

Department Name and Number _____

Recommended SCNS Course Identification
 Prefix ____ Level ____ Course Number ____ Lab Code ____
 Course Title (please limit to 21 characters) _____

Effective Term and Year _____ Rotating Topic yes no

Amount of Credit ____ Contact Hour: Base ____ or Headcount ____ S/U Only yes no

Repeatable Credit yes no If yes, ____ total repeatable credit allowed

Variable Credit yes no If yes, ____ minimum and ____ maximum credits per semester

Course Description (50 words or less)

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Prerequisites | Co-requisites |
|---------------|---------------|

Degree Type (mark all that apply) Baccalaureate Graduate Professional Other _____

Category of Instruction Introductory Intermediate Advanced

Rationale and place in curriculum

| | | | |
|--------------------|------|-------|-------|
| Department Contact | Name | Phone | Email |
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| College Contact | Name | Phone | Email |
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Ethics in American Politics POS 4XXX

Professor Beth Rosenson

Anderson Hall 202, Email: rosenson@ufl.edu, Phone 352-392-0262, ext. 232

Office Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays 10:30-11:30, and by appointment

Course webpage: <http://www.clas.ufl.edu/users/rosenson/> link to course on left side

Course Overview

The problem of unethical behavior involving elected officials is a perennial concern in American politics. Since the early days of the Republic, policy makers and ordinary citizens have sought to control unethical conduct such as bribery and treason. In recent decades, the focus of concern about political ethics has shifted to the problem of "conflicts of interest" between elected officials' private interests and their public duties, and to the regulation of campaign finance. This course will examine theories of political ethics, important episodes of corruption, and the regulation of political ethics through elections and legislation. The main focus will be on the ethics of legislators, but we will also look at presidents, governors, and other public officials.

Some of the main questions the course will address include: How does political ethics differ, if at all, from private ethics? What causes corruption? What have been the aims of good-government reformers? What sorts of ethical issues does the American campaign finance system pose? Should unethical behavior be addressed at the ballot box rather than through new laws? What are the limits of ethics regulation? What constitutes political courage, and what other virtues are important for public officials to have?

Disability Statement

Students requiring accommodations must first register with the Dean of Student's Office, Disability Resource Center. The Dean of Student's office will provide documentation which the student will then give to the instructor.

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc>

Course Requirements/Breakdown of Points for Assignments

FIRST PAPER, due Feb. 5 (5-7 pages): 20%

MIDTERM EXAM, March 25: 30%

SECOND PAPER, due April 29 (10 pages): 40%

ATTENDANCE: 10%

MISSED WORK

Make-up exams will only be given if discussed in advance with the professor or if there are unusual circumstances that make the student unable to take the exam on time.

THE HONOR CODE

On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: *"On my honor, I have neither given nor received*

unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." For more information on the honor code, see: [HTTP://www.dso.ufl.edu/SCCR/honorcodes/honorcode.php](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/SCCR/honorcodes/honorcode.php)

GRADING SCALE

The Grade Scale is: 94-100: A; 90-93: A-; 87-89: B+; 83-86: B; 80-82: B-; 77-79: C+; 73-76: C; 70-72: C-; 67-69: D+; 63-66: D; 60-62: D-57-59; E 58 and below

A C- will not be a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, Gordon Rule or College Basic Distribution credit.

For information on the grading scale, see either [HTTP://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html](http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html) or [HTTP://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html](http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html).

Students must write two papers for the class. Topics will be announced in advance and sent via the class list-serve. The papers will require students to do a critical analysis of the arguments presented in the readings and for the second paper, additional reading beyond the assigned course material. Papers are due **AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS** on the day they are due. Late papers will be penalized by a third of the grade for each day late (e.g. from a B+ to a B if one day late, from a B+ to a B- if two days late).

Students are expected to attend all classes. Material will be covered in lecture that is not necessarily covered by the readings, and it may appear on the midterm. Participation is strongly encouraged. You will get more out of the class if you see yourself as an active participant rather than as a passive note-taker.

Books For Purchase

Three books and one coursepack are required for purchase. The coursepack will be available at Orange and Blue Textbooks, 309 NW 13th St. (ph 375-2707)

Books Required For Purchase

- 1) Dennis F. Thompson, *Ethics in Congress* (Washington, D.C.: The Brookings Institution, 1995)
- 2) John F. Kennedy, *Profiles in Courage* (Harper Collins (HarperPerennial): 2000)
- 3) Michael Beschloss, *Presidential Courage* (Simon & Schuster, 2007)

I. Introduction and Course Overview

January 8

II. Theories of Political Ethics and of Political Corruption Does Political Ethics Differ From Ethics in Private Life?

January 10-22

Readings

A. Theories of Political Ethics and Corruption

* Dennis Thompson, *Political Ethics and Public Office* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1987), pp. 96-122 (IN COURSEPACK)

* Dennis Thompson, *Ethics in Congress*, chs. 1-3 (REQUIRED TEXT)

B. Political Ethics and Private Ethics

* Dennis Thompson, *Political Ethics and Public Office* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1987), pp. 123-147 (COURSEPACK)

* Molly Sonner and Clyde Wilcox, "Forgiving and Forgetting: Public Support for Bill Clinton During the Lewinsky Scandal," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, Vol. 32, No. 3, pp. 554-557 (COURSEPACK)

III. What Causes Corruption? Where Does it Come From?

January 24

Readings

* George C. S. Benson, *Political Corruption in America* (Lexington, Mass: D.C. Heath, 1978), pp. 211-237 (COURSEPACK)

IV. Corruption and Reform Before 1950: Federal, State and Local Governments

January 29, 31

Readings

A. Federal and State Corruption

* George C.S. Benson, *Political Corruption in America* (Lexington, Mass: D.C. Heath, 1978), pp. 73-87 (COURSEPACK)

* Robert T. Roberts and Marion T. Doss Jr., *From Watergate to Whitewater: The Public Integrity War* (Westport: Praeger Press, 1997), pp. 9-21 (COURSEPACK) B.

Machine Corruption

* Michael Johnston, *Political Corruption and Public Policy in America* (Westport: Praeger, 1997), pp. 36-71 (COURSEPACK)

* William Riordan, *Plunkitt of Tammany Hall* (N.Y: E.P. Dutton, 1963), pp. xxiii-20 (COURSEPACK)

*******PAPER DUE FEB. 5*******

V. Electoral Responses to Corruption: Can Corruption be Addressed Adequately Through the Ballot Box?

February 5

Readings

* John Peters and Susan Welch, 1980, "The Effects of Corruption on Voting Behavior in Congressional Elections." *American Political Science Review* 74:697-708 (COURSEPACK)

* James C. Kirby, "The Role of the Electorate in Congressional Ethics." In *Representation and Responsibility*, eds. Bruce Jennings and Daniel Callahan (New York: Plenum Press, 1985), pp. 29-37 (COURSEPACK)

VI. Addressing Corruption Through Legislation: the Progressives and the Post-Watergate Era

February 12-28

Readings

A. The Progressive Era, 1888-1920

* Arthur S. Link and Richard L. McCormick, *Progressivism* (Illinois: Harlan Davidson, Inc.), pp. 26-66 (COURSEPACK)

B. Watergate and its Aftermath at the National and State Levels

* James D. Carroll and Robert N. Roberts, "If Men Were Angels: Assessing the Ethics in Government Act of 1978," *Policy Studies Journal*, Vol. 17, No. 2, Winter, 1988-89, pp. 435-447 (COURSEPACK)

* Congressional Quarterly, *Congressional Ethics: History, Fact and Controversy* (Washington D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 1992), pp. 145-161 (COURSEPACK)

* Beth Rosenson, *Shadowlands of Conduct* (Georgetown University Press, 2005), chapter 6 (ON COURSE WEBPAGE)

* Donald J. Maletz and Jerry Herbel, "Some Paradoxes of Government Ethics Revisited." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 1998, pp. 20-25 (COURSEPACK)

VII. Campaign Finance and Conflict of Interest

March 4, 6, 18, 20 (NOTE MARCH BREAK ON MARCH 10, 12)

Readings

* Center for Public Integrity, *Buying of the President* (HarperCollins, 2004), pp. 221-257, 364-398 (COURSEPACK)

* David Donnelly, Janice Fine, and Ellen S. Miller, "Going Public," in *Campaign Finance Reform*, Anthony Corrado, Thomas E. Mann, Daniel R. Ortiz, Trevor Potter and Frank J. Sorauf, eds. (Washington D.C.: Brookings: 1997), pp. 364-370 (COURSEPACK)

* Thomas Mann, "The Battle over Campaign Finance," *Brookings Review*, Fall 2003, Vol. 21, No. 4, pp. 28-32 (COURSEPACK)

****MIDTERM EXAM MARCH 25****

VIII. Beyond Ethics and Campaign Finance Laws: Virtues of The Ethical Politician (Prudence, Political Courage, and Moral Integrity)

March 27-April 22

(NO CLASS APRIL 3 – Prof. Rosenson will be out of town)

Readings

*J. Patrick Dobel, *Public Integrity* (Johns Hopkins: 1999), ch. 10, pp. 193-211
(COURSEPACK)

*John F. Kennedy, *Profiles in Courage* (Perennial: 2000), chs. 1, 8, 9 (pps. 1-19, 170-205) (REQUIRED TEXT)

*Terry Cooper and N. Dale Wright, eds., *Exemplary Public Administrators* (Jossey Bass: 1992), chs. 10 and 12 (pp. 241-267 and 304-323) (COURSEPACK READINGS #20 and #22)

* Michael Beschloss, *Presidential Courage*, chapters on Truman, John F. Kennedy and Reagan (REQUIRED TEXT)

******FINAL PAPER DUE APRIL 29 AT 12 PM OUTSIDE PROF. ROSENSON'S DOOR******

External Consultation Results (departments with potential overlap or interest in proposed course, if any)

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| Department | Name and Title |
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| Phone Number | E-mail |
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| Comments | |
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All UCC1 forms and each UCC2 form that proposes a change in the course description or credit hours must include this checklist in addition to a complete syllabus. Check the box if the attached syllabus includes the indicated information.

Syllabus MUST contain the following information:

- Instructor contact information (and TA if applicable)
- Course objectives and/or goals
- A topical outline (at least tentative) of subjects to be covered
- Required and recommended textbooks
- Methods by which students will be evaluated and their grades determined
- Policy related to class attendance
- Policy related to make-up exams or other work
- Statement related to accommodations for students with disabilities
- Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points

It is recommended that syllabi contain the following information:

1. Critical dates for exams and other work
2. Class demeanor expected by the professor (e.g., tardiness, cell phone usage)
3. UF's honesty policy
4. Contact information for university counseling and mental health services

The University's complete Syllabus Policy can be found at:

<http://www.aa.ufl.edu/policy/SyllabiPolicy.pdf>