Course Objective

Many Americans will advocate passionately that their political beliefs are superior to the beliefs of others, that their political party and its candidates are superior to other parties and candidates, and that their country is better than other countries. Without necessarily evaluating whether these declarations are true or not, we nevertheless observe that people usually develop their opinions and affiliations by adopting the opinions and affiliations of their parents, their schoolteachers, their classmates, their friends, and their co-workers, and they are influenced by television and newspaper reporters, popular entertainers and athletes, and politicians. Accordingly, opinions come about through a complex process involving conformity and imitation, with one's own independent judgment playing a moderate or even minor role. In this course, we will study this process called political socialization and we will notice its results.

With the participation of the secondary-education majors who join this class, we will pay special attention to the role of public schools in the process of political socialization, and consider whether and how schools ought to be involved in the process. We will examine strategies for presenting issues of politics, government, and patriotism to high-school students.

Course Requirements

NOTICE TO GRADUATE STUDENTS enrolled in POLS 6302 for graduate credit: Graduate students will be evaluated in accordance with standards normally applied to graduate study. Application of knowledge from your undergraduate education and analytical approaches to problems are expected.

1. TEXTBOOK AND OTHER READINGS

There is no textbook for this course. The scholarly ingenuity is found in your instructor’s lecture notes. You may, if you wish, purchase a bound copy of your instructor’s lecture notes.

Certain required readings have been placed on reserve in the Library Technology Center, as indicated in the "Schedule of Assignments." The books and articles are identified in the following list:
Books on Reserve:


► Articles in Books on Reserve:


Articles contained in Ichilov:
- Levin, Henry M. "Political Socialization for Workplace Democracy."
- Westholm, Anders; Lindquist, Arne; and Niemi, Richard G. "Education and the Making of the Informed Citizen: Political Literacy and the Outside World."

► Articles Available Through Library:


Study the assigned readings on a timely basis in accordance with the attached schedule. To "study" does not mean to scan; rather, to "study" involves careful reading and note-taking (or underlining) to facilitate retention of facts and to facilitate review for the examination.

2. EXAMINATIONS

There will be a midterm examination on Friday, October 6, which will account for 25 percent of the course grade. There will be a final examination on Wednesday, December 13, at 12:40 p.m., which will account for 30 percent of the course grade.

The directions that you will be expected to follow on the midterm examination are:
Answer both of the following essay questions.\(^1\) Be sure to defend your answers with analysis and reasonably specific illustrations based on your readings and the lectures.

**NOTICE:** For graduate students enrolled in POLS 6302, use of the literature in formulating your essays needs to include citations to names of scholars. Not every fact needs to be accompanied by such a citation, but such citations need to occur with some regularity in order to distinguish your graduate-level scholarship from undergraduate performance.

### 3. PROJECT AND TERM PAPER

In groups sized between one and three students each, students will carry out a research project and submit one term paper prepared by each group. The project will involve a properly designed public-opinion survey to be conducted by the group members to measure public opinion on matters compatible with a political-socialization theme. The selection of the opinions to be measured and the integrating political-socialization theme must be based on the course readings and on other sources located at the library and, if appropriate, at other libraries. Information about conducting political-science research appears on the Web page at this URL address:

http://faculty.UNG.edu/bfriedman/bfried/PSIAresearch/ResearchAdvice.html

The project must conform to survey-research methods and statistical analysis techniques that will be discussed on Friday, November 10. The paper must conform to the following rules:

a. The paper must include introductory and concluding sections that cite and show an understanding of some peer-reviewed political-science literature pertaining to the theme of the project.

b. The paper must present a complete tabulation of all collected survey data and must show how statistics are derived. (The paper must not merely show the statistical result.) Appropriate interpretations are necessary.

c. Plagiarism may result in a reduced grade, with a failing grade being possible, for the course for all students who seek to receive credit for the paper. All members of the group must participate in the writing of the paper, and must ensure that plagiarism does not occur. If you do not thoroughly understand the definition of plagiarism, then consult the APA style manual and/or solicit assistance from your instructor. The integrity code of the University of North Georgia--“On my honor, I will not lie, cheat, steal, plagiarize, evade the truth, or tolerate those who do”--reflects the university’s commitment to academic integrity. The "Academic Integrity Policy" (2017-2018 Undergraduate Bulletin, at http://ung.catalog.acalog.com/content.php?catoId=22&navoid=652#academic_integrity_policy; see also the Student Handbook) and the "Academic and Professional Integrity Policy" (described in

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\(^1\) The questions may have more than one part.
the 2017-2018 Graduate Bulletin at http://ung.catalog.acalog.com/content.php?catoid=23&navoid=710#Academic_and_Professional_Integrity_Policy) are incorporated herein by reference. Please note that in this course, as in all others at UNG, plagiarism and other forms of cheating are expressly prohibited. Any student who commits plagiarism or cheating may receive a reduced grade, which may involve a failing grade. A report of the incident will be provided to the university’s Academic Integrity Council. The council and the vice president for academic affairs may take additional action, which may include a formal reprimand, probation, suspension, or expulsion.²

d. Use the proper format for academic papers, including grammar, spelling, and citations. Do not submit an outline. Please take note of the following miscellaneous rules about writing that appear on the Web page at this URL address:

http://faculty.UNG.edu/bfriedman/bfried/MiscRule.html

You must use full-blown APA style on this research paper. You are advised to obtain a copy of the style manual if you don’t already own one. It is available, for example, at this Web site:

http://www.apastyle.org/pubmanual.html

A really helpful resource is the accompanying software to the APA style manual. The software is available by direct download or by purchase of an actual CD-ROM. I strongly advise the purchase of the CD-ROM rather than the direct download. The software is available, for example, at this Web site:

http://www.apastyle.org/stylehelper/

Use the modifications to APA style that appear at this Web site:

http://faculty.UNG.edu/bfriedman/Courses/APAmod.html

The failure to use APA style properly in this paper will result in a substantial reduction in your grade on it, up to 20 percentage points.

e. An oral presentation is required. This presentation must be specially prepared; do not merely read the term paper to the class.

Papers not conforming to these rules may be rejected or may receive a score as low as a zero. The paper is due on Wednesday, November 29; please submit two copies. A penalty of one grade

² If you would like to read a discussion of the rationale for the rules about plagiarism, you are welcome to read my essay that is accessible on the Internet at http://faculty.UNG.edu/bfriedman/Studies/plgrm.htm.
level per day (or part thereof) will be assessed for late papers, except that the instructor may record a zero for any paper not submitted by the date of the final examination. The term paper and oral presentation will account for 30 percent of the course grade.

NOTICE: Graduate students enrolled in POLS 6302 must join groups consisting exclusively of graduate students.

4. ATTENDANCE

Class participation is a vital requirement of the course; therefore, attendance at all sessions is necessary. You are considered responsible for being attentive to lectures and class discussions, for taking notes, and for being aware of the content of all class announcements. Please take note of the university’s policy on “Class Attendance” (2017-2018 Undergraduate Bulletin, at http://ung.catalog.acalog.com/content.php?catoid=22&navoid=652#class_attendance), which is incorporated herein by reference.

5. PARTICIPATION

Class participation and proper conduct are both expected, and will determine 15 percent of the course grade. In cases where a student is absent from numerous sessions, even when a valid excuse is submitted, the instructor reserves the right to decrease the weighting of class participation and to increase the weighting of the final examination accordingly.

6. COURSE GRADES

Your instructor uses the conventional grading scale: 90-100%, A; 80-89%, B; 70-79%, C; 60-69%, D; below 60%, F.

Course grades are available on BANNER within about two days of the end of final examinations. Except in emergency situations, please do not request grades by telephone, E-mail, or similar method.

7. INCORPORATION OF OTHER CONTROLLING AUTHORITY

The contents of the following are incorporated by reference:

- All of the rules, regulations, and standards published in UNG’s undergraduate and graduate bulletins.

- The supplementary information that appears on the Web page at this URL address:

  http://ung.edu/academic-affairs/policies-and-guidelines/supplemental-syllabus.php
8. ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

If you need this document in another format, please contact Andrew Eade by E-mail (andrew.eade@UNG.edu) or by telephone (706-864-1628).

Notice about distinct standards for graduate students: Graduate students are expected to perform at a level that is better informed and more sophisticated relative to undergraduates, based on the graduate students’ completion of a bachelor’s degree and the availability to them of more skill and experience.

### SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

Note: “F” denotes the instructor’s lecture notes. This is for the use of those who choose to purchase a copy of the lecture notes; but that is not a requirement. Other optional assignments are denoted by the symbol “º”.

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