

**POL 472W -- Political Attitudes and Behavior -- Professor Robert E. Biles**  
**Summary Syllabus – Complete Version on Blackboard**

**TEXTBOOKS**

Conway, M. Margaret. *Political Participation in the United States*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2000.

Erikson, Robert S., and Kent L. Tedin. *American Public Opinion: Its Origins, Content, and Impact*. Updated 7<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Pearson Longman, 2007.

Larson, Stephanie Greco. *Public Opinion Using MicroCase Explorer*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2003. **NOTE** that you **will need the CD-Rom or diskette** from the back of this book to do assignments and the analytical paper.

**GRADES**

Satisfactory completion of <b>all</b> exercises and:		<b>Standard</b>
Exam #1	15	A ≥ 90%
Exam #2	15	B ≥ 80
Final exam	10	C ≥ 70
Descriptive paper	20	D ≥ 60
Analytical paper	40	F ≤ 59
Attendance may affect grade (see below)		Round at .5 (e.g., 89.5 = A)

**\*Exercises** from the MicroCase book will be assigned weekly and should be turned in at the Thursday class meetings. Incomplete exercises are considered not done. You will do a paper using the data sets. **\*Exams** will be essay in nature.

**\*Papers.** For the **descriptive paper**, choose a book from the list that will be provided. Write a descriptive review of **6-10 pages** of text. A **descriptive review involves** explaining the thesis or major arguments of the book. About half the grade will be based on the quality of the writing – such as organization, style, and grammar. Use formal writing but don't be stilted. The other half of the grade will be based on the content -- such as explanation of the thesis and understanding of the arguments. The paper is **due Sept. 18. Revision of this paper is optional.** The **analytical paper** will use one or more of the data sets from the *Public Opinion* disk to analyze some aspect of political opinion or behavior. You will be given a great deal of advice, directions, and examples. The paper should be **6-10 pages** of text. A **rewrite is required.** Again, half the grade will be based on the writing, half on the content. Papers will be submitted to Turnitin.com, a **plagiarism checker**.

**\*ATTENDANCE AND BEHAVIOR:** Each unexcused absence in excess of three will reduce the course grade by one percentage point each. Having no or one unexcused absence will add two points to your average. **Turn off pagers, phones, and other noisemakers before class begins.**

**\*CONTACTING ME. Office:** AB1 315H. **Telephone:** 936-294-1460. **Fax:** 936-294-4172. **Email:** gov\_reb@shsu.edu. **Office hours:** TuTh 11-11:30; MWF 11:30-12:30; M-Th 4-5.

**\*FIRST ASSIGNMENT:** Read E&T, Chap. 1 & 2; Review Appendix; Larson: Read Preface & Getting Started, do Exercise 1. Exercise 1 is **due Thursday, Aug. 30.**