed and posted on Canvas.

**Campaign Analysis Paper:** You will have the ability to choose a presidential candidate who is not one of the current presidential nominees. You will utilize the information learned in this class to analyze the campaigns successes and failures. A rubric will be distributed and posted on Canvas.

**Midterm and Final Exams:** The midterm exam will encompass the topics from the first half of the course. It will include short answer and essay questions. The final examination will be cumulative and be based on both the first and second halves of the course. There will be a review prior to each examination.

On exam day, students should remove all course materials from the areas surrounding their testing station. Students will receive a zero on the exam if during the exam a student is caught with anything more than a writing implement, paper, and the exam.

Exams must be taken on the scheduled exam date. The only exceptions are medical emergencies to be identified by a doctor’s note. Any students who mention that a test conflicts with a prior scheduled event must show proof of this and will take the exam prior to the date noted for the scheduled exam date.

The penalty for tardy assignments will be a full letter grade (late within the 24 hours).
**Student Expectations**

Class Attendance (Unexcused/Excused/Religious Observance/Medical)

Class attendance is imperative for academic success. Please make every effort to attend class, but if a problem arises please contact me via email or mobile phone (text preferred).

On May 10, 2011, the Campus Senate amended the University of Maryland Policy for A Student's Medically Necessitated Absence from Class V-100 (G) Under this new policy, I will accept as an excused absence of self-signed note from a student who has missed a single lecture, recitation, or laboratory, attesting to the date of the illness. This note must also contain an acknowledgement by the student that the information is true and correct and that providing false information is prohibited under the Code of Student Conduct. The student is also obligated to make a reasonable attempt to inform the instructor of his/her illness in advance. A student is allowed only ONE self-signed note per class for the semester.

A student who experiences a prolonged absence or an illness preventing attendance at a major Scheduled Grading Event is required to provide written documentation of the illness from the Health Center or an outside health care provider, verifying the dates of the treatment and the time period during which the student was unable to meet academic responsibilities.

By September 14, 2016, students must provide me, in writing a request for a make-up of an in class assignment or an assignment on this syllabus that you are unable to make due to a specific religious observance (specify) on a specific date. Please refer to the Online Catalog Policy on Religious Observance. Please remember that accommodations are NOT made for travel to and from the religious observance. Please contact me to schedule any make up exams due to excused absences including religious observances.

**Class Conduct**

We must all enter class lectures and discussions with respect and civility in mind. Disruptive behavior will be addressed. Students who are unable to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct will be subject to referral to the Office of Student Conduct or the Campus Police.
Additionally, this class requires discourse involving contentious issues. Personal attacks on other students based on political views, etc., will not be tolerated and will result in your being asked to leave the classroom for the remainder of our class time.

**Use of Technology**

In this class, students will be allowed to use their personal computers to take notes. If a student is found to be using personal technology devices in any way that is not specifically related to the day’s class, then, the student will receive 0 (zero) points for the day’s participation and on the second offense, students will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for violating course policy on the use of personal computers in the classroom.

**Technology**

Please limit technology use to laptops and tablets. Mobile/cell phone usage should only be for emergencies. Uses of technology that are disruptive will be addressed with the student.

**Academic Integrity**

Please note that the Honor Pledge can be found at http:/www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/code. You will be asked to write out the honor pledge, sign, and date it before every exam/paper is due. You will be referred to the Student Honor Council if you violate the Code of Academic Integrity Honor Pledge which is as follows:

“I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment/paper/examination.”

**Students With Disabilities**

I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Disability Support Service (DSS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation form. Only written DSS documentation of the accommodation will be considered. This form must be presented to me no later than September 14, 2016. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who provide me with documentation which has not been reviewed and approved by UM’s DSS Office.
University Emergency Closing

In the event that the University is closed for an emergency or extended period of time, I will communicate to you via Canvas to indicate schedule adjustments, including rescheduling of examinations and assignments due to inclement weather and campus emergencies. Official closures and delays are announced on the Shady Grove campus websites.

Copyright

The lectures I deliver in this class and the course materials I create and distribute are protected by federal copyright law as my original works. My lectures are delivered from written lectures in order to ensure copyright protection. You are permitted to take notes of my lectures and use course materials for your use in this course. You may not record, reproduce, or distribute my lectures/notes for any commercial purpose without my written consent. Persons who sell or distribute copies or modified copies of my course materials, possess commercial copies of my notes, or assist another person or entity in selling or distributing those materials may be considered in violation of the University Code of Student Conduct, part 9(k).

Course Evaluation

Your opinion regarding the format of this course is very important to me and therefore we do several forms of evaluations throughout this semester. One important campus-wide evaluation is the online evaluation at the end of the semester. CourseEvalUM will be open to students to complete their evaluation. Students can go directly to the website (www.courseevalum.umd.edu) to complete their evaluations.

FALL 2016 Important Dates

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<td>First Day of Classes</td>
<td>August 29</td>
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<td>Labor Day</td>
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<td>Thanksgiving Recess</td>
<td>November 24-27</td>
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<td>Last Day of Classes</td>
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<td>Reading Day</td>
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<td>Final Exams</td>
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<td>Commencement – Main Ceremony</td>
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<td>Commencement-College/Department Ceremonies</td>
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General Information on Center for Academic Success

The Center for Academic Success (CAS) offers onsite academic assistance for students attending classes at the Shady Grove Center.

Here is a quick overview of CAS services:

- Review of papers and all writing assignments by a professional writing consultant (in person or over the phone)
- Finding an individual tutor for a course
- Weekly reviews, called Guided Study Sessions (GSS), in business, psychology, nursing and other areas led by peer tutors who aced the class last year and who know the ropes
- Workshops in speed reading, memory strategies, writing with research, or textbook reading strategies
- Academic coaching: personal academic sessions to improve study habits and time management
- Conquer writing snags with grammar assistance handouts, online exercises (with answers) and software programs on our computers

For instruction on how to submit papers for phone tutoring please visit the website at www.shadygrove.umd.edu/resources/cas

Contact Information:
SG Bldg 3, 1st Floor, Office of Student and Academic Services
(301) 738-6315
Email: sg-cas@umd.edu

Hours:
Monday and Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Semester Schedule

**August 31, 2016**
Introduction; Syllabus Review
Reading Assignment: Chapters 1 & 2

**September 7, 2016**
No Class
Must Participate in Online Assignment
Republican National Convention
Democratic National Convention

**September 14, 2016**
Introduction
The American Electoral Process
Reading Assignment: Chapter 4

**September 21, 2016**
Financing Campaigns
Reading Assignment: Chapters 5 & 6

**September 28, 2016**
Modern Campaign Strategies & Political Parties
Reading Assignment: Chapter 9

**October 5, 2016**
Presidential Campaigns
Assignment: Prepare for Midterm Exam

**October 12, 2016**
MAJOR GRADING EVENT - Midterm Exam
Reading Assignment: Chapter 3
October 19, 2016
Transformation of American Campaigns
Reading Assignment: Chapter 7

October 26, 2016
Interest Groups
Reading Assignment: Chapter 8
MAJOR GRADING EVENT – Campaign Analysis Paper

November 2, 2016
Media
Reading Assignment: Chapter 10

November 9, 2016
Congressional Campaigns
Reading Assignment: Chapter 11 & 12

November 16, 2016
State and Local Campaigns & Voter Participation
Reading Assignment: Chapters 13-14

November 23, 2016
NO CLASS- THANKSGIVING BREAK

November 30, 2016
Voter Choice & Democracy in Action or a Broken System
Exam Review

December 2, 2016
MAJOR GRADING EVENT: CAMPAIGN PROFILE COMPILATION DUE
Presentations

FINAL EXAM
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2016 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.