

Section Syllabus for POL S 334 – Sections AC and AD – Fridays 12:30 and 1:30

Section AC: Friday 12:30 in SMI 115

Section AD: Friday 1:30 in SMI 107

TA: Nicolas Wittstock

Email: nwitts@uw.edu

Office hours: Monday 10:30 – 12:30, and by appointment.

Zoom link for office hours: <https://washington.zoom.us/j/92145001781>

Learning environment in sections

Our goal in section is to provide an engaging learning environment where all students feel welcome, are able to share their viewpoints, to learn, and to participate. Section is an opportunity to grapple with the readings, listen to various reflections on the course material, ask questions, and earn participation points. We are emphasizing active listening as well as verbal participation. We do so with an acknowledgement that we all have different life experiences and sometimes discussing the topics in this class can be very difficult, controversial, and invoke divergent and strong opinions.

It is vital to recognize that we must engage each other in section in a manner that is respectful and promotes a positive learning environment where open discussion can occur. We should not and cannot make assumptions about other students when they are sharing their viewpoints and react based on those assumptions. We are free to disagree with one another, but it is necessary to do so in manner that does not disrupt the important work of section, does not marginalize individuals, nor attacks them personally. There are constructive ways to offer a differing viewpoint and critiques. It is also important to remember that it is not possible for every person in this class to always agree on every issue, topic, or reading etc., since there are a range of different viewpoints on these issues in the public and among scholars who do research on these issues.

I am confident that everyone in this class can and will positively contribute to robust and meaningful discussions.

Social media policy

I ask that we all try to gain one another's confidence and respect one another's privacy. I will not make any posts about any of you this quarter, and I will ask that you do the same so that we can speak freely and learn together. Should you have any problems or complaints about something that occurs during in section, please notify me right away, and I will do my utmost to facilitate a resolution.

Grading Policy:

I am responsible for all of your grading in this course.

It will include quizzes, short writing assignments, and other activities that demonstrate your active engagement and understanding of the material.

Grading breakdown:

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| Weekly response memos: | 18% |
| Midterm exam: | 22% |
| Paper: | 30% |
| Final exam: | 30% |
| | 100% |

I intend to give fair grades that reflect your understanding of, and engagement with, the course material. While your time and effort are essential to your success in this course, please understand that when I grade your assignments I am grading the products of your efforts, not your efforts themselves.

If you feel you have been graded unfairly, please take the following steps to appeal your grade:

- 1) Carefully read all comments.
- 2) Wait 24 hours before you contact me.
- 3) Provide a written statement to me **within one week** of receiving your grade explaining your reasons for contesting it and why your work deserves a higher grade. This statement should discuss only the work you have produced, not the effort you have put into it or your past course grades.
- 4) Email your statement to me and attend my office hours so we can discuss it. I will then reread the material, re-grade it if appropriate, and return it to you with comments within one week.

Note: When an exam or paper is re-graded it will be completely reevaluated, which means your grade could go up or down as a result.

Religious Accommodations:

Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities.

The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at Religious Accommodations Policy,

<https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/>.

Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the Religious Accommodations Request form, available at <https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/>.

Disability Accommodations:

Disability Resources for Students (DRS) offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have not yet established services through DRS, but have a temporary or permanent disability that requires accommodations (this includes but is not limited to mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), you are welcome to contact DRS at 206-543-8924, or uwdrs@uw.edu. See the DRS website at <http://depts.washington.edu/uwdrs/>

Academic Honesty:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated under any circumstances. A suspected instance will be reported and disciplinary actions may ensue. For further detail about the University of Washington's academic honesty policy, please refer the Student Conduct Code at <https://www.washington.edu/cssc/for-students/student-code-of-conduct/>