PS 471 Senior Seminar

Fall 2021

Politics of the 1990s

Catalog Description: A capstone course in political science.

Prerequisites: Senior Standing

Credit Hours: 3

Class Meeting Time: 10:00 – 10:50 Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Instructor: James Newman, Ph.D.

Instructor Contact Information…

email: [jnewman@semo.edu](mailto:jnewman@semo.edu)

Office location: 211H Carnahan

Office Hours: 12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. and 2:30 – 5:00 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Concerns: Questions, comments or request regarding this course should be taken to the instructor. Unanswered questions or unresolved issues about this class can be directed to Hamner Hill, chair, Department of Political Science, Philosophy and Religion.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to identify the quandary of the United States’ foreign policy at the end of the Cold War.
2. Students will be able to evaluate the attempt of ‘nationalizing’ federal elections.
3. Students will be able to recognize the impact and evolution of the internet on political campaigns.
4. Students will be able to evaluate the evolution of the two primary political parties from 1990 to today.
5. Students will be able to evaluate Bill Clinton’s presidency and legacy.
6. Students will be able to evaluate the development of nationalism.
7. Students will be able to recognize the awesomeness of Fred as a dog.

Course-specific Required Materials:

The entire course is Open Educational Resource (OER). Attend class. It’s important for your grade. You will need to be able to listen to a podcast and watch videos. You can complete all assignments through Canvas. However, if you seek a more convenient route, you will need to make sure your technology is appropriate.

**Technology Requirements**

The overwhelming majority of students never have a problem with Canvas or completing an assignment or quiz. Still, I must include the following statement. Excuses such as “I am having computer problems” or “computer ate my homework” will not be accepted. It is your responsibility to make sure you do not have computer problems. To help you have a smooth experience in this course, please do the following…

The following are technology requirements to complete this course.

* Use Firefox or Google Chrome as your web browser. Microsoft Edge will cause problems for you, I guarantee it.
* All writing assignments must be submitted with a file extension of “.doc”, “.docx”, or “.rtf”. No other file extension will be accepted as I cannot read any file with a different extension. Specifically, Apple users will need to convert papers into a Word format. If a file with a different extension is submitted, it will be considered late. Most any computer can create a file using any of the three formats listed above.
* I highly recommend you make electronic copies of all assignments. You don’t want to lose an assignment.
* I highly recommend you acquire a ‘cloud drive’. You can find one with Google, Dropbox, Microsoft or Apple. They are free. I have one with Google and one with Dropbox. They provide enough free storage that you can place all academic related assignments in ‘the cloud’. You can access a cloud drive anywhere you can access the Internet. You don’t want to lose your work due to a computer crash. The cloud will save your work. Think of it as a virtual hard drive.

**Expectations**

1.Students are expected to have read the assignments before class.

2. Students are expected to submit all assignments by the stated deadline.

3. Students are expected to participate in class discussions.

4. Plagiarism on papers and cheating on exams will not be tolerated. Evidence of cheating will result in a zero grade on that assignment and may be submitted to the Office of Student Conduct.

5. No laptops. They are a distraction. There will be days we will use technology in class. These days will be announced.

**Course Content**

August 23 – Why are we here and the collapse of the Soviet Union.

August 30 – George HW Bush and our changing post-Cold War world.

September 6 – New World Order (No class Monday, September 6)

September 13 – Domestic policy Issues of the early 90s. The economy, race, and the Court.

September 20 – 1992 Presidential election. Women, Clinton and the changing of a generation.

***Paper on a foreign policy issue is due 10 a.m., Monday, September 27.***

September 27 – Meet Bill Clinton.

October 4 – Foreign policy in the 1990s.

October 11 – 1994 Midterm election. Gerrymandering, election nationalization, budgets, and whatnot.

***Paper on a person issue is due, 10 a.m., Monday, October 18.***

October 18 – The rise of domestic terrorism

October 25 – 1996 Presidential election

November 1 – A growing terrorist threat

November 8 – Evolving media: the Internet, deregulation, talking heads and the 24-hour news cycle.

***Paper on an election is due. 10 a.m., Monday, November 11.***November 15 – Clinton’s second term.

November 22 – Clinton legacy. (No class Wednesday, November 24 and Friday, November 26.)

November 29 - Policy Issues in the late 90s: the rise of Putin, Columbine, assault weapons ban, the economy.

***Paper on an event or movement is due 10 a.m. Monday, December 6.***

December 6 – Y2K Election, changing demographics, legacy of the decade and lingering questions.

**Final Exam 10 a.m. Monday, December 13.**

**Grading Scale and Policies**

There will be four papers, class participation and a final exam.

Writing Assignments (four) (60%, 15% each)

Class Participation (20%) (ongoing)

Final Exam (20%)

Class Participation:

This is not just attendance. Everyone starts at zero and works his/her way up the scale. This is not a small class, but it is small enough for individuals to participate. Participation is defined as showing evidence of having read/listened to the material, thought about the material and being able to relate the material with a ‘real world’ situation. You will get a zero if you do not participate.

Final Exam

The final exam will be a take home final exam. It will be essay in nature. Students will have at least one week to complete the exam. This exam will require several pages of response. (17) Classroom Guideline for Minimizing the Risk of COVID-19 – Please refer to the COVID-19 Information page for the most up to date information, current guidelines, and practices.

(18) Academic Honesty – Southeast Missouri State University expects all students, faculty and staff to operate in an honest and ethical manner. Academic dishonesty is a very serious offense because it undermines the value of your education and the education of others. Students who engage in academic dishonesty face significant penalties. Forms of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, contract cheating, misrepresentation, and other actions you take. Some of these are defined below:

· Plagiarism means passing off someone else’s work as your own, whether it is intentional or unintentional.

· Cheating includes copying from another person or source of information to meet the requirements of a task.

· Contract cheating is paying someone else or a company to do your work.

· Misrepresentation means you are posing as someone else or someone else is posing as you to complete a task.

· Collusion means working with one or more people to cheat. If you help someone cheat or plagiarize you will face the same penalties. For more information, visit the Responsible Redhawks Guide Student Code of Conduct or the Faculty Handbook (See Section (D) on Academic Honesty).

(19) Accessibility – Southeast Missouri State University and the Office of Accessibility Services are committed to making every reasonable educational accommodation for students who identify as people with disabilities. Many services and accommodations which aid a student’s educational experience are available for students with various disabilities. Students are responsible for contacting The Office of Accessibility Services to register and access accommodations. Accommodations are implemented on a case-by-case basis. For more information, visit the Accessibility Services page or contact Accessibility Services by phone at 573-651-5927.

(20) Civility – Your university experience is purposely designed to introduce you to new ideas, help you think effectively, develop good communication skills, evaluate information successfully, distinguish among values and make sound judgements. Doing this well requires respectful and courteous discussion among and between students and the instructor. Together, we must create a space where we acknowledge and respect others that have different experiences, perspectives, and points of view. Disagreements are likely. Mutual respect for one another and a willingness to listen are important.

Remember, you are responsible for your behavior and actions. There is a no tolerance policy on bullying or harassment of any kind. Additional information on student conduct may be found in the Student Code of Conduct: and in Chapter 5, Section D of the Faculty Handbook.

(21) Mandatory Reporting – I will keep information you share with me confidential to the best of my ability, but as a professor I am legally required to share information about sexual misconduct and crimes I learn about with our Title IX Coordinator in order to make our campus and community safe for everyone and to connect you with supportive resources. For more information, visit Title IX Compliance.

(22) Student Success – This course uses SupportNET, Southeast’s student success network, to improve communication between students, faculty, and staff on campus. You’ll get emails through SupportNET with information about resources or concerns. Please read these emails—they are sent to help you succeed! You can access SupportNET through your portal, Canvas or directly at supportnet.semo.edu to see any academic alerts, ask for help and to access resources to support your success at Southeast.