

Pols 103: State and Local Government and Politics

Meeting time: T/TH 9:30-10:45, Glover 130

1 Instructor Information

Instructor: Ryan P. Scott

Email: rpscott@colostate.edu or ryan.p.scott@colostate.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays 2-5pm, Clark C335 or by appt. Schedule office hours at rpscott.youcanbook.me

2 Teaching Assistants

Ben Ryan

Email: ben.ryan@colostate.edu

Office Hours: Monday 12pm – 1pm (remote), Tuesday 1pm – 2pm (Clark C326, and Thursday 2pm – 3pm (Clark C326)

Mahad Darar:

Email: Mahad.darar@colostate.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday 12-1pm, Wednesday 9-10am, Thursday 9-10am

3 Communications Policy

We will return emails received M-F by the end of business next day. Emails received over the weekend may not be returned until the next working day. As a best practice, when emailing the instructor send an email to ALL course instructors. Accordingly, in general, send all emails to all course instructors. Finally, when communicating for the course, be sure to put “POLS-103” in the subject line.

4 Course Description & Objectives

This course will provide an introduction to the institutions of state and local governments, with the goal of providing domain specific knowledge about political institutions. We will use that knowledge to improve our abilities to think critically, write effectively, and engage with our communities.

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education has approved POLS 103 for inclusion in the Guaranteed Transfer (GT) Pathways program in the GT-SS1 Category. For transferring students, successful completion with a minimum C– grade guarantees transfer and application of credit in this GT Pathways category. For more information on the GT Pathways program, go to

<http://highered.colorado.gov/academics/transfers/gtpathways/curriculum.html>

Pursuant to this certification, students will learn, in this class, to

- Demonstrate knowledge of economic or political systems.
- Use the social sciences to analyze and interpret issues.
- Explain diverse perspectives and groups.

Furthermore, students will complete writing assignments that require reflection, analysis of key texts and concepts, making analytical distinctions, and evaluating evidence in support of claims. Such writing assignments will constitute at least 25% of the final grade in the course.

Civic Engagement

1) Civic Knowledge:

- a) Connect disciplinary knowledge to civic engagement through one's own participation in civic life, politics, and/or government.

Critical Thinking

2) Explain an Issue:

- a) Use information to describe a problem or issue and/or articulate a question related to the topic.

3) Utilize Context:

- a) Evaluate the relevance of context when presenting a position.
- b) Identify assumptions.
- c) Analyze one's own and others' assumptions.

4) Understand Implications and Make Conclusions:

- a) Establish a conclusion that is tied to the range of information presented.
- b) Reflect on implications and consequences of stated conclusion.

Diversity & Global Learning

5) Build Self-Awareness:

- a) Demonstrate how their own attitudes, behaviors, or beliefs compare or relate to those of other individuals, groups, communities, or cultures.

6) Examine Perspectives:

- a) Examine diverse perspectives when investigating social and behavioral topics within natural or human systems.

Written/Oral Communication:

7) Develop Content and Message:

- a) Create and develop ideas within the context of the situation and the assigned task(s).

8) Use Sources and Evidence:

- a) Critically read, evaluate, apply, and synthesize evidence and/or sources in support of a claim.

9) Use language appropriate to the audience.

5 Textbook / Course Readings / Equipment

Required texts and readings will be linked from the canvas modules. We will use a diversity of course materials including scientific articles, news articles, and selections from textbooks. On canvas please see the guides to news sources and scholarly articles. You will

be required to have internet access, audio and microphone capabilities, and access to word processing software.

6 Participation/Assignments

As a three credit class, I expect each week you will spend 6-9 hours meeting, working on assignments, completing readings, and responding to discussion posts. It is expected that you will attend every class period. Plan to come to class ready to engage with your classmates and participate in active learning

6.1 Assignments

6.1.1 Engagement and Attendance

In class, you will respond to questions via [iclicker cloud](#). You can access directions for making an iclicker account at this [CSU iclicker information page](#). You are welcome to use a phone or computer to respond to the questions. These responses will be used to calculate an engagement score for the course.

6.1.1 Application Assignments

There are eight online practice assignments to be submitted throughout the semester. When these are due, you will make a post, and we will have discussions of the post during the Thursday class period (ie, think of them as preparing for an activity Thursday). Accordingly, discussion posts need to be submitted by 9am on the Thursday they are due. When you submit these, plan to attend class with the ability to access your assignment in order to discuss with classmates.

6.2.2 Practice and Review Assignments

You also will be expected to complete a number of practice quiz assignments to help you assess your learning. These are all submitted via canvas. These should be submitted by the due date time but I will accept revisions up until the 15th week of the course. Generally, you will have 3 attempts to complete the quiz.

6.2.3 Content Assessments

To ensure you have achieved basic content learning goals, there will be 3 assessments, from which we will keep the top two grades, dropping your lowest score. These assessments will be in-class multiple choice and matching quizzes which you will have an hour and fifteen minutes to complete. You are welcome to use your notes but must complete the quiz alone. Questions on the quiz are focused on module learning objectives. Please ensure that at the completion of each module you have an adequate grasp of the learning objectives. The final assessment will take place during the final exam period, Thursday, December 8, 6:20pm-8:20pm.

6.1.4 Writing to Inform Governance

The goal of these assignments is to achieve the course learning objectives around writing while also allowing you to engage with and make recommendations for your local and state government. Please see the writing to inform governance assignment on canvas for more details. One detail to highlight here: *all writing assignments should use in-text citation of sources and use Chicago or APA manuals of style.*

7 Grading and Late Work

Turn in assignments by the canvas submission time. Writing assignments will be programmatically deducted by 10% for each day they are late. Application assignments must be submitted the day of the discussion, after that they will not be accepted. Please be in contact if you have a University excused absence, grievance, or sickness or other circumstance prior to the assignment due date. If there are extenuating circumstances that prevent you from completing coursework on time please contact [Student Case Management](#).

Final grades will be determined based on final assignment weighting as follows

- Application Assignments: 20%
- Writing to Inform Governance 45%
- Content Assessment: 20%
- Course engagement and in-class activities: 15%

We will use the following rubric for final grades. You can request a regrade of individual assignments by emailing rpscott@colostate.edu with the subject line POLS 103 REGRADE within 48 hours of receiving a grade. Additionally, we are not responsible for canvas submission errors. Improperly submitted assignments will be graded as a 0. Verify your submissions have been properly accounted for by canvas.

Grade	Range
A+	100% to 98.00%
A	<98% to 93%
A-	<93% to 90.0%
B+	<90.0% to 87%
B	<87% to 83%
B-	<83% to 80.0%
C+	<80.0% to 77%
C	<77% to 70.0%
D	<70.0% to 60.0%
F	<60

8 Academic Integrity & CSU Honor Pledge

This course will adhere to the CSU [Academic Integrity/Misconduct](#) policy as found in the General Catalog and the [Student Conduct Code](#).

Academic integrity lies at the core of our common goal: to create an intellectually honest and rigorous community. Because academic integrity, and the personal and social integrity of which academic integrity is an integral part, is so central to our mission as students, teachers, scholars, and citizens, I will ask that you affirm the CSU Honor Pledge as part of completing your work in this course.

Further information about Academic Integrity is available at CSU's [Academic Integrity - Student Resources](#).

9 Important information for students on COVID-19

Important information for students: All students are expected and required to report any COVID-19 symptoms to the university immediately, as well as exposures or positive tests from a non-CSU testing location.

If you suspect you have symptoms, or if you know you have been exposed to a positive person or have tested positive for COVID, you are required to fill out the COVID Reporter (<https://covid.colostate.edu/reporter/>). If you know or believe you have been exposed, including living with someone known to be COVID positive, or are symptomatic, it is important for the health of yourself and others that you complete the online COVID Reporter. Do not ask your instructor to report for you. If you do not have internet access to fill out the online COVID-19 Reporter, please call (970) 491-4600. You may also report concerns in your academic or living spaces regarding COVID exposures through the COVID Reporter. You will not be penalized in any way for reporting. When you complete the COVID Reporter for any reason, the CSU Public Health office is notified. Once notified, that office will contact you and, depending upon each situation, will conduct contact tracing, initiate any necessary public health requirements and notify you if you need to take any steps.

For the latest information about the University's COVID resources and information, please visit the CSU COVID-19 site: <https://covid.colostate.edu/>.

9 Schedules and Due Dates

All schedules and due dates are available via canvas. Due dates may change throughout the semester (covid, etc), but will always be towards later submission dates rather than earlier dates. Ample notice will be given on all changes.