

PSCI 130: Introduction to American Politics
Fall 2019
Recitation Sections: 201, 202, 203

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Office Hours: Monday 9:30-11:30, Room 400

Schedule: [Here](#)

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Goals for the Recitations

On his syllabus Professor Levendusky very clearly outlines some important questions that you should consider while reading. Section is the time for you to *discuss* these questions with your peers. During section we will go over some of the theoretical concepts associated with the week's readings, discuss their implications, as well as possible extensions. Recitation is meant to help you understand the motivations, implications, and extensions to the research discussed in lecture and in the assigned readings.

However, for us to have fruitful discussion you are expected to do the following:

1. **ACTIVELY** Read all the relevant material for the week *before* coming to recitation
2. Come to class the readings and hard copy notes ¹

You are expected to exercise some critical thinking and not just reiterate directly from the texts.

Overall, I expect a lot but I also give a lot – otherwise, the more you put into this class the more you'll get out of it.

Expectations

Participation: This is a discussion based classroom and as such you are expected to have read ALL the readings for the week's recitation. Note that I value *quality* over *quantity* when it comes to class discussion.

Emails: I will answer emails within 48 hours. Please note that if you have conceptual questions about the readings or about your paper then you should reserve these questions for office hours. I will not answer e-mails less than 24 hours before an assignment is due.

Laptops: There is overwhelming evidence that laptop use in classrooms is detrimental to learning outcomes (e.g. [Brookings](#), [NYT](#), [Fried 2008](#), [Bowen 2012](#)). No screens in recitation, except for the back row. You may bring in readings on a screen.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory at all recitations. You are allowed ONE unexcused absence for the semester. No questions will be asked. After said unexcused absence, I will deduct participation marks for each missed recitation.

Office Hours: Please sign up for office hours (<https://calendly.com/lhalevy/office-hours>), when signing up please indicate if you would like a private meeting. Often times students have similar questions so I typically allow students to listen in on each other's questions. This policy is irrelevant to a subset of personal questions (e.g discussion of

¹ Please feel free to contact me if you'd like me to print out your notes for you before section; if you do so, please you're your notes to me no later than **5 pm on Wednesday**.

grades, future plans etc.) therefore if you wish to discuss something sensitive please e-mail me. Signing up in advance allows me to gauge if I need to add more office hours in a given week and allows me to track what sort of questions people have in advance of recitation. If you need to cancel, please do so and do not leave me hanging, a classmate might need the appointment. If you need a longer meeting, please e-mail me.

Grading: “We are, of course, happy to meet with you to discuss your grade on an exam or paper. And as we will explain in class, we have a policy through which you can request a re-grade of your paper/exam. However, please note we will not meet with you about a paper/exam grade until at least 24 hours after it has been returned to you. If, after 24 hours, you still need additional clarification on your grade, you may request a meeting with one of us to discuss it further.” (From Professor Levendusky’s syllabus)

Plagiarism: I have a ZERO tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarized assignments will be assessed according to the University’s Code of Academic Integrity and may result in a grade of zero on the assignment, the course, or both. It is your responsibility to make yourself aware of these policies, ignorance is not an excuse for the failure to comply.

Please consult here for more information: http://www.upenn.edu/academicintegrity/ai_plagiarismwhatisit.html

I look forward to working with you this semester!