POLI 102
SECTION 02
Contemporary Political Issues
Spring 2021 (Express II)
March 8th-April 30th
Monday/Wednesday: 4:00pm-6:45pm
Course Type: Online Instruction/Synchronized Online Meetings

Instructor: Kendall Deas, Ph.D
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Email: deaskd@cofc.edu
Office Location: JC Long (211)
Office Hours: (by appointment)

Course Description:
This course is an overview of a critical issue in contemporary politics: immigration. This learning community will examine immigration as a social phenomenon within our contemporary world. This course is intended to familiarize you with the goals of public policy, social issues, and philosophical issues surrounding immigration. Some of the supplementary readings for this course will present students with a sample of political science as a field of study. The assignments are constructed to build students’ writing and research skills regarding a contemporary political issue such as immigration, its historical background, and to lay the groundwork for more in-depth study. The course is structured in a way that connects the study of political science to contemporary political events, policies, and debates concerning immigration.

Required Course Texts:

• **Note:** Course textbooks are available for purchase through the main campus bookstore (Barnes & Nobles; 160 Calhoun Street). The main campus bookstore personnel can assist with these book orders or students can order directly themselves from Amazon. There will also be peer reviewed articles you will be assigned to read periodically and these will be posted in the course Oaks site by the instructor.

**Learning Outcomes:**

*Students who complete this course should be able to accomplish the following:*

1. Students will become familiar with a number of contemporary political issues and better understand their make-up and importance.
2. Students can apply social science concepts, models, or theories to explain human behavior, social interactions, or social institutions.
3. Students will understand how different political issues are assessed by different philosophical and ideological traditions.
4. Students will be able to effectively write and develop arguments.
5. Students will be able to better comprehend other’s views and defend their own positions.

**General Education Social Science Learning Outcomes:**

*Students will earn social science general education credit for completing this course, Students can apply social science concepts, models, or theories to explain human behavior, social interactions, or social institutions. Students will be assessed on this outcome through Assignment #2, the contemporary political issue research memo.*

**Course Assignments:**

*It is preferred that all writing assignments be submitted in the Oaks dropbox for this course. However, if students experience a complication with the system, it will also be acceptable to submit assignments through campus email or submit a hardcopy to the instructor.*
Assignment 1: Discussion Prompts

Students will respond to 3 discussion prompts throughout the course. The discussion prompts will be questions for analysis that extend from the weekly readings and class discussions concerning the contemporary political issue of immigration and the examination of immigration as a social phenomena within our contemporary political world. These written assignments should be about 300-350 words in length (1.5 or double spaced; 11 or 12 point font). They should be completed in a word document and uploaded into an assignment dropbox for the course. If there are complications, they can also be emailed or a hardcopy can be submitted to the instructor. The due dates for these assignments are March 22nd, April 7th, and April 21st and are indicated in the course syllabus but can be changed at the discretion of the course instructor; (100 pts).

Assignment 2: Contemporary Political Issue Research Memo

Students will research and identify a political or domestic policy issue or problem of concern relevant to discussions concerning immigration as a contemporary political issue and write a 5 page political issue research memo that 1.) identifies the issue of concern and provides some brief historical overview, 2.) explains why it is a significant policy issue of concern, and 3.) provides some type of policy prescription or plan to solve the political/policy problem. The memos should be (1.5 or double-spaced; 11 or 12 point font). As there is no final exam for this course, the assignment will be due by the last day of final exams for the spring 2021 (Express II) semester which is April 30th; (100 pts).

Assignment 3: Political Topics Presentation

Each student will be responsible for presenting some research on a relevant political topic of concern to them connected to immigration as a contemporary political issue. These presentations are to be done in small groups of 2 to 3 students or individually. These will be brief presentations (10 minutes in length) and can be delivered by using powerpoint, Prezi, or distributing a class outline and delivered orally. Students will be asked to identify a topic of interest and submit to the instructor by email by the end of week 2 of the course. We will have student presentations throughout the course of the spring 2021 (Express II) semester (100 pts).

Assignment 4: Midterm Examination

The midterm exam will be 2 written essay responses. Students will be given 4 essay questions of which they are to select only 2 to answer worth 50 points each. There will be a short review session for the midterm exam which is scheduled for Wednesday March 31st; (100 pts).
Attendance and Participation:

Attendance will be taken for this course. All students are expected to attend class with due diligence. Students who miss more than 4 classes will be dropped from this course. Absences will only be excused with a medical note or personal/family emergencies, a formal discussion with the instructor, and documenting the absence. Students with a legitimate, documentable reason may require an absence memo by bringing documentation to the Office of the Associate Dean of Students at 67 George Street, where the student may fill out a brief form with a schedule of missed class/classes, dates missed and the names of the appropriate professors and advisor. There is a class participation grade and missing classes will negatively impact this area of assessment for the course. No texting or use of social media in class and excessive use will result in points deducted from the final grade.

Academic Integrity Statement:

Lying, cheating, attempted cheating, and plagiarism are violations of our Honor Code that when suspected, are investigated. Each incident will be examined to determine the degree of deception involved.

Incidents where the instructor determines the student’s actions are related more to misunderstanding and confusion will be handled by the instructor. The instructor designs an intervention or assigns a grade reduction to help prevent the student from repeating the error. The response is recorded on a form and signed by both the instructor and the student. It is forwarded to the Office of the Dean of Students and placed in the student’s file.

Cases of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported directly by the instructor and/or others having knowledge of the incident to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board for academic dishonesty will receive an XXF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. This status indicator will appear on the student’s transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the XX to be expunged. The F is permanent.

Students can find the complete Honor Code and all related processes in the Student Handbook at: http://deanofstudents.cofc.edu/honor-system/studenthandbook/

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

1. Any student eligible for and needing accommodations because of a disability is requested to speak with the professor during the first two weeks of class or as soon as the student has been approved for services so that reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Center for Disability Services/SNAP
2. The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply for services at the Center for Disability Services/SNAP located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Students approved for accommodations are responsible for notifying me as soon as possible and for contacting me one week before accommodation is needed.

3. The College abides by section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you have a documented disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see an administrator at the Center of Disability Services/SNAP, (843-953-1431) or me so that such accommodation may be arranged.

**OAKS**: (3.10 for all instructional modalities)

OAKS, including Gradebook, will be used for this course throughout the semester to provide the syllabus and class materials and grades for each assignment, which will be regularly posted.

**Inclement Weather, Pandemic, or Substantial Interruption of Instruction:**

If in-person classes are suspended, faculty will announce to their students a detailed plan for a change in modality to ensure the continuity of learning. All students must have access to a computer equipped with a web camera, microphone, and Internet access. Resources are available to provide students with these essential tools.

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<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Issue Memo</td>
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<td>Political Topic Presentation</td>
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<td>Midterm</td>
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<td>Class Participation</td>
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Total Points-(500 pts)

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Course Reading and Assignment Schedule: (Note: Specific course reading will be assigned daily in class)

Week 1-March 8th and 10th
- Course Introductions
- Gerber: Chapter 1; Jones: Chapter 1

Week 2-March 15th and 17th
- Gerber: Chapter 2; Jones: Chapter 2
Week 3 - March 22nd and 24th

- Gerber: Chapter 3; Jones: Chapter 3
- Discussion Prompt 1 Due: March 22nd

Week 4 - March 29th and March 31st

- Gerber: Chapter 4; Jones: Chapter 4
- POLI 102 Midterm Examination: March 31st

Week 5 - April 5th and 7th

- Gerber: Chapter 5; Jones: Chapter 5
- Discussion Prompt 2 Due: April 7th

Week 6 - April 12th and 14th

- Gerber: Chapter 6; Jones: Chapter 6

Week 7 - April 19th and 21st

- Gerber: Chapter 7; Jones: Chapter 7
- Discussion Prompt 3 Due: April 21st

Week 8 - April 26th and 28th

- Final Week of Course
- Contemporary Political issue Research Memo Due: April 30th

Note: There is no final exam for this course. Students will submit their contemporary political issue research memo in lieu of a final examination by last day of final exams which is April 30th.