

Helpful syllabus language

Course engagement, attendance, and participation:

- I use the Socratic Method-- I will cold-call students rather than waiting for volunteers. Come prepared to answer questions about course readings.
- Your class engagement, participation, and attendance score can reflect a combination of accomplishments, including: responding to questions; contributing to discussions on blackboard; attending office hours; emailing ideas to your Dear Old Prof S; improving your contributions over time; contributing to small group discussions / breakout rooms; setting and meeting a personal goal (such as listening more actively or being open to opposing views); supplementing your course work with outside readings and discussions; helping a classmate understand the readings; peer-critiquing a classmate's work; or any other contribution to the GOVT 352 learning community.
- Come to class and to any scheduled small-group discussions at the appointed time. Class meetings will be recorded for those who have to miss a class due to technology failure or illness.

Universal design for learning:

- This course will assess your knowledge of the material; higher-order engagement with course concepts; persuasive communication; use of evidence to construct reasoned and logical arguments; improvement; engagement with peers' and instructors' ideas and questions; improvement; bravery; and respectful and thought-provoking contributions to the learning community.
- This course will not assess native English language proficiency; disability or neurodiversity; prior knowledge or pre-formed opinions; political belief or expression; identity; access to professional and personal networks; trauma history; or any other factor unrelated to hard work in our course.
- Students are responsible for bringing requests for accommodations—including ASAC or other individualized needs- to your professor.

Speech and expression:

- College is a time to engage with challenging ideas and material. We benefit from our diverse learning community. All voices are welcome. You are responsible for defending your arguments with case law and / or other verifiable evidence. We debate ideas grounded in fact, not talking points or individuals' worth.
- College is also an adult learning community. Students are responsible for presenting their concerns to Prof S and/or to the class.

Grades:

- I will sometimes ask a student to rewrite and resubmit an assignment. If I do not request a rewrite, you will not have the opportunity to submit one.
- Your grade will reflect your performance on course requirements. I will not grant requests for extra credit, which would be unfair to other students.
- At the end of the semester, I will round total course grades up from X.51%. I will not grant individual requests to round up a grade.

Recommendation letters and internship advice:

- Do not list me as a reference until you have spoken with me.
- I require at least one week between your request for a letter and the deadline. If I agree to write a letter, you will complete and send the rec letter request form as soon as possible and no later than one week before the deadline. Include the deadline, addressee name and contact info, and information about the job/internship. I am available to discuss career development and graduate school during office hours, but not in the session before a major course assignment is due.
- I will not write a recommendation letter until after I have graded two major course assignments.
- You do not need to earn an A in my class to earn a recommendation letter. I do need to know you, however. Come to office hours. If my office hours conflict with your other obligations, contact me and make an appointment. Do not assume that I will write a recommendation letter for all students who earned a high grade on papers and exams.
- I write the strongest recommendation letters for students who are thoughtful, reliable, prepared, open-minded, and respectful of opposing points of view, and who work well with their groups.