**PSC 211:** 

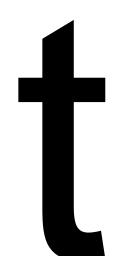
## **Grading Scale and Late Assignments**

 $\begin{array}{l} 100 \ \varnothing \ A \ \varnothing \ 93 > A - \ \varnothing \ 90 > B + \ \varnothing \ 87 > B \ \varnothing \ 83 > B - \ \varnothing \ 80 > C + \ \varnothing \ 77 > C \ \varnothing \ 73 > C - \ \varnothing \ 70 > D + \ \varnothing \ 67 > D \ \varnothing \ 63 > D - \ \varnothing \ 60 > E \end{array}$ 

If you do not have an extension, and you turn in a paper late, you will be docked one third of one letter grade for every 24 hours that the paper is late, with late penalties accruing from the time the paper is due. For example, if your paper earned a B+, but you turned it in a few hours past the time it was due, you will receive a B; if you turned it in 30 hours past the time it was due, you will receive a B-.

## **Grade Disputes**

Grade disputes will not be accepted for 24 hours after receiving the assignment back. Grade disputes should be accompanied by a memo detailing the reasons that the student believes a higher grade is warranted.



Anna Merlan. 2019. Republic of Lies: American Conspiracy Theorists and Their Surprising Rise to Power. Metropolitan Books.

Nancy Rosenblum. 2019. A Lot of People Are Saying: The New Conspiracism and the Assault on Democracy. Princeton University Press.

| Date                   | Торіс   | Reading  |
|------------------------|---|--|
| Thursday, August 28    | Class canceled Professors out of town for conference    | None   |
| Tuesday, September 3   | Welcome and introduction                                |  |
| Thursday, September 5  | Welcome and introduction                                | Sunstein and Vermeule. Conspiracy Theories.          |
|                        |   | FBI Intelligence Bulletin on Conspiracy Theories!(in |
|                        | Short assignment (on BB): What are three                | Dropbox as <b>FBI_bulletin</b> )                     |
|                        | things that these examples have in common?<br>Due 9/12. |  |
| Tuesday, September 10  | Defining conspiracy theories                            | Merlan. Chapters 1-2.                                |
| Thursday, September 12 | Defining conspiracy theories: What features do          | Merlan. Chapters 3-4.                                |

they have in common?

| Thursday, October 3  | Urban-rural and political divides   | Kramer. 2016. The Politics of Resentment: Rural<br>Consciousness in Wisconsin and the Rise of Scott Walker.<br>Chapters 1 and 3.  |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Tuesday, October 8   | State politics: How are state politics ripe for conspiracy theories?  | TBD   |
| Thursday, October 10 | The paranoid style<br>Short assignment: Discuss the relationship<br>between the structure of American politics and<br>the paranoid style. Due 10/17.                                      | Hofstandter. The Paranoid Style in American Politics.<br>Essay.   |
| Tuesday, October 15  | FALL BREAK  | None  |
| Thursday, October 17 | White nationalism   | Merlan. Chapter 8.   https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2019/07/trumps-white-nationalist-attack-four-congresswomen/594019/   https://www.mediamatters.org/sean-hannity/baseless-smear-targeting-ilhan-omar-made-its-way-trump-thanks-fox-and-these-far-right |
| Tuesday, October 22  | The role of the media<br><b>Short assignment</b> : How does the internet<br>interact with the things we have already<br>studied? The problems of evidence and the<br>internet. Due 10/29. | DellaVigna and<br>and voting.The Fox News effect: Media bias<br>and voting.Durante, Pinotti, and<br>entertainment TV.The political legacy of<br>entertainment Review.   |
| Thursday, October 24 | The internet and social media   | The Muller Report. Selection. Part II and III of Volume 1.  |

|                       |  | https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/06/technology/section-<br>230-hate-speech.html          |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Tuesday, October 29   | How is this phenomenon evolving?   | Rosenblum. Section 1.   |
| Thursday, October 31  | Evolution continued  |   |
| Tuesday, November 5   | Affecting democracy?   | Rosenblum. Section 2.   |
|                       | Short assignment: Why could this be a problem for democracies versus other regimes? Due 11/12. | https://newrepublic.com/article/154133/democratic-rot-<br>origins-american-conspiracism |
| Thursday, November 7  | Presentations  | None  |
| Tuesday, November 12  | Presentations  | None  |
| Thursday, November 14 | Presentations1f*710.9 TJTf() 0.5 re f*4091/0   | 08.5  |