POLS 5190/4800 – Pop Culture Politics
Course Syllabus – Fall 2017

Individuals with disabilities who need to request accommodations should contact the Disability Services Coordinator, Edgewater Hall 255, 678-466-5445, disabilityservices@mail.clayton.edu.

Course Description:

Number and Title:

POLS 5190/4800 (CRN 80779/81210)
Pop Culture Politics

Credit Hours:

3.0 semester credit hours (3-0-3)

Catalog Description:

A graduate/undergraduate seminar that examines the relationship of popular culture and politics.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

- MALS Student
- POLS 1101 - D

Instructor Information:

Instructors:

Dr. Joshua Meddaugh
phone: (678) 466-4607
e-mail: joshuameddaugh@clayton.edu

Office:

Dr. Joshua Meddaugh - Clayton Hall, Room T-105A

Office hours:

Dr. Joshua Meddaugh - Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Other times by appointment

Class Meetings:

Classroom:

Thursdays: 2:15 pm – 4:40 pm

Textbook Information:

Texts:

Projecting Politics: Political Messages in American Films – 2ed. Hass, Christensen, and Hass
Music & Politics – Street
The Handmaid's Tale – Atwood
Lord of the Flies – Golding
It Can't Happen Here – Lewis
V for Vendetta – Moore & Lloyd

Course Learning Outcomes:

After completing this course, the learner will be able to perform these tasks:
- to define the essential elements of popular culture in politics.
- to explain how political power operates in media in politics.
- to demonstrate, through writing, important issues in pop culture politics coherently and knowledgably.
- to differentiate between media perspectives in United States politics.

Evaluation: MALS Students and Honors Students

Participation*	20%
20-25 pg Research Paper**	60%
Research Presentations***	20%
TOTAL Course Points	**100%**

*Participation includes attending lecture, actively participating, and reading. Missing 2 lectures without proper documentation will result in an Administrative Withdrawal.

**You are required to complete a 20-25-page original research paper on a topic of your choosing. More on the research paper in class.

***On the last day of class, you will give a 10-minute PowerPoint research presentation on your research paper. More on the presentation in class.

Evaluation: Undergraduate Students

Participation*	10%
Midterm Exam**	25%
Final Exam**	25%
Research Project***	25%
Research Presentations****	15%
TOTAL Course Points	**100%**

*Participation includes attending lecture, actively participating, and reading. Missing 4 lectures without proper documentation will result in an Administrative Withdrawal.

**You will be required to complete a take home midterm and final exam. Each exam will be a choose 4 of 5 short essay exam.

***You will complete a research project of your choosing to demonstrate your comprehension of the overall course topic. This could be a movie, music, poetry, a news report, etc. More on the project in class.

****On the last day of class, you will give a 10-minute PowerPoint research presentation on your research paper. More on the presentation in class.

Grading: Points

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	59% and below

Mid-term Progress Report:

The mid-term grade in this course, which will be issued by September 30, reflects approximately 30% of the entire course grade. Based on this grade, students may choose to withdraw from the course and receive a grade of "W." Students pursuing this option must fill out an official withdrawal form, available in the Office of the Registrar, by mid-term, which occurs on October 6. Instructions for withdrawing are provided at this link.

The last day to withdraw without academic accountability is Friday, October 6, 2017.

Course Schedule:

The course schedule for POLS 5190/4800 – Pop Culture Politics

Date	Topic	Material Covered	Notes/Comments/ Other
Week 1 8/17	Orientation & Intro	Research Paper/Projects/ Presentations	
Week 2 8/24	What is Pop Culture Politics?	Hass, Christensen, Hass – Chapters 1 & 2 Street: Introduction	John Oliver, Bill O'Reilly, Steven Colbert
Week 3 8/31	Music and Politics I	Street: Chapters 1-3	1950 - 1960
Week 4 9/7	Music and Politics II	Street: Chapters 4-6	1970 - 1980
Week 5 9/14	Music and Politics II	Street: Chapters 7-9	1990 - 2000s
Week 6 9/21	**No Class** **Midterm Exam due 9pm on 9/27**		
Week 7 9/28	Politics and Literature - I	The Handmaid's Tale - Atwood	
Week 8 10/5	Politics and Literature - II	Lord of the Flies - Golding	
Week 9 10/19	Politics and Literature – III	It Can't Happen Here - Lewis	
Week 10 10/26	Politics and Literature – IV	V for Vendetta – Moore & Lloyd	
Week 11 11/02	Politics and Film	Hass, Christensen, Hass – Chapters 5	Mr. Smith Goes to Washington
Week 12 11/09	Politics and Film	Hass, Christensen, Hass – Chapter 8	Dr. Strangelove
Week 13 11/16	Politics and Film	Hass, Christensen, Hass – Chapter 9	The Candidate
Week 14 11/23	**No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday** **Final Exam Due 9pm on 11/29**		
Week 15 11/30	Presentations		

Course Policies:

General Policy
Students must abide by policies in the Clayton State University Student Handbook, and the <u>Basic Undergraduate Student Responsibilities.</u> The Student Handbook is part of the <u>Academic Catalog and Student Handbook</u>.

University Attendance Policy
Students are expected to attend and participate in every class meeting. Instructors establish specific policies relating to absences in their courses and communicate these policies to the students through the course syllabi. Individual instructors, based upon the nature of the course, determine what effect excused and unexcused absences have in determining grades and upon students' ability to remain enrolled in their courses. The university reserves the right to determine that excessive absences, whether justified or not, are sufficient cause for institutional withdrawals or failing grades.

Course Attendance Policy
Course attendance is expected for this course. Graduate/Honor Students – 2 absences and Undergraduates 4 absences will result in an Academic Withdrawal.

Missed Work or Late Work
Without a valid excuse (medical, etc.) a grade of zero points will be assigned for the missed or late work. If a valid excuse is provided:

- Make-up papers and examinations will have a due date which will be decided by the instructors.

- Students missing the Exam 4 should contact their instructor concerning the applicability of an <u>Incomplete grade</u>.

Academic Dishonesty
Any type of activity that is considered dishonest by reasonable standards may constitute academic misconduct. The most common forms of academic misconduct are cheating and plagiarism. All instances of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of zero for the work involved. All instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the <u>Office of Community Standards</u>. Judicial procedures are described in the section of

the [Academic Catalog and Student Handbook](#) titled, Procedures for Adjudicating Alleged Academic Conduct Infractions.

Plagiarism Detection Software.
Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. You should submit your papers in such a way that no identifying information about you is included.

Disruption of the Learning Environment
Behavior which disrupts the teaching–learning process during class activities will not be tolerated. While a variety of behaviors can be disruptive in a classroom setting, more serious examples include belligerent, abusive, profane, and/or threatening behavior. A student who fails to respond to reasonable faculty direction regarding classroom behavior and/or behavior while participating in classroom activities may be dismissed from class. A student who is dismissed is entitled to due process and will be afforded such rights as soon as possible following dismissal. If found in violation, a student may be administratively withdrawn and may receive a grade of WF.

More detailed descriptions of examples of disruptive behavior are provided in the Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures section the Clayton State University [Academic Catalog and Student Handbook](#).

Center for Academic Success
The Center for Academic Success (CAS) provides personalized one-on-one peer and professional staff tutoring in over 100 core subjects. The Center is located in Edgewater Hall Suite 276. The CAS also offers moderated study groups, informal study sessions, a comfortable study environment, a student study lounge, *and it's all free*! Use the CAS if you need help; become a tutor if you don't. For more information you can e-mail the center at thecas@clayton.edu

Writing Assistance
The goal of the Writers' Studio is to give rise to better writers, not just to better writing. People who love to write, people who struggle mightily with it, and people who fall anywhere else on the spectrum can find a place at The Writers' Studio—a place for students to come for writing guidance and feedback.

Each student may receive up to 90 minutes of assistance per day and 3 hours per week. Furthermore, both appointments and walk-ins are welcome. Here's The Writers' Studio's contact information:

Location: Arts & Sciences Building, Room G-224
Phone: 678.466.4728
Email: ws224@clayton.edu
Website: http://clayton.edu/writersstudio

Visit The Writers' Studio at http://clayton.edu/writersstudio or schedule your appointment online at http://clayton.mywconline.com (Note: first-time users need to complete a one-time registration prior to using the online appointment website).

Weapons on Campus
Clayton State University is committed to providing a safe environment for our students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Information on laws and policies regulating weapons on campus are available at

http://www.clayton.edu/public-safety/Safety-Security/Weapons

Computer Requirement:

Each CSU student is required to have ready access throughout the semester to a notebook computer that meets faculty-approved hardware and software requirements for the student's academic program. Students will sign a statement attesting to such access. For further information on CSU's Official Notebook Computer Policy, please go to

http://www.clayton.edu/hub/itpchoice/notebookcomputerpolicy.

Software Requirement:

To properly access the course content you will need to download the following free software:
- Adobe Reader (needed to access files in PDF format): http://get.adobe.com/reader/
- Adobe Flash (needed to access video content): http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/

Computer Skill Prerequisites:

- Able to use the Windows^{TM} operating system
- Able to use Microsoft Word^{TM} word processing
- Able to send and receive e-mail using Outlook^{TM}

Only use your CSU e-mail account or the e-mail system included in D2L to communicate academic information to your instructor.

- Able to attach and retrieve attached files via email
- Able to use a Web browser.

In-class Use of Student Notebook Computers:

N/A

Desire2Learn (Online Classroom):

On-line activity will take place in Desire2Learn, the virtual classroom for the course. Posting of your work in D2L is a course requirement.

You can gain access to Desire2Learn, by signing on to the SWAN portal and selecting: "D2L" on the top right side. If you experience any difficulties in Desire2Learn, please email or call The HUB at TheHub@mail.clayton.edu or (678) 466-HELP. You will need to provide the date and time of the problem, your SWAN username, the name of the course that you are attempting to access, and your instructor's name.

Program Learning Outcomes:

General education outcomes:

The Clayton State University Core Curriculum outcomes (see Area D) are located in the Graduate Requirement section of the Academic Catalog and Student Handbook.

Political Science outcomes:

Graduating political science majors should:

Outcome 1: Explain the United States Constitution and the United States political institutions and processes.
Outcome 2: Recognize the importance of political geography.
Outcome 3: Assess and compare how other national political systems and international political organizations differ from the United States political system.
Outcome 4: Understand the accepted practices of political science research.

Outcome 5: Apply material learned in political science to real life experiences gained by working in a political science or related organization.
Outcome 6: Critically evaluate the major themes of political science.

Assessments Methods/Types of Evidence

- POLS 2101 Pre and Post Assessment Test
- POLS 2401 Political Geography Test
- POLS 3000-4000 Term Papers
- POLS 4490 Internship Coordinator and Site Supervisor Evaluation
- POLS 4500 Senior Capstone Research Paper