

Current Political Issues

Basic Course Information

Course Name: Current Political Issues (POS 215-100)

Semester: Fall 2020

Credits: 3

Prerequisites/Co-requisites: Prerequisite: CCR 092, 093, or 094 or equivalent testing course. These courses may be taken concurrently.

Meetings/Times: Tuesday & Thursday 1:00-2:15 pm

Location: Real-time remote using Zoom (link is posted on the course website)

Online Course Site on Desire2Learn (D2L): <https://frcc.desire2learn.com>

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Ian Feinhandler, Ph.D.

Office Phone: (303) 678-3718

Email: ian.feinhandler@frontrange.edu

College Web Site: www.frontrange.edu

Office Location: Faculty Support

Office Hours: By appointment

Department Chair: Kathy Gamble, Kathy.Gamble@frontrange.edu, (303) 678-3824

Technical Support

Intro to Online Learning: Found under the FRCC Resources menu in D2L. Includes info on how to use D2L, WebEx, Zoom and other learning technologies

24x7 Help Desk Web Site: <http://help.cccs.edu>

24x7 Help Desk Phone: 1-(888)800-9198 (toll free)

Course Materials

- There is a D2L site for this course, where you take reading quizzes, where discussion boards are hosted, and where I post your grades and attendance record
- All readings, data sources, and assignments are posted on the course website: <http://ianfeinhandler.com/pos215/>

User name:

Password:

- Required technology: internet connection, webcam (video & microphone), Office 365 (Microsoft Office suite, free download from eWolf)

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus and schedule.

Welcome Message

Welcome to Current Political Issues! This will be a research-based course, in which you gather data from best-available sources, analyze the data, and use your findings to better understand contemporary political issues.

CCCS Required Syllabus Information

Catalog Course Description

Incorporates an in-depth analysis of the background and nature of political issues and themes. This course is statewide Guaranteed Transfer course in the GT-SS1 category.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate knowledge of problems, issues, and events
2. Examine events and issues from a domestic and international perspective
3. Analyze political phenomena
4. Explain the relationship between theory and practice in the context of current political issues
5. Evaluate political discourse from various political perspectives

Topical Outline

- See Course Plan at the end of this syllabus.

Guaranteed Transfer (GT) Pathways Course Statement

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education has approved **POS 215** for inclusion in the Guaranteed Transfer (GT) Pathways program in the **GT- SS1** category. For transferring students, successful completion with a minimum C– grade guarantees transfer and application of credit in this GT Pathways category. For more information on the GT Pathways program, go to <http://highered.colorado.gov/academics/transfers/gtpathways/curriculum.html>.

GT-SS1: Economic or Political System Content Criteria

Students should be able to:

- a. Demonstrate knowledge of economic **or** political systems.
- b. Use the social science to analyze and interpret issues.
- c. Explain diverse perspectives and groups.

Competency: Critical Thinking

Students should be able to:

1. Explain an Issue
 - a. Use information to describe a problem or issue and/or articulate a question related to the topic.
2. Utilize Context

- a. Evaluate the relevance of context when presenting a position.
 - b. Identify assumptions.
 - c. Analyze one's own and others' assumptions.
3. Understand Implications and Make Conclusions
 - a. Establish a conclusion that is tied to the range of information presented.
 - b. Reflect on implications and consequences of stated conclusion.

Competency: Civic Engagement:

1. Civic Knowledge
Students should be able to:
 - a. Connect disciplinary knowledge to civic engagement through one's own participation in civic life, politics, and/or government.

Course Overview

Instructor's Overview of the Course

- This will be a research-based course, in which you gather data from best-available sources, analyze the data, and use your findings to better understand contemporary political issues.
- All students are expected to make productive contributions to our Discussion Boards on D2L. These are places where you communicate with each other about reading material and your research. I will monitor the discussions and help answer questions.
- **According to the FRCC Student Handbook, you should be spending 6-9 hours per week studying and/or doing homework for a three-credit class (in addition to the normal 2.5 hours per week spent in the classroom).**

Graded Instructional Activities

Reading Quizzes: reading is assigned for most weeks of the semester; for every week that reading is assigned there is a D2L quiz on that specific reading. **Each week's reading quiz must be completed by Sunday at 5:00 pm**, as indicated on the Course Plan (for example, the Week 2 reading quiz is due by the Sunday prior to Week 2). Quizzes will be both multiple choice and short written answers. Reading, studying for the quiz, and taking the quiz will take approximately 2-3 hours per week.

Research Assignments: this class will be a dynamic research environment. You will be setting the research agenda, and establishing deadlines. At the end of each class on Thursday, we will set the research agenda for the following week. Plan on spending 3-4 hours per week engaged in research and putting your research into presentable format.

Zoom Meetings: we will meet every Tuesday and Thursday via Zoom, at our scheduled class meeting time (1:00-2:15 pm). Zoom invitations are found on the course website, under the link “Zoom”. **Attendance is required in all Zoom meetings.** Students must have a webcam, and plan to have a quiet environment. **Think of our Thursday meeting as the end of our academic week.** After class on Thursday, a new week begins, and you should start working on the next week’s reading and research. **Your class grade can be penalized for absences, late arrival, lack of participation, or poor Zoom etiquette.**

Research Papers: there are three research papers in this class. Due dates for these papers are in the Course Plan. Details of each paper are posted on the course website under the link “Research Papers.”

Research Presentations: for each paper you write, you will present your results to the class via Zoom using Power Point. I will provide help with Power Point and Zoom presentations. Details are posted on the course website under “Research Papers.”

Attendance: attendance in this course is vital to your success. If you have three unexcused absences your final grade in the class will be reduced by five points (out of 100). For every additional class you miss, your grade will be reduced by an additional five points. **Email me in advance if you will be absent from a class meeting.**

Late Arrival / Early Departure: arriving late to class or leaving class early disrupts the learning environment, and demonstrates a lack of professionalism. If you are late to class or leave class early three times without an excuse, your final grade in the class will be reduced by five points (out of 100). For every additional late arrival or early departure, your grade will be reduced by an additional five points. **Email me in advance if you need to arrive late to a class or leave early.**

| Activities | Contribution to Overall Grade |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Reading Quizzes | 5 Points |
| Research Assignments | 5 Points |
| Paper 1 | 20 Points |
| Presentation 1 | 10 Points |
| Paper 2 | 20 Points |
| Presentation 2 | 10 Points |
| Paper 3 | 20 Points |
| Presentation 3 | 10 Points |
| TOTAL | 100 Points |

Grading Scales and Standards

Replace with information on course grading scales and standards.

| Letter Grade | Range |
|--------------|---------------|
| A | 90 – 100% |
| B | 80 – 89% |
| C | 70 – 79% |
| D | 60 – 69% |
| F | 59% and lower |

Late Policy

D2L quizzes have a “closing time” or due date. You can always see these due dates on D2L. With advance notice (that means prior to the posted due-date), each student will be allowed one extension.

Each paper is graded out of 100 points; late papers will be penalized 10 points for each day they are late. Please plan ahead, and turn in papers on time. Contact your professor in advance if you are having trouble with a paper – do not wait until the day it is due. The late policy incentivizes you to stay on track in the class; turning in late assignments usually hurts students by compounding the volume of work that otherwise would be spread out more evenly.

Attendance and Participation

Students establish attendance in online and real-time remote courses by completing an academic activity based on course content. As defined by the Federal Department of Education, merely logging into the course site or introducing oneself to the class does not count as attendance. Some examples of successfully attending class include participation in a content-related discussion in the D2L discussion board or in WebEx/Zoom, taking a quiz, submitting an assignment, or contacting your instructor with a content related question. Students who have not participated by 11:59 PM on the deadline date will be dropped. Similarly, the last date of academic attendance must be reported to Financial Aid for students who do not earn a D or better; students who have not been in regular attendance may experience financial aid ramifications.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to uphold FRCC’s Student Code of Conduct relating to academic honesty and assume full responsibility for the content and integrity of the academic work they submit. The guiding principle of academic integrity will be that a student's submitted work, examinations, reports, discussions, and projects must be that of the

student's own work and unique to the course. Students are guilty of violating the honor code if they:

- Represent the work of others as their own (this includes copying material from the Internet for discussion postings or other assignments without proper citation)
- Use or obtain unauthorized assistance in any academic work.
- Give unauthorized assistance to other students.
- Modify, without instructor approval, an examination, paper, record, or report for the purpose of obtaining additional credit.
- Misrepresent the content of submitted work.
- The penalty for violating the honor code is severe. Any student violating the honor code is subject to receive a failing grade for the course and will be reported to the Office of Student Affairs. If a student is unclear about whether a particular situation may constitute an honor code violation, the student should contact the instructor to discuss the situation.

Collaboration. Unless otherwise instructed, all work submitted is to be done individually by the student. This means you should not be working in pairs or in a group to write discussion posts, complete assignments or take quizzes and other assessments unless specifically asked to do so by your instructor.

Plagiarism / Dual Submission. Plagiarism, whether intentional or accidental, is academic dishonesty and may incur disciplinary action ranging from receiving a zero on an assignment or failing a course to more severe consequences. Plagiarism means

- Using someone else's ideas and not correctly citing that use. This means that if you put someone else's work into your own words, put it in your work, and do not correctly document it, the idea is plagiarized.
- Using someone else's words without quotation marks and not correctly citing that use.
- Using someone else's images or other works (such as from the Internet) without correctly citing that use.
- Submitting work that has been turned in for credit in another class or at another institution unless specifically permitted by your instructor.
- Students may be required to submit work that is evaluated for originality by Turnitin.com, a plagiarism detection software program that checks for certain forms of plagiarism.

Other

Please try to arrange a quiet space for our Zoom meetings, so that background noise does not disturb the class. Some interruptions are unavoidable; if you experience an interruption during one of our meetings, please mute yourself. Out of respect to your classmates, and to me, please do not take any calls or send any texts during our Zoom meetings.

Online and Real-Time Remote Learning

FRCC is committed to helping you succeed in your online courses. Please read the following section for a better understanding of expectations specific to online and real-time remote courses. If you have questions or concerns about course content and activities, contact your instructor right away. If you have questions or concerns related to support services or the student code of conduct, contact your Pathways Advisor, the student affairs office at your home campus, or a member of the Online Learning team at 970-204-8250, 303-404-5513, or via [email](mailto:ol@frontrange.edu) (ol@frontrange.edu).

Required Intro to Online Learning

All students who are taking their first online or real-time remote course at FRCC are required to complete the “Intro to Online Learning.” You will learn strategies for succeeding in online and real-time remote courses at FRCC, including how to use the online learning management system (D2L) and other online technologies such as WebEx, YuJa, Zoom, and Office 365. Look for the “Intro to Online Learning” under FRCC Resources menu when you [login to D2L](https://frcc.desire2learn.com) (<https://frcc.desire2learn.com>).

Interacting in Online Learning Environments

Online and real-time remote classes provide opportunities for you to interact with your instructor and peers in a variety of online formats. Despite what is often modeled in public forums and social networks, civility and etiquette are important aspects in creating deep and meaningful learning. Personal attacks, monopolization, and bullying can stop valuable discussion and are harmful to academic discourse. For this reason, it is important that online interactions are civil, respectful, and focused on the topic presented. If you notice behavior that violates this conduct, be sure to contact your instructor.

Use of Video Conferencing Technology

Real-time remote classes include live class sessions using video-conferencing technology (e.g. WebEx or Zoom) for at least 33% of the normal class meetings listed in the course schedule. Online courses may also use video-conferencing for study sessions and other

activities, but offer alternatives for students who cannot meet at specific times. Instructors will notify students and any guest speakers in advance if a live class session will be recorded. Students may choose to turn off their camera, and the instructor will only post recordings where access is restricted to other members of the class. Please contact your instructor if you have any concerns about use of video for class meetings or assignments.

Campus Closure Procedure

If Front Range Community College or one of its campuses closes due to inclement weather or another emergency, online and real-time remote courses will proceed unless access to Desire2Learn or other online technologies is impacted. If you experience particular hardship or problems completing the course as a result of an emergency, contact your instructor or call Online Learning at 970-204-8250 or 303-404-5513.

Technical Difficulties

All FRCC Courses have an online course site in Desire2Learn (D2L), and may incorporate other online materials (e.g. publisher content and open educational resources). As a student in an online or real-time remote class, you are responsible for ensuring that you have a reliable internet connection and the necessary equipment to access your online course(s) and any required course materials listed in the course syllabus. Computer failure or problems with internet access are not considered valid excuses for not completing coursework, so be sure to have a backup plan in place so that you can still complete your work on time even if you run into technical problems. Local libraries and computer labs on campuses can be great alternatives, but be sure to check on hours and availability.

For technical assistance with Desire2Learn, contact the 24x7 [Help Desk](#): (<http://help.cccs.edu>); 888-800-9198 (toll free). Link to the 24x7 Help Desk and System Check can be found in D2L under the Tech Support Menu. D2L is available 24x7, with the exception of limited maintenance windows posted on the home page. In the unlikely event of an unplanned D2L outage, faculty and staff will be informed so that they can make reasonable adjustments to the course schedule and assignment deadlines.

Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Resources

For important information on rights and responsibilities of all FRCC students, as well as the many support resources available to you, please refer to the link to “Student Rights, Responsibilities and Resources” in D2L. Topics include:

- COVID-19

- Philosophy of Inclusion
- Course Questions
- Access to Course Materials
- Student Email
- Student Drop for Non-Attendance
- Payment Deadline
- Financial Aid
- Academic Assistance
- Disability Support Services
- Use of Audio / Video Recordings
- Crisis Counseling and Stress Management
- FRCC Cares
- Notice of Non-Discrimination
- Mandatory Reporting (Title IX)
- Student Rights and Responsibilities

Course Schedule

Important Dates

First Day of Class: 08/25/2020

Attendance Deadline: 09/03/2020

Payment Deadline: 10/01/2020

Last Day to Drop with Refund: 09/08/2020

Graduation Application Deadline: 10/01/2020

Holidays: Labor Day: 09/07/2020, **Fall Break:** 11/23 – 11/27

Last Day to Withdraw: 11/21/2020

Last Day of Class: 12/10/2020

Course Plan

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| Week 1 | Aug 28 | Reading: | Data Visualization (Quiz due Fri 8/28 by 5:00) |
| | Aug 25 | Zoom: | Course Introduction / Research Agenda |
| | Aug 27 | Zoom: | Excel Basics |

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| Week 2 | Aug 30 | Reading: | Neglected College Race Gap |
| | | | Racial and Ethnic Achievement Gaps |
| | Sep 1 | Zoom: | Research Workshop |
| | Sep 3 | Zoom: | Measuring Development 1 |

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| Week 3 | Sep 6 | Reading: | Poverty Not Race |
| | | | Is Separate Still Unequal? |
| | Sep 8 | Zoom: | Research Workshop |
| | Sep 10 | Zoom: | Measuring Development 2 |

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| Week 4 | Sep 13 | Reading: | Income & Poverty |
| | | | Racial Inequality |
| | | | The End of the Segregated Century |
| | Sep 15 | Due: | Paper 1 Rough Draft (by 12:00 noon) |
| | Sep 15 | Zoom: | Research Workshop |
| | Sep 17 | Zoom: | Research Workshop |

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| Week 5 | Sep 22 | Due: | Paper 1: Achievement Gap (by 12:00 noon) |
| | Sep 22 | Zoom: | Power Point Basics |
| | Sep 24 | Zoom: | Student Presentations |

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| Week 6 | Sep 27 | Reading: | Police Shootings |
| | | | Causes of Death in the U.S. |
| | | | Causes of Death - Tables |
| | | | Weird Causes of Death |
| | Sep 29 | Zoom: | Research Workshop |
| | Oct 1 | Zoom: | Research Workshop |

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| Week 7 | Oct 4 | Reading: | Crime in the U.S. |
| | | | Sentencing Project |
| | Oct 6 | Zoom: | Research Workshop |
| | Oct 8 | Zoom: | Research Workshop |

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| Week 8 | Oct 11 | Reading: | Race and Infant Mortality |
| | | | Race and Maternal Mortality |
| | Oct 13 | Zoom: | Research Workshop |
| | Oct 15 | Zoom: | Research Workshop |

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| Week 9 | Oct 18 | Due: | Paper 2: Social Justice (by 5:00 pm Sunday) |
| | Oct 20 | Zoom: | Student Presentations |
| | Oct 22 | Zoom: | Student Presentations |

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| Week 10 | Oct 25 | Reading: | TBA |
| | Oct 27 | Zoom: | Research Workshop |
| | Oct 29 | Zoom: | Research Workshop |

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| Week 11 | Nov 1 | Reading: | TBA |
| | Nov 3 | Zoom: | Research Workshop |
| | Nov 5 | Zoom: | Research Workshop |

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| Week 12 | Nov 8 | Reading: | TBA |
| | Nov 10 | Zoom: | Research Workshop |
| | Nov 12 | Zoom: | Research Workshop |

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| Week 13 | Nov 15 | Reading: | TBA |
| | Nov 17 | Zoom: | Research Workshop |
| | Nov 19 | Zoom: | Research Workshop |

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| | Nov 23 - 27 | No Classes - Fall Break | |
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| Week 14 | Nov 29 | Reading: | TBA |
| | Dec 1 | Zoom: | Research Workshop |
| | Dec 3 | Zoom: | Research Workshop |

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| Week 15 | Dec 6 | Due: | Paper 3: International Issue (by 5:00 pm Sunday) |
| | Dec 8 | Zoom: | Student Presentations |
| | Dec 10 | Zoom: | Student Presentations |

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus and schedule.