I. Course Description:

This course will study voting trends nationally and in state politics with a particular focus on NYS and certain swing states. The course will meld an exploration of well established political science postulates explaining voting behavior and trends, with a study of key data points underlying and explaining political demography including, but not limited to: population, registration, partisanship (as well as explaining the rise of independent voting) race, gender, ethnicity as well as regional patterns and polling. The focus will be on charting and predicting the potential for political realignment both nationally (and within different regions) and here in NYS. The NYS units will focus on statewide trendlines, as well as the Mayoral race in NYC and in key County Executive races and Upstate Mayoral races.

II. Prerequisites: RPOS 101 Preferred

III. Grading Scheme; A-E

A. Midterm and final will count for 25 percent each and Research Paper will count for 50 percent of final grade. Midterm and final will be take home essay exams posing questions asking students to use reading materials and lectures to functionally solve strategic puzzles of political demography. The research paper will be a synthesizing analysis of voting trends, at the national or state level. **Topic will be of student's choosing, but instructor approved.** Research paper will be due toward end of the semester, but before finals. (The Monday before Thanksgiving).

B. If mid term, or if term paper is handed in late, the grades will be reduced by half a grade each day.
the exam or paper is late, but anything later than 4 days results in failing grade (only extraordinary extenuating circumstances will merit any exception and my approval is required with request for exception to be made by student to me made prior to due date). Final exams **must be returned on time**.

C. Attendance policies: 2 absences excused, all additional absences require notice and approval or make up assignment will be required. Failure to provide compensatory make up assignments, could lower grade up to 10 percent. Alternatively, excellent attendance and excellent class room presentation can raise grade up to 10 percent.

IV. Course Readings:

A. Required Reading: The only materials that must be read. Suggest purchasing 1 - 4.


5. Bruce N. Gyory Memorandums: copies will be handed out in class prior to assigned reading.


B. Suggested Readings; Supplemental Library Reading, Purchase Only if Desired (or if key source for term paper).


