

POL 605: American Politics

Fall 2026

Course website: <https://www.michaelperess.com/teaching/ap2026.html>

Prof. Michael Peress

michael.peress@stonybrook.edu

SBS N743

OH: By appointment

Overview: This seminar will introduce you to classic as well as contemporary research in American politics. We will discuss the literature both in political institutions (e.g., Congress) and in political behavior (e.g., voting). By covering an array of topics in these areas, the course will provide a foundation for developing a comprehensive understanding of the field and the various directions in which it is now moving.

Course Requirements: You should do all the readings for each week's assignments and be prepared to discuss them in class. Grades will be based on two critical essays on the readings, 5-7 pages (25% each) and in-class presentations and general class discussion (50%). Student responsibilities include leading discussion of the readings, drawing the class into describing and comparing the readings substantively and methodologically.

Readings: Most articles are available online. For any that are not, I will supply copies of the articles.

Course Schedule: The latest version is available on the course web site.

Course and University Policies:

Student Accessibility Support Center Statement:

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If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Student Accessibility Support Center, ECC (Educational Communications Center) Building, Room 128, (631)632-6748. They will determine with you what accommodations, if any, are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential. Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and Student Accessibility Support Center. For procedures and information go to the following website: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/ehs/fire/disabilities>.

Academic Integrity Statement:

Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty is required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Faculty in the Health Sciences Center (School of Health Technology & Management, Nursing, Social Welfare, Dental Medicine) and School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty please refer to the academic judiciary website at http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/academic_integrity/index.html

Critical Incident Management:

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of University Community Standards any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. Further information about most academic matters can be found in the Undergraduate Bulletin, the Undergraduate Class Schedule, and the Faculty-Employee Handbook.

Technical Requirements:

This course uses Blackboard for the facilitation of communications between faculty and students. The Blackboard course site can be accessed at <https://blackboard.stonybrook.edu>. If you are unsure of your NetID, visit <https://it.stonybrook.edu/help/kb/finding-your-netid-and-password> for more information. You are responsible for having a reliable computer and Internet connection throughout the term. Students should be able to use email and a word processor to complete this course successfully.