POL 113, Introduction to American Politics
Spring 2020

Name: _____

Due Date:

- **Paper** (6-8 pages) due April 22 at the beginning of class on Sakai
- Worth 20% of the final class grade.

Specific Details:

- Submit on Sakai in Word or Google Doc form only.
- Include complete citations for every source used.
- **Ten points will be deducted for each day late.**

Paper #2

A main focus of the 2nd half of the course portion is elections. We are in the midst of a crazy election year, so this seems a good time as any to let you all try to be prognosticators. Below you have 10 states (including North Carolina) where the Democratic nominee and President Donald Trump will likely be close in the vote. In addition, I have also included 7 potentially close Senate races, as well as the race for Governor of North Carolina. Choose one of these and construct an argument for why a candidate will win that election based on demographics of the state, issues central to the state, candidate dynamics, national trends, past history, and other factors (basically don't argue the John Madden response, that the candidate in question will win because they received the most votes). It's up to you in terms of how you put together your argument, but you want to be sure that your argument is both well-constructed and backed up with clear and convincing evidence. The key thing here is to look at an election and see, based on what we see to this point, why you believe based on your evidence that one candidate will win over the other.

My recommendation: pick one now and start researching. I'm happy to let you do another 2020 race, but you need to justify your choice.

The available choices are:

Presidency (2016 winner in parentheses)
Arizona (Trump)
Florida (Trump)
Michigan (Trump)
Minnesota (Clinton)
Nevada (Clinton)
New Hampshire (Clinton)
North Carolina (Trump)
Pennsylvania (Trump)
Wisconsin (Trump)
Virginia (Clinton)

Gubernatorial Race

North Carolina (*Roy Cooper* (D) vs. TBD (R) (one of Dan Forest or Holly Grange, will be known after March 3)

Senate Races (incumbent first and in italics)
Alabama (*Doug Jones* (D) vs. TBD (R) (one of Bradley Byrne, Roy Moore, Jeff Sessions, or Tommy Tuberville, may be known after March 3 (high possibility of runoff))

Arizona (*Martha McSally* (R) vs. Mark Kelly (D))

Colorado (*Cory Gardner* (R) vs. John Hickenlooper (D))

Kansas (TBD (R) (though likely either Roger Marshall or Kris Kobach) vs. Barbara Bollier (D))

Maine (*Susan Collins* (R) vs. Sara Gideon (D))

Michigan *(Gary Peters* (D) vs. John James (R))

North Carolina (*Thom Tillis* (R) vs. TBD (D) (Cal Cunningham or Erica Smith, will be known after March 3)

General guidelines for writing: 12 point font, Times New Roman preferred (but Calibri is also fine… just don't write in Comic Sans.), 1 inch margins (this is a default from Word, so don't worry), double-spaced, 6-8 pages (you can go on to page 9, but don't go further than halfway down the page… I want you to be concise and succinct in your arguments).

Citation: I have no preference on citation style (APA, MLA, Chicago), just be consistent. In-text citation is fine as well. Footnotes or endnotes are fine, just pick one.

Thesis Statements/Draft Policy: I don't read drafts. However, if you want to send me a thesis statement, you can do so and I'll reply with comments.

Expectations: My expectation in this assignment are that you will write a clean, concise piece where you make an argument in some direction and then back that argument up with evidence. You will want to make sure your evidence is both strong and illuminates your larger point. Excellent papers will do all of these things and will illuminate evidence to show how the evidence fits into the larger argument.