

Louisiana State University
Political Science
POLI-4000 Fall 2020 Online

Political Scandals

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Course Description: Political scandals in American politics are nothing new. Since the 1990s - internet, and growth in social networks (i.e., Facebook and Twitter). Consequently, public awareness of scandals has grown. The purpose of this course is to examine the ways in which political scandals impact political institutions, the electorate, and the individual(s) involved.

Course Objectives: This course is to help students understand the complex nature of political scandals and its impact on political institutions, the electorate, and the individual(s) involved. By the end of the course you should be able to: define the differences between gossip, rumor, and political scandal; explain the rise and the seriousness of mediated scandals; describe the complexities of: political scandals, sex scandals, financial scandals, and scandals; and discuss the implications of scandals on the various institutions of government.

Course Methods:

To reach these goals, you will: Read and discuss weekly assignments; prepare an argument paper and a paper on a scandal; and complete an exam that gauges competencies of course content.

addition, and most importantly, you should integrate the concepts discussed in the course. For example, you should be able to discuss the impact the case had on political institutions, the electorate, and the individual(s) involved. Therefore, grades will be based on, in large part, citing concepts from course readings. The paper should be ~~at 10 pages~~. The paper will be due by Tuesday December 8. Please submit your ~~paper~~ on Moodle by 11pm. After 11pm you will NOT have access. If you are not prepared, you will receive a "0" for a grade.

Exam (100 Points): There will be one exam worth 100 points. These exams will include essay questions taken directly from my lectures and readings. In order to do well on the exams, you must answer all parts of a question and give detailed responses. Often, students do not receive full credit, because they simply list their answers, they just write one sentence. In the directions, it will state clearly to please explain answers in detail. Simply writing one sentence or listing is not answering questions in detail. As a word of advice, when a question is worth 10, 15, and 20 points, it means more is required in terms of explanation. Please ~~do not~~ write one or two sentences because that is not enough to receive full credit. The exams will be due on Wednesday, October 28 by 11pm. Upload the Word document as an attachment on Moodle.

Grading Scale: In order to calculate your grade, you will divide your total points earned by the total points allowed--which is 300 points.

The following grading scale will be used to determine the letter grade for the course:

97-100 A+
93-96.99 A
90-92.99 A-
87-89.99 B+
83-86.99 B
80-82.99 B-
77-79.99 C+
73-76.99 C
70-72.99 C-
67-69.99 D+
63-66.99 D
60-62.99 D-
0-59.99 F