Course Syllabus

POLS 150C: The New Hampshire Presidential Primary

Fall 2015

An eStart Course

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Fax: 230-9312
Office Hours: Monday, 2-4 pm; Tuesday, 10-1:00; Thursday, 10-1:00; and by appointment.

Course Requirements: Students must have access to the Internet to take this class offered over the Web using the Blackboard (Bb) learning platform. This is a 100% On-line course; students registered for the class will receive a CCSNH e-mail address that can be checked regularly. To access Bb, students need only log on to the NHTI home page, click on Bb, and use the appropriate user name and password. Should the NHTI home page be down, you can get to Blackboard by going to the direct URL address: http://ccsnh.blackboard.com/

Instructors in an On-line course do not serve as technical support, but rather as classroom professors. For general distance learning support, log on to http://ccsnh.edu/distancelearning/index.html for more detailed information about Bb, online learning, software and hardware requirements, etc. For a specific Blackboard tutorial, log on to http://ondemand.blackboard.com/students.htm

*And yes, you may always contact me with questions!

Texts: There is no single text for this class, but instead students will be assigned numerous articles as well as recorded presentations and archival footage of media coverage of the New Hampshire Presidential Primary. Students will be directed to various on-line sites as well throughout the semester.

Current Events and Media Coverage: Each week, students will be given assignments to review some aspect of media coverage pertaining to the New Hampshire primary.
Course Description: This course is a survey of the changing role and nature of the Presidential Primary election held in the State of New Hampshire from its first implementation in 1916 to the present. Through a combination of readings, taped and live streamed presentations, archival footage, classroom presentations and interviews, and group activities, students will “experience” the primary as it takes shape throughout the fall. The goal of the course is not merely to help students understand the nature of the New Hampshire Presidential Primary, but to engage students in the process. Just as the Presidential Primary is an example of direct democracy, this course is an exercise in civic engagement. Course content will cover, but not be limited to, an understanding of the origins of primary elections in American politics, the laws governing the New Hampshire primary, the role of media in the process, the changing demographics of New Hampshire, the evolving nature of the New Hampshire electorate, and the impact of the “first-in-the-nation” primary.

Course Objectives and Outcomes:

1. Understanding of the concept and forms of “Direct Democracy”
   - Summarize the forms of Direct Democracy: primary elections, referenda, recall.
   - Identify the issues of the Progressive Era and the rationale for turning to Direct Democracy
   - Note the changing role of political parties and interest groups

2. Knowledge of the evolution of Presidential Primary elections in the Nation and New Hampshire
   - Understand the nature of the presidential selection process
   - Study efforts to create, amend, and repeal primaries
   - Outline legal changes in New Hampshire presidential primary law
   - Note the changing importance in New Hampshire’s first-in-the-nation primary
   - Look at the rise in expense of primary elections
   - Study the role of “grass root” campaigns and town hall formats

3. Appreciation of changes in New Hampshire from 1916 to the present
   - Summarize New Hampshire as a state in 1916
   - Identify the move from a rural state, based on agriculture and timber, to an industrial and urban state
   - Identify the changing nature of New Hampshire’s population
   - Note that New Hampshire is a state of differing regions
   - Look at the present nature of New Hampshire as two states in one.
4. **Understanding of the issues presented in Presidential Primary elections**
   - Study the issues that rise to the top
   - Study the issues that are ignored
   - Question whether issues or personalities are paramount in the New Hampshire presidential selection process over time
   - Determine the qualities that are important in candidates—Why do we vote for them?
   - Identify the success or failure in presenting issues of importance to New Hampshire and the nation.

5. **Understanding of the changing role played by the media in Presidential primaries**
   - Study the role of Media before 1952
   - Study the changing role of Media after 1952
   - Analyze the audiences targeted by media
   - Ask whether the New Hampshire Presidential primary is still an example of retail politics
   - Determine the developing role of social media: How does it work?

6. **Identify the “interests” and interest groups that participate in the New Hampshire Presidential Primary**
   - Study local, regional, and national interests
   - Look at how interest groups present their case.
   - Ask how interests and political parties interact

7. **Appreciation of the ways voters can become involved in primary campaigns**
   - Learn about the national and state structure of presidential primary campaigns in New Hampshire
   - Study ways that citizens can get involved in campaigns
   - Learn of uses and abuses of campaign techniques
   - Study effective avenues and methods of oral and written communication in campaigns
   - Ask how the New Hampshire presidential primary can serve as a teaching moment
Teaching Methods: Formal content of the course will be presented in a variety of forms: assigned readings, assigned archival recorded material, recorded and streamed lectures, power point presentations, and current media coverage of the primary as it unfolds in the fall of 2015. In addition to a formal class about the primary, each week an issue of importance will be discussed, and guests with expertise in these issues will be invited to meet with the class. This is a college-level class, and eStart Students will receive the same information and content as in-class students.

Core Component: A core component of the course will be a class given at NHTI involving the instructor and invited guests. This will be a regular class room presentation, but it will be recorded, and whenever possible, live streamed to other sites and or recorded for other sites and online students in the eStart program. This will last for approximately 2 contact hours each week. All eStart students will be given an additional reading each week, along with a Discussion Board question.

Civic Engagement Forums: One of the paramount goals of the course is to involve as many students as possible. Students enrolled in CCSNH colleges, as well as high school students, are reaching an age when they will be expected to participate in public policy decisions. As students become politically aware of issues and candidates, there is a need to better understand how issues are shaped by the election process. To do this, Civic Engagement Forums will be held on the campuses of the CCSNH colleges, whereby students will have the opportunity to meet with candidates and government leaders and exchange information. Students will not only listen to what others have to say, they will identify and articulate issues of importance to them. All students enrolled in the course, online or in class, will be informed of the dates and times of forums. Students enrolled in the in class version of the course are required to participate in at least one of the forums.

Course Assessment: Students enrolled in the course are expected to read all assigned readings, attend and/download all presentations, and participate in weekly Discussion Board sessions. Students taking the course through eStart will take part in Blackboard Discussion Board and be given periodic written assignments. There will be a final exam given at the end of the semester.

Course Grading System: This course involves a set of criteria and a grading scale based on these criteria. Each Student’s performance in individually evaluated, and each student is responsible for his or her own performance. The following grading scale is used:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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Criteria for Grades: Students will be expected to complete written assignments, log on to and join the Discussion Board each week of the course, and take a final exam.
Written Assignments: Throughout the semester, students will respond to six assignment questions, found on the “Assignments” menu on Blackboard. These assignments must be answered by Sunday of the posting week. (Check Syllabus for posting dates in advance.) Each assignment carries a maximum of five points.

Discussion: Students are expected to check the “Discussion Board” menu on Blackboard on a weekly basis. This is the primary means of classroom interaction. Weeks run from Monday through Sunday, and responses to the Discussion Board must be posted before midnight on Sunday. Students are also required to respond to the responses of at least one other student each week. Hence, it is strongly suggested that students initially respond early in the week, and check responses later in the week. Ground rules for responses are:

- Responses should focus on the topics under discussion
- You should state questions and comments as clearly and concisely as possible
- Comments to the responses of other students must be constructive
- Comments to the responses of other students must be courteous
- Students should check spelling and grammar before submitting responses
- Students shall comply with CCSNH Netiquette [http://www.ccsnh.edu/students/netiquette-at-ccsnh](http://www.ccsnh.edu/students/netiquette-at-ccsnh)

Final Exam: There will be a final exam. This will appear in the “Assignments” menu at the time specified on the Syllabus. The exam will cover the content of the entire course. I will give specific instructions about preparing for the exam near the end of the semester. I will also be available for questions and concerns.

Final Grade Determination:

- Written Assignments: 30%
- Discussion: 30%
- Final Exam: 40%

Navigating Blackboard: Your course is organized through Blackboard (Bb). Once you have registered for POLS 150, take time to familiarize yourself with Blackboard. For starters, once you have logged on, you will see the course. When you click on the course, you will get a course menu. Not all of this menu will be used, but some will, and you will need to check these menu items frequently. Here is a list of menu items that you will need to consult.

- Announcements: This is where students will find announcements to the entire class. This should be checked every time you log on, as this where you will find reminders about work due or changes in the course.
- Assignments: This is where Students will find the weekly assignments. Dates for the assignments will also be found on the Syllabus, but the actual text of assignments, along with special instructions, will be found in the Assignments menu of Blackboard.
• **Course Documents:** Supplemental material may be placed here. In this case, students will be made aware of the material through the Announcements menu.

• **Discussion Board:** This is where students will find topics for weekly discussions.

• **Syllabus:** It is recommended that you make a hard copy of the course syllabus for handy reference.

**Important:** I will read your Discussion Board responses, although I may not comment on every response. I will grade and critique the six written assignments and the Final Exam. Once graded, the written assignments and the final exam will be returned to you by e-mail, **using your ccsnh e-mail address and only your ccsnh e-mail address**. You need to check this regularly, and you should use your CCSNH e-mail account for submissions.

**Attendance/Participation:** Students registering for the eStart Version of POLS 150 are expected to participate in the Discussion Board and complete all written assignments. Students who do not log on and participate for two consecutive weeks will receive a warning that they may be dropped from the course. If no response is received within 5 school days, the instructor reserves the right to issue an “AF” form and drop the student from the course.
Class Content Schedule: Fall 2015

Week 1: Presentation: *The Concept of Direct Democracy*
(Aug. 31-Sept. 6)
Issue # 1: *The Nature of the U.S. Constitution*

Week 2: Presentation: *The Progressive Era and the beginnings of primaries*
(Sept. 7-13)
Issue # 2: *Size and Role of Government*
*Essay # 1 Assigned. Due Sept. 13*

Week 3: Presentation: *The Evolution of the NH Presidential Primary Law*
(Sept. 14-20)
Issue # 3: *Politics and Campaigns*

Week 4: Presentation: *NH from 1916 to 2016: Population, Demographics, and making a living*
(Sept. 21-27)
Issue # 4: *Citizen Involvement/Civic Engagement: Ways to get involved*
*Essay # 2 Assigned. Due Sept. 27*

Week 5: Presentation: *Early NH primaries and lessons learned*
(Sept. 28-Oct. 4)
Issue # 5: *Citizen Involvement/Civic Engagement: Asking good questions and getting good answers*

Week 6: Presentation: *The Secrets (?) of Success*
(Oct. 5-11)
Issue # 6: *Education & Economic Opportunity*
*Essay # 3 Assigned. Due Oct. 11*
Week 7: Presentation: *Success and Failure in recent primaries—lessons learned*  
(Oct. 12-18)  
Issue # 7: *Social Issues: Healthcare Policy*

Week 8: Presentation: *Changing roles of Media, Parties, Interest Groups I*  
(Oct. 19-25)  
Issue # 8: *Social Issues: Safety, Life, and Death issues*  
*Essay # 4 Assigned. Due Oct. 25*

Week 9: Presentation: *Changing roles of Media, Parties, Interest Groups II*  
(Oct. 26-Nov. 1)  
Issue # 9: *Economic Policy*

Week 10: Presentation: *Polls and Expectations (the role of benchmarking)*  
(Nov. 2-8)  
Issue # 10: *The Environment*  
*Essay # 5 Assigned. Due Nov. 8*

Week 11: Presentation: *State and national issues that matter (and those that don’t)*  
(Nov. 9-15)  
Issue # 11: *The United States and World Affairs*

Week 12: Presentation: *Who votes, and who doesn’t?*  
(Nov. 16-22)  
*Essay # 6 Assigned. Due Nov. 22*

Week 13: Presentation: *“Retail Politics?” What actually works*  
(Nov. 23-Dec. 6)  
Issue # 12: *Judicial Review and the Role of Courts*

Week 14: Review and Final Exam: *Final Exam due on Dec. 13*  
(Dec. 7-13)
A course must be dropped by notifying the Registrar's Office or the Academic Advising Center prior to the end of the fourteenth calendar day of the semester in order to receive a 100% refund of tuition, less non-refundable fees. After that time, the student may submit a DROP form to the Registrar's Office or Advising Center but no refund will be granted. *Ceasing to attend a class does not constitute an official drop or withdrawal and may result in a failing grade.* Officially dropping a course prior to the completion of 60% of the scheduled duration of a course will result in a grade of "W". After that time, a grade of "WP" or "WF" will be issued depending on the student's standing at the time of the drop. **Note:** Dates are prorated for courses offered in an alternative format; contact the Registrar or Advising Center for details. Classes that run for less than the full semester have 7 calendar days from the start of the alternative semester to drop with a full refund. See policy at: [https://www.nhti.edu/academics/requirements-policies/dropping-classes-withdrawing-nhti](https://www.nhti.edu/academics/requirements-policies/dropping-classes-withdrawing-nhti) Dates for the full 2015 full semester are as follows:

- Last day to drop with a full refund for full semester courses*: September 14
- Last day to withdraw with a grade of "W" from full semester courses: November 6

**~ CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE ~**

Academic integrity is of primary importance in the classroom, whether the classroom be face-to-face or online. Both students and faculty are responsible for creating and maintaining an environment that supports an effective learning community. It is therefore imperative that students and faculty demonstrate mutual respect. Inappropriate behavior may compromise the learning and performance of all students. Such inappropriate behaviors include, but are not limited to: late arrivals/early departures; loud or prolonged side conversations; use of cell phones; computers (other than for legitimate academic use); iPods (or similar devices), etc.; use of derogatory or vulgar language. All students are expected to abide by the [Student Code of Conduct](https://www.nhti.edu/student-life/campus-safety/judicial-policies/student-code-conduct) as published in the NHTI Student Handbook ([https://www.nhti.edu/student-life/student-handbook](https://www.nhti.edu/student-life/student-handbook)), as well as the CCSNH Netiquette Guidelines ([http://www.ccsnh.edu/students/netiquette-at-ccsnh](http://www.ccsnh.edu/students/netiquette-at-ccsnh)), and are subject to sanctions as described therein for any violations.

**~ CIVIL RIGHTS and EQUITY ISSUES (discrimination and harassment) ~**

NHTI does not discriminate in the administration of its admissions and educational programs, activities, or employment practices on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or marital status. The college is sensitive to the threat and/or embarrassment an individual may experience in coming forward with a complaint regarding discrimination. The grievance reporting procedures outlined in the Student and Employee Handbooks are designed to provide a safe, confidential, and supportive environment in which an individual may discuss his/her concerns. Retaliation of any kind against anyone making an allegation of discrimination, against anyone involved in the investigation, or against anyone involved in the decision regarding corrective and/or disciplinary action is prohibited, and shall result in disciplinary action against the retaliator. Any NHTI student, employee, or visitor who has observed, is aware of, or has been a victim of discriminatory or harassing behavior while engaged in an NHTI-sponsored activity should report such behavior to the Title IX and Civil Rights/Equity Coordinator (Michael O’Bryant, North Hall Room N113, mobryant@ccsnh.edu 271-6484 ext. 4269) or other Institute representative.
~ THE ACADEMIC CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE ~

The Academic Center for Excellence (ACE), located in the library, provides free academic assistance to all NHTI students who would like to improve their grades. The ACE offers tutoring in Accounting, A&P, Biological Sciences, Math, Chemistry, and Physics. We also offer peer tutoring in most subjects. The Writing Center & Study Solutions Lab offers writing, reading, study skills, and online writing tutoring assistance. The Academic Center for Excellence also includes Disabilities Services and a computer lab. For more information call 230-4027 or visit https://www.nhti.edu/student-resources/get-help-your-studies.

~ DISABILITIES SERVICES ~

Students with documented disabilities are eligible to receive reasonable accommodations that address individual learning needs. To receive services, students must contact the Coordinator of Disabilities Services, whose office is in the Academic Center for Excellence. For details, please refer to the Policies and Procedures Manual for Services Available for Students with Disabilities, which is available in print and on the NHTI Web site (www.nhti.edu). Students with documented disabilities should be aware that simply noting in writing or in discussions with faculty that one’s disability affects academic skills does NOT constitute formal disclosure of a disability. Once a student develops a Reasonable Accommodation Plan (RAP) with the Coordinator of Disabilities Services, that student is responsible for discussing the RAP with the instructor. Students should make requests for specific accommodations at least one week prior to when the accommodations are needed. Call Beverly Boggess at 230-4117 or e-mail her at bboggess@ccsnh.edu for more information.

~ CROSS-CULTURAL EDUCATION & ENGLISH for SPEAKERS of OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL) ~

The Director of Cross-cultural Education and the ESOL Coordinator, located in Sweeney Hall, Room S301, work together to provide the tools, strategies, and materials necessary for second language/second culture students and their instructors to access and deliver academic content, respectively. Services also include testing accommodations, socio-cultural and academic advising and support in acculturating to college and community life. Prospective students may arrange to take our institutional language placement test to allow for appropriate academic recommendations and course placement and registration. ESOL courses are offered for college credit throughout the year. An academic transition process allows students to take ESOL courses and courses required in their chosen program simultaneously. One-on-one and open group tutoring and testing accommodations can be arranged through the ESOL Coordinator. Programs that assist members of the international, immigrant, and host communities are also offered to better support cross-cultural communication and to promote and awareness and understanding of and appreciation for the growing diversity of our community. Call 230-4055 for more information.

~ PLAGIARISM/CHEATING POLICY ~

As stated in the Student Handbook: Honesty is expected of all NHTI students. In academic matters this includes the submission of work that clearly indicates its source. Dishonest acts include cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) use of any unauthorized assistance from other persons or technologies in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations or in the preparation and completion of class assignments; (2) dependence upon the aid of resources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; (3) the acquisition,
without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the CCSNH colleges faculty, staff, or students; or (4) knowingly providing unauthorized assistance of any kind to another for the purpose of providing unfair advantage to the recipient in the completion of course assessments/assignments (sometimes known as facilitation). Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the use (intentional or unintentional), by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in providing term papers or other academic materials via direct sale, barter, or other means. Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious disciplinary matters and are subject to the same penalties and procedures as other NHTI disciplinary matters. Students should be aware that penalties levied in proven cases of cheating or plagiarism may include the issuance of a grade of AF (which may in turn lead to delay of graduation), suspension or dismissal from a program or from the college, or other sanctions as deemed appropriate.

~ CANCELLATION/DELAYED START OF CLASSES ~

When the President deems it prudent to cancel all classes at the college, students will receive a notice via their college email address using the NHTI Alerts Notification System. (To receive Alerts messages via other addresses/phone numbers, sign up at www.nhti.edu.) An announcement will also be made on WMUR-TV (Channel 9) and local radio stations and will be posted to the NHTI Web site. Students checking the Web page for cancellation announcements should be aware that the page must be repeatedly “refreshed” to obtain the latest information. Occasionally, the President will opt for a delayed start to classes. This means that students should be prepared to begin their school day with whatever activity they would normally be doing at the announced opening time. For example, if a two-hour delay is announced, and a student is scheduled for a class that normally meets from 8:00-10:50 AM, the student should come to that class at 10:00 AM for the remaining 50 minutes of class; classes that are normally completed before 10:00 AM would be cancelled.

~ GRADE REPORTING ~

Faculty submit grades electronically to the Registrar’s Office within a few days following the end of each final exam period. FINAL GRADES ARE NOT MAILED to students. It is the student’s responsibility to review his/her final grades via the Student Information System as soon as grades are available. Students who receive an “I” (Incomplete) grade should coordinate with the instructor to complete the remaining coursework as soon as possible. Unresolved “I” grades will convert to an “F” (Failing) grade automatically at the end of the third week of the following semester. A grade of Incomplete will place a student's financial aid status on hold for the subsequent semester. Consult the NHTI catalog for the full “Incomplete Grade Policy.”

~ STUDENT ATHLETES ~

NHTI values its student athletes and wants them to be successful both on the field/court and off. Therefore, student athletes participating on any NHTI-sponsored team MUST provide each of their instructors with documentation from the NHTI Athletic Department confirming their participation on a team, as well as the schedule of practices and games, within the first week of the semester or immediately upon joining a team (if joining after the semester begins) to receive consideration for excused absences, make-up testing, or other sorts of accommodations related to the team schedule. This documentation must be presented in advance of any special requests. Participation on an NHTI-sponsored team does not excuse any student from compliance with any/all course requirements. Faculty are not required to excuse students from class or lab to attend practice sessions, and there may be circumstances (such as clinical requirements) under which athletes may not be excused for games, though every effort will be made to accommodate the schedules of student athletes who work responsibly with their instructors.

~ STUDENT EMAIL ~
Official Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH) email accounts will be created automatically for all enrolled students at the time of course registration. This is the only email address that will be recognized by NHTI for any required correspondence in NHTI-controlled courses and will serve as the official account for ALL of your electronic communication with the college. This practice will ensure that all students are able to comply with the email-based requirements specified by faculty. Students are responsible for checking their official student email regularly and reading college-related communications. The electronic mail system is college property. Additionally, all messages composed, sent, or received on the electronic mail system are and remain the property of CCSNH or NHTI. The CCSNH electronic mail system is not to be used to create or forward any offensive messages. CCSNH is not responsible for the handling of email by outside vendors.

~ ACADEMIC CREDIT ~

NHTI awards academic credit in accordance with the policy of the Community College System of New Hampshire, which equates a credit hour to (1) one hour* of “lecture” per week for 15-16 weeks**; (2) 2-3 hours of lab per week for 15-16 weeks**; (3) 3 hours of practicum per week for 15-16 weeks**; (4) 3-6 internship hours per week for 15-16 weeks**; or (5) 3-5 clinical hours per week for 15-16 weeks**. In awarding academic credit, NHTI faculty create instructional plans, activities, and assessments with the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 2-3 hours outside of class per week per credit(**) in related course activities (completing assignments, studying, etc.).

*one instructional hour equals 50 minutes
** All “per week” hours should be prorated accordingly for alternative-length semesters. For example, a course that meets for 3 hours per week in a 16-week semester and requires 6-9 hours per week of additional work outside the classroom would meet for 6 hours per week and require 12-18 hours per week of additional study time when offered in an 8-week format.

Students must meet the requirements of all academic policies. Therefore, students are expected to acquaint themselves with these policies by visiting the college’s Web site at: http://www.nhti.edu/academics/requirements-policies.