



**Internship/Political Science (Course 481/Section 08)
Center for Youth Political Participation (CYPP)
Fall 2020**

Instructor/Contact Information:

Elizabeth C. Matto, Ph.D.
848-932-8017
ematto@eagleton.rutgers.edu

Jessica Ronan
Program Coordinator, Center for Youth Political Participation
jronan@eagleton.rutgers.edu

Meeting Time/Location:

Tuesdays, 9:30-12:00 (approximately)
Zoom (invite disseminated via email)

“Office Hours” & Staying Connected:

- RU Voting students will be connected on a group text via GroupMe
- I will hold drop-in office hours on Wednesdays from 10am-12pm in my personal meeting room on Zoom. Students can drop-in during that time or can schedule a time to meet:
213 179 4738
<https://rutgers.zoom.us/j/2131794738?pwd=d1B1bGVGUG1JVnM3R0U0ekVDUEkxLZ>

Learning Objectives

The Eagleton Institute of Politics' *Center for Youth Political Participation* at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, advances the political learning of young people and equips them to be active citizens and leaders. For young people to assume their place in the political process, the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of political participation must be taught. Through education, research, and public service, the *Center for Youth Political Participation* plays a lead role locally and nationally in fostering and promoting the active citizenship and leadership of future generations.

An integral component of **CYPP, RU Voting** is a nonpartisan effort focused upon registering, educating, and mobilizing Rutgers students to participate in local, state, and national politics. Interns play an important role in the success of CYPP's research, public service, and educational programs.

RU Voting's efforts for the Fall 2020 semester will be virtual and responsibilities will include:

- Assisting with the organization and administration of voter registration, education, and mobilization efforts throughout the semester. These efforts will be undertaken in cooperation with the RU Voting Project Coordinator.
 - Voter registration trainings
 - Voter registration drives
 - Collaborations with other organizations
 - Debate watches/"Popcorn and Politics"
 - Student forums/"Pizza and Politics"
 - Voter mobilization
- Special Project:
 - RU Voting-National Microsite: RU Voting students will assist with the launch and ongoing administration of the microsite as well as supporting the campaign to raise national awareness of the microsite.
- Throughout the semester, interns may be asked to assist with other research, educational programs, and service initiatives that relate to CYPP's overall mission.

In this internship, students will *gain an understanding* of the intricacies of voter registration and mobilization processes and their relationship to youth engagement; *employ* the practical tactics of organizing and administering voter engagement efforts (now in a virtual space); *analyze* campaign-related content through the lens of youth engagement; *collaborate* with fellow students on practical and research-related efforts; *gain* confidence in their leadership and problem-solving abilities; and *better appreciate* their role in their community at this challenging moment in the nation's history.

Expectations

- All students in this course must abide by the Rutgers Code of Student Conduct and must meet the following civil discourse expectations. These expectations are rooted in the belief that the challenges of understanding and seeking to improve politics, public policy and government require open and civil discourse. Different ideas, perspectives and opinions are welcome and should be expressed and debated with respect and curiosity, and without personal

insult or attack. Behavior in class or online that is deemed to conflict with these expectations can be grounds for a reduced or failing grade.

- Students will need some sort of computer (with video and audio technology) and access to the Internet to access Zoom and our shared Google drive. Please visit the [Rutgers Student Tech Guide](#) page for resources available to all students. If you do not have the appropriate technology for financial reasons, please email Dean of Students deanofstudents@echo.rutgers.edu for assistance. If you are facing other financial hardships, please visit the Office of Financial Aid at <https://financialaid.rutgers.edu/>.
 - We will meet synchronously via Zoom on Tuesday mornings beginning at 9:30. Please reserve the entire assigned time slot on Tuesday mornings. It is unlikely that we'll meet the entire time, but that time period may offer opportunities for students to connect with the Program Coordinator and each other on various projects. If students are unable to attend a session, they are expected to get in touch with Professor Matto prior to the missed class to make necessary arrangements.
- In order to facilitate discussion and allow students an opportunity to have meaningful connections with each other, it is my preference that students' cameras remain on. That being said, I understand that this isn't always possible – please be advised that all students should be prepared to be called on to answer questions or engage in discussion whether their cameras are on or not.
 - All readings and work products will be housed in a shared Google drive. No textbooks need to be purchased.
 - Learning remotely presents new challenges. For assistance with learning how to address these challenges, please consult the resources available here: https://rlc.rutgers.edu/remote_instruction

Grading

- 60% of each student's grade is based upon the number of hours completed during the course of the semester. In line with the guideline established by the Department of Political Science, students must complete at least 120 hours in order to earn a B, 135 hours to earn a B+, and 150 hours to earn an A (<http://polisci.rutgers.edu/undergraduate/2014-10-10-12-19-44/internships>).
- 25% of each intern's grade is based on the completion of a reflection paper towards the end of the semester. This paper will allow students to assess the linkages between how we conceive of youth engagement and the realities of such engagement.
- 15% of each student's grade is based on the completion of a weekly journal response. Each week, Professor Matto will offer a prompt – some weeks, students will respond individually and other weeks, students will respond collectively and offer peer reaction. Responses should be at least 350 words in length – I am much less concerned with style than with substance. This journal is meant to

be an opportunity to reflect on events surrounding us and explore how the practice of politics meets or misses American democratic ideals.

- Students are expected to maintain communication with Professor Matto, the RU Voting Project Coordinator, and their fellow interns; check and respond to emails regarding CYPP.
- All interns MUST input the number of hours dedicated to the internship into the spreadsheet housed in the Google drive and specify the sort of work they did that week.

****Interns play an integral role in the success of CYPP's research, public service, and educational programs. Hence, it is critical that all interns take their internship seriously and conduct themselves in a professional, respectful, and ethical manner.****

List of Important Dates (subject to change and grow!)

- Constitution Day: September 17th
- National Voter Registration Day: September 22nd
- "Popcorn and Politics" Presidential Debate Watch: September 29
- NJ Voter Registration Deadline: October 13th
- National Student Issues Convention: Friday, October 16th from 12-3 EST
- Election Day: November 3rd

Core Readings/Websites

This selection of readings and websites should be viewed as mandatory for CYPP interns. Throughout the semester, some of these readings/sites will be assigned and placed in the Google drive. If they are not assigned, interns should take it upon themselves to review them.

- Brennan Center for Justice: <http://www.brennancenter.org/issues/voting-rights-elections>
- Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE): civicyouth.org
 - *Millennials After 2016: Post-Election Poll Analysis*: <http://civicyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Millennials-after-2016-Post-Election-Poll-Analysis.pdf>
 - Entire report, Young Voters in the 2016 General Election: http://civicyouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/CIRCLE-Full-Exit-Poll-Analysis_Final.pdf
 - "Education Gap Persists": http://www.civicyouth.org/education-gap-persists-66-of-youth-with-any-college-experience-turned-out-to-vote-35-of-youth-with-no-college-experience/?cat_id=6
 - Review, CIRCLE's "Youth Electoral Significance Index": <https://civicyouth.org/youthvote2018/>
- Institute for Democracy in Higher Education
 - *Election Imperatives 2020*: <https://idhe.tufts.edu/electionimperatives>
- Institute of Politics, Harvard University. *Millennial Survey*.
- National Conference of State Legislatures/Legislatures and Voting: <http://www.ncsl.org/legislatures-elections.aspx>
- Pew Research Center
 - "Defining Generations: Where Millennials End and Post-Millennials Begin" (March 1, 2018): <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/03/01/defining-generations-where-millennials-end-and-post-millennials-begin/>
 - "The Generation Gap in American Politics" (March 1, 2018): <http://www.people-press.org/2018/03/01/the-generation-gap-in-american-politics/>

Student-Wellness Services: All of these services are being provided remotely during Fall 2020

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/

<http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/>

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professionals within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community, and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Crisis Intervention : <http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/crisis-intervention/>

Report a Concern: <http://health.rutgers.edu/do-something-to-help/>

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.vpva.rutgers.edu/

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation:

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.