Junior Politics Reading
Course website: www.omnifoo.info/pages/PSReadingOn-line.h HYPERLINK "http://www.omnifoo.info/pages/PSReadingOnline.html"tml

Session 1 (9-1-2020, 10am): Course Introduction
*Your instructor: Mr. Julian Lee
*Online learning: Syllabus & In-class Expectations
*Session topics & grades: reading test, oral exam
Make mistakes = OK
*Homework assignment for Session 2 & 3: Textual Categorization
class monitor

*Why learn English? Tests Vs. Communication
comfortable & confident
Asking Questions → improve grammar, pronunciation, fluency.
*Complete Sentences: 2 things are necessary...
Subject & Predicate. Noun & Verb.
*If you can't answer my question, 3 Responses
Please repeat (more clearly, more slowly, more loudly).

*Western Names — 3 Parts
Full name: Julian Tyler Lee
First Name = Given Name
Middle Name
Last Name = Family Name = Surname
My full name is...
李小龙 = Bruce Xiaolong Lee
Initials = Lily's initials are LYW.
My initials are JTL

BIG LETTERS: ENGLISH NAME, 中文名字 & Pinyin, hometown, a place I want to travel
   *Name Song?
*Who sits...? Meeeeees Mz
*Titles: Miss Mrs. Ms. Mr. Dr. Prof. Pres. Sir
Feminism
Maiden Name = A woman's family name before she gets married

Session 2 (9-3): *News   typhoon
         *Review from Session 1

*Name Signs
BIG LETTERS: ENGLISH NAME, 中文名字 & Pinyin, hometown, a place I want to travel
Pinyin = Romanization of Chinese characters
Pinyin was preceded by the Wade-Giles system
Examples of the old system still used:
KMT = Kuomintang (Guomindang) The Nationalist Party
清华大学 = Tsinghua University (Qinghua)

*Location & directions. Who sits...?
On Sb.'s right/left. Next to Sb.
In front of Sb. Behind Sb.
I am all alone; no one sits near me.

*Line Up Alphabetically (from A to Z) by...
____ comes before ____. ____ comes after ____.

*What do Western names mean? Most Western names are not words, and if they originally had a meaning, most people don't know it.
How do we know if a name is male or female?
Ending in -a often female, ending in -o often male
 Unisex names, clothing.

Session 3 (9-10) *News   *Review

*Geographic Place Names (Cities, rivers, lakes, mountains etc.): China & USA
named after Sth./Sb. Vs. named by Sb.
Places in China are often described by their names, such as their locations or climates. Chinese city names often suggest peace.
Places in the USA are often named after people.
Zhong Shan city is named after Dr. Sun Yat-Sen.
Sun Yat-Sen is the father of modern China.

*Introducing yourself in English (handout)
*Your major: Politics & Administration combines two majors in the USA: Political Science & Public Administration (PA)
Masters programs —> Public Policy or PA
Sometimes undergraduates who study PoliSci can also say they study politics, or in the Ivy League, government.
specialization, focus, concentration
I specialize in... I focus on...
My concentration...
My field of study is political science/public administration.
Subfields of political science include...1. Political Theory (i.e. "The social contract", democracy, political philosophy, etc.) 2. IR (International Relations) 3. Comparative Politics (in USA, 4. American Politics 5. Political Psychology)

*This is my new friend...

Session 4 (9-15) *News : From a new book by the journalist Bob Woodward, called "Rage." Trump knew in Feb. that the cororonavirus was deadly, but to prevent a panic, he downplayed it to the public. Did he lie to the public, or was he correct in downplaying it? All countries want to maintain "social stability". Is it the president's responsibility to keep people calm? Or do presidents want to scare people?

*Review
Pronunciation: text Vs. test
*Textual Categorization: What is a text? We read and interpret texts to understand their meaning.
The author's original intent is best expressed in the text's original language. Some things are "lost in translation."
Is a movie a text? Documentary film 纪录片

What kinds of texts will we read in this course? Easier texts at first, then becoming longer & more difficult.

*Categories (kinds of things) & Sources
the intended audience (观众) = for whom is the author writing? Who does the author expect to read the text?

Who was Confucius' 孔夫子intended audience?

Academic articles – intended for professionals in the field, graduate students. Undergraduates are not expected to understand them. They are published in academic journals or books as "edited volumes." Acadmic articles use professional language and talk about methodology (how the author will make the argument to support the thesis).

A constitution is the founding legal document for a state or other organization.

In an editorial, the author writes his/her opinion. This may be analysis of the news/current events.

Intelligence reports are classified. They are secret or "for internal use only" 内部的.
To read classified documents, one must have "security clearance": Level 1+
transparency : Wikileaks is an NGO that advocates radical transparency. It leaks classified docs to the public. "Lights on, rats out." "Democracy dies in darkness."
Governments may be transparent (open to public scrutiny and observation) or non-transparent (closed, secretive)
FoIA = Freedom of Information Act → some official government documents are declassified. The public is then allowed to read/access them.

News articles share new information that is in "the public interest." This helps citizens to do their patriotic duties.

A white paper is an official government document for the public to read. It lays out and explains a policy.

Tweets are tweeted from a social media app called Twitter.

Articles are organized and divided into sections.
Books are organized and divided into chapters. Each chapter in an edited volume may be an academic article. Sections of an article are organized into paragraphs. 段落
The first sentence of a paragraph is usually a "topic sentence".

Newspapers publish daily. Newsmagazines publish on a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly basis.
The most famous newspapers in the USA are The Washington Post, WSJ Wall Street Journal, New York Times, USA Today.
Neutral 中立 vs. partisan/biased
Partisan news sites support one political party or another: Aligned with the ideology & agenda of a a political party. For the USA, a partisan conservative site will support the Republican Party (GOP = The Grand Old Party). A liberal site will support the Democratic Party.
neutral or non-neutral The People's Daily newspaper is partisan towards the CCP.

Social media (uses apps on phones and computers...made by average people) Vs. traditional media (printed on paper, tv, radio...made by organizations/government/professionals)
Who makes the content 内容?

Trade journals are for editorials written by and for professionals in the field of study, but less formally than academic journals/articles. It is not for publishing research, but rather for conversation among colleagues. More academic than newspapers.

*Two readings for next week are on the course website, comparing Covid-19 responses on the topic of public health.

Session 5 (9-17): Finish Textual Categorization & Begin Discussion of Covid-19 Response & Public Health Readings

*News: "soft news" (human interest & celebrity) Vs. hard news   *Review

*Categorize the 12 Text Samples (excerpts), What are their topics and intended audiences?

Session 6 (9-22):Really Finish Textual Categorization & Introduce Critical Thinking, Covid-19 response articles

*News: U.S. supreme court justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg died. There is a strong debate about whether the empty seat will be filled before the election. The balance of the court between liberals and conservatives is at stake. If a conservative replaces Ginsberg, women's rights to abortions may be at risk. A conservative majority court may overturn the decision of Roe V. Wade, which made abortions legal throughout the country.
Red states (Republican, conservative) & blue states.

A constitution is the founding legal document of a country or a large organization.

*NGO = Non-gov't org. (incl. INGO = Greenpeace, The Red Cross) Made up of activists. Domestic NGOs in the USA include everything from hate groups like the KKK to groups for retirees like the AARP, groups without a clear leadership structure such as Antifa or BLM = Black Lives Matter protests & demonstrations in the street = 抗议 police violence & institutional racism
China is a special case because INGOs must work with a local gov't representative.
GONGOs = Gov't organized non-gov't organization
"Friends of the Earth" Giving money to the poor (or helping the poor) = poverty alleviation groups

Where do official documents come from?
The government publishes offical documents.

*Critical Thinking for Critical Reading: How should we analyze and evaluate what we read as political scientists in training? Whom should we trust/believe about politics and other specialized topics?
We should trust people with credibility. They get credibility from expertise, from having studied a topic professionally.
Critical thinking allows us to think for ourselves.

Public health (the gov't gets involved because something affects the health and wellbeing of the whole population) Vs. general medical studies

*Public Health & The Welfare State: Social Welfare Policies. English-Chinese glossary of Public Health & The Welfare State (compiled by your classmates), Health & Medical English

handout

*Begin discussion of Covid-19 response articles in The Conversation & Wired Magazine: Basic information (category, source, title, author, topic, main idea, authors' credibility and bias)

Session 7 (9-24): Covid-19 response articles in The Conversation & Wired Magazine

*News: China announced goals to be carbon-neutral by 2060
        *Review

*Basic information (category, source, title, author, topic, main idea/argument, authors' credibility and bias)

Both articles have the same topic: women leaders' responses to Covid-19

The main ideas/arguments: One article says women leaders responded better. The other article is skeptical, believes there is not enough evidence, there is "confirmation bias."

Confirmation bias: If we want something to be true, we are more likely to find it to be true, even if there is not enough evidence.

Confirmed = accepted as true
Denied/Falsified = rejected as false

Vocabulary was too technical?

*How does science work? Results of science are reproducible (other people will get the same results using the same methods). Method for gaining knowledge through experimentation.

*Experiments: Controlled = in a laboratory (not practical or ethical in politics), Natural (the real world is the laboratory...nature has affected the variables and the subjects of study), Simulated (data analysis)

*Political scientists often seek to establish relationships between variables (things that vary and change). The in the Covid-19 articles are the independent variable (held constant/always the same) and the dependent variable (changes according to which independent variable is used).
Independent variable (controlled by the researchers): leader's sex (male or female)
Dependent variable (observed changing in different countries): death rate from Covid-19

*First: Establish a relationship (a correlation between variables). If there is no relationship, this may still be an important finding.

*2nd: If there is a correlation, consider whether the relationship might be causal. What are some possible "causal mechanisms" for female leadership resulting in a lower Covid-19 death rate? (The article suggests two)
Correlation does not mean causation.
Two possible causal mechanisms: Risk-aversion, Leadership style (interpersonal for women, task-oriented for men)

*Alternative explanations for the correlation. Just a coincidence (an accident)? A result of confirmation bias? Is the "sample size" too small?

*Confirmation bias in scientific experiments (and political science publications) Vs. skepticism

* With a partner, discuss whether you are convinced of the results or if you are skeptical, with reasons why.

*Science, especially political science perhaps, is not certain. It requires critical thinking, analysis, and debate. We may never know the truth.

*For next session on Tues., read the articles on the Trump Administration's Covid-19 response in the USA. (One article is very long. Skim it.)

Session 8 (9-29): Travel English?

*News Trump nominated Amy Coney Barrett, a Christian conservative, to the US Supreme Court to replace Ruth Bader Ginsberg. She opposes the ACA, abortion, and many recent liberal supreme court decisions. She has been a judge for 3 years. She is in her 40s, which is important because there are no term limits for justices—it is a lifetime appointment. Her appointment will swing the court to a 6-3 conservative majority.
In 2016, conservatives refused to consider Obama's nomination to replace a conservative justice who died because it was an election year.

New York Times revealed Trump's tax returns for the past several decades, showing that Trump's businesses lost lots of money, he didn't pay taxes at all for 10 of the last 15 years, paying only $750 in taxes when he did pay. The average billionaire paid $25million in taxes during these years.

War between Armenia (formerly part of Turkey/The Ottoman Empire) & Azerbaijan (formerly part of USSR/The Soviet Union)? Hundreds of soldier casualties on both sides. Disputed territory. War or skirmish?

Right to intervene Vs. interfere (no right)

The first presidential debates between Joe Biden and Pres. Trump will be held on Tues. night.

            *Review

*How's your reading going? How many articles do we have to read about the U.S. response? Resume Covid-19 response discussion after 10-1.

*Travel handout

Homework for after 10-1: two worksheets on jobs & work. Introduce vocabulary on first worksheet.

*Travel handout
Spring Festival = The Lunar New Year, Chinese New Year, Winter vacation

Q: What's the difference between A & B?
holiday Vs. vacation   The RoK (Republic of Korea) & The DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)?
vocation Vs. vacation
news article (tries to be objective and keep the author's opinion separate/out) Vs. editorial (containst the author's opinion)
A: A... B...

Travel safely! Have a good trip!

How much time off do students get for summer/winter vacation in China/the USA?

10-1 = Chinese National Day

Mid-Autumn Festival is on Oct. 1st this year. Everyone eats moon cakes.

Ask your neighbor what his/her travel plans are for National Week/Golden Week. If going nowhere, this may be called a "staycation."
Present on what your neighbor plans to do.

Looking forward to Sth.
Can't wait to/for...

10-6: Critical Thinking Self-Reflection, The USA's Public Health Response to Covid-19

*News: first U.S. presidential debate 2020, Covid-19 strikes U.S. gov't
The debate was unpresidential because it was ugly: it didn't discuss policy proposals as much as make personal attacks. Trump also argued with the moderator, and Republicans thought he was against Trump, who was very aggressive and interrupted a lot.
Was it really a debate? Mud-slinging, shameful
The two nominees "talked over" one another.
Nobody won the debate. America lost.

Pres. Trump was infected by Covid-19. He has recovered and returned to the White House. He will debate again w/ Biden on Oct. 15th.
In the debate with Biden, Trump made fun of Biden for always wearing a big mask. After so many months of downplaying the virus, denying the science, and not wearing masks, was it just that he got sick?
He says the virus will "go away" soon.
If = hypothetical (not true, just a "thought experiment")

*Greetings & Oral English handout: How was your vacation? Did you accomplish 实现 everything you wanted to do, or do you have regrets?
I wish I had started working on Thurs. or Fri.

*C r i t i c a l   T h i n k i n g Homework: Think of an example of a time in your life when you were wrong about something or you changed your opinion. What was your opinion or thought? What made you change your mind? We will share examples on T u e s.

Are politicians allowed to change their minds on political issues?

What do we call someone with no convictions (opportunistic, spineless, a "flip-flopper") or someone who never changes his/her mind even when presented with strong evidence (determined, stubborn, bigoted)? The best is to be "reasonable."

宣传品 = propaganda: information that is biased, not neutral
中立
*The USA's Covid-19 response: Introduce 3 articles
Whitehouse.gov = defends Trump's response, gov't propaganda
Rolling Stone = criticizes Trump's response: interviewed scientists, but from the Obama Admin. (i.e. public health officials and experts)
NY Times = compares Trump's response to other countries
The first two articles are more "one-sided," while the third is more balanced.

The topic of all three articles is the Trump Administration's response to Covid-19. They disagree about whether the response was good or bad (appropriate or inappropriate, etc.)

*Next session: Discuss the three articles, take a "practice quiz" on the NY Times article.

10-8: Three articles on the U.S. Covid-19 response, Practice Quiz, Handouts on Presidential Debates & Accountability

*News: Russian border confrontation.   Why have British planes gone to the Russian border? NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization), Wildfires in CA continue to burn: Is it a problem of federalism and the difficulty of interstate cooperation? Related to the U.S.-China conflict? Drones = UAVs = 无人机
U.S. government increasingly considers Chinese technology as a threat to national security.

President Trump returned to the White House, claiming to "feel great." He had a "Tweetstorm" possibly related to him being on steroids. Did he return too early? Stephen Miller and others in the the Administration tested positive.

*Review

*Containment (keep something contained and under control, don't let it spread or get out of control) Vs. Mitigation (dealing with something to try to reduce the harm and consequences but be unable to control it) (of a contagious disease)

If a disease is contained, it is not spreading beyond one or a few "hot spot" locations. This was not possible in the USA. Wuhan is no longer a hot spot, but it will always be remembered as the origin of the disease. What will the world remember as the source/origin of Covid-19?

The USA response had several major problems: 1. Trump responded late & ineffectively. 2. Not enough tests   3. Not enough surveillance. As a result, only mitigation was possible: full national lockdown & mask mandate, social distancing would be required.

*3 Covid-19 response articles: Which of the two are most opposed to one another? Why?

The long article from Rolling Stone: Despite being a magazine about music, do you believe the details? Why or why not? Is the article credible?

It interviews many professionals and experts and is very detailed, so I find it credible.

I think the article is too biased and Obama officials politicize the issue, so it is not credible.

The Trump Admin. Says there was "no problem." We may disagree because of the high mortality rate (death rate).

What are some of the mistakes made by the Trump Administration, according to the article?
"The four men" responsible for the poor response:
Pres. Trump himself (He didn't want tests.) Treated Covid-19 as a Public Relations crisis rather than a Public Health crisis. He was more concerned about the economy & the stock market.
Dr. Robert Redfield, CDC (Center for Disease Control & Prevention) director: "The Zealot"
Stephen Hahn, FDA Commissioner
Alex Azar, HHS Secretary: "The Insider"

What did each do wrong?

*Douthat's NYT editorial: Do you want to take the practice quiz in class or as homework? I want your individual answers. Do not work in groups, do not ask your classmates for help or copy their answers. This quiz will not affect your grade. I want to know if your English reading comprehension skills are better or worse than your speaking ability.

10-13: Correct Reading Comprehension Quiz and Conclude U.S. Covid-19 Response

*News: Over 7 million Covid-19 cases and 200,000 deaths in the USA.
Trump has tested negative for Covid-19 and will resume his mass campaign rallies.   He canceled the 2nd Presidential debate because he refused to participate in it online. This would have been the "town hall" debate.
What's the difference between an epidemic and a pandemic?
A...   B...
An epidemic is a disease within one country. A pandemic has spread all around the world.
Pansexual   pan-American
Conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia: Violence continues, despite a cease-fire. Does this show that Putin's influence is weakening? Or that U.S. global leadership is lacking? Will it escalate to war?
Mediation from the great powers and the UN will be necessary. Interstate war (between two or more states) has become rare since the end of the Cold War. Nowadays, civil wars are more common.

*Review

*Read the Quiz and discuss the correct answers. Was the editorial itself or the quiz more difficult?
CORRECT ANSWERS: CBEAD

*What is Douthat's editorial actually saying about the administration's response? Trump's response was not as bad as liberals say it was. A "normal" president might have done a little better in preventing deaths, but we can't say how much better. It's too soon to make a final judgment about his response.

*Future comprehension quizzes and the midterm exam.

*With a partner, discuss: Based on these three articles, others you have read, heard, or watched, and our class discussion, do you think the criticism of the Trump Administration's response to Covid-19 is not strong enough, justified (right), exaggerated/excessive (过分的), or almost completely wrong? Why? (This will be a poll on DingTalk.)
affection = love
Effect = results? Raymond thinks Trump's infection with the virus is not true, only a conspiracy.

*Next session: U.S. Electoral Politics (based on handout)

10-15: Liberal Democracy & U.S. Electoral Politics

*News: Iran's financial sector & banks declared to support terrorist group by executive order (or perhaps an act of Congress). This will further harm Iran's economy.

*Review/conclusions about U.S. Covid-19 response, including one more recommended reading on course website: Wade Davis on "The Unraveling of America"
*Poll results on criticism of the Trump administration

*Handout on Electoral Politics in the USA

* What is liberal democracy, and what does it value?
Non-Western countries may criticize it as inappropriate for their cultures, as "fake," or as a "bourgeois" or capitalist "democracy" that mainly benefits the rich.
Liberal democracy values individual freedom and political equality based on the principle of "one person, one vote." This is a procedural definition.
Liberal democracies, unlike "majoritarian" democracies believe in protecting "minority rights" (against the "tyranny of the majority"). The fundamental principle of democratic decision-making is "majority rule". Too much protection of minority rights, critics say, may actually result in "minority rule" or an oligarchy (rule by "the few" over "the many.")

Levels of government: 1. National (Federal) 2. State 3. Local (county, city, village, etc.)

Forms of liberal (Western) democracy vary based on who votes and what people are voting for.

-Representative democracy: most common at national levels. People vote in elections to elect their representatives in gov't.
-Direct democracy: increasingly common at state and local levels of gov't in the USA. Use a referendum to decide policies such as tax increases, drug policy, building a new sports stadium, etc.
-Deliberative democracy: still very theoretical and experimental (not many real world examples). A small, representative body deliberates (discusses & debates options) and then makes a decision for the population (but most don't actually vote themselves)

*Is voting rational?

10-20: U.S. Elections (Continued) & The Political Spectrum

*News: Poland has constructed a field hospital for Covid-19 rising cases and deaths.

Hunter Biden, Joe Biden's son, had a computer hard drive's emails exposed showing possible corruption in the Ukraine, trading benefits for access to the Vice President under Pres. Obama. Reported by the New York Post, a tabloid, and there are doubts about the article's authenticity. Is this Russian disinformation?

Trump continues to criticize Dr. Fauci, the chief epidemiologist of the U.S. government. Politicization

Thailand is experiencing pro-democracy protests in the capital city of Bangkok, calling for the resignation of PM Prayuth and reform of the monarchy.

France will resume digital services...Large MNC internet companies will be taxed 3%, such as Google, Apple, and Amazon. This is under OECD (Org. for Economic Cooperation & Development) negotiation. Why did the U.S. leave the talks?

*Review

*Serving in political office: Elected Vs. Appointed officials

*Why is the USA a "two-party system" rather than a "one-party" or "multi-party" system?
Liberal democracy believes that political competition (between parties and voting citizens) is good. Uncertainty of electoral outcomes is good. Only "free & fair" elections are good; others are not really democratic (fake).

Who are the two main candidates for president in the USA this year?
Trump (the incumbent, running for re-election)
Biden (the challenger)

*How did the candidates become the nominees of their parties? They won their parties' primary elections.

*The political spectrum: Liberal & Conservative ideologically reversed in China

HOMEWORK: Categorize "individuals" on the U.S. political spectrum (to be discussed in the next session)

10-22: The Political Spectrum in the USA

*News: Turkey exploring for oil in the East Mediterranean Sea, angering Greece. Int'l Vs. territorial waters & undersea drilling rights. The island of Cyprus is also divided between these two countries. Former areas of the Ottoman Empire had their roots in Turkey. May it be trying to re-establish a "sphere of influence".

Russia & The USA are in (nuclear) arms limitation/reduction talks. Is the world safer w/ more nuclear weapons? Realists think so. But maintenance of nukes is expensive and difficult, with a chance of accidents. Project Zero amid INGO tries to reduce the number of nuclear weapons to zero.

If you have time, please watch the final presidential debate between Biden & Trump, including a new rule in which the person whose turn it is not will have his microphone muted.

Trump has a Chinese bank account and has repeatedly tried to brand buildings in China with his name. NY Times also shows his companies paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in Asian countries like China.

Amy Coney Barrett will face a confirmation vote to join the USSC.

*Review

*Videos: Did you watch them?

*Correct homework assignment on individuals' political ideologies and placement on the political spectrum.

Libertarian (Right-wing) Vs. Liberal (Left-wing)

*Finish Electoral Politics handout

*Next Session: read handout on partisanship and polarization, Read article by Jonah Goldberg on being a conservative skeptic of Pres. Trump. Watch videos about "The Squad" and Ed Markey's campaign ad.

10-27: Partisanship & Conservative Ideologies in the USA

*News: Supporters and opponents of Pres. Trump met, fought, and were injured in NY. A "peaceful transfer of power" is one of the strongest expectations and main advantages of liberal/Western democracy.

Trump voted (by mail). Is voting by mail or in person more safe/dangerous. Is one more accurate in showing the results? Trump has criticized mail-in voting (as fraudulent), but many more will do so, including himself, because voting in person may spread Covid-19.

U.S. State Dept. approved more defense aid to Taiwan. All around Asia, surveys show most people support Biden over Trump, with one exception: Taiwanese people.

Johns Hopkins Univ. says 500k cases of Covid-19 in one week in the USA. Hospitals report shortages of beds and workers. "The worst is yet to come." Why doesn't the USA declare a full national lockdown? Conservatives fear the effects on the economy. The federal structure of the state prefers that individual states make their own policies rather than being commanded by the federal gov't.

France is back on a national lockdown.

*Review

*What did you think of the videos about Ed Markey and "The Squad"? Radical, left-wing, progressive (on the "far left"). They support things like socialism, incl. Free education, single-payer healthcare, the Green New Deal.

Is the USA very unified or very divided today?

*Handout on Partisanship & Polarization

*Jonah Goldberg's article in AEI
What does AEI stand for? AEI stands for its full name: "The American Enterprise Institute."
PRC stands for the People's Republic of China.
The CCP stands for prosperity & strength, cultural advancement (civilization), social harmony.
What does (an abbreviation) stand for? Vs. What does Sth./Sb. (a person, an organization, a movement, etc.) stand for (support, believe in)?

To what extent does Jonah Goldberg, an American conservative, support Pres. Trump?
How does Pres. Trump fit or not fit the description of a U.S. conservative as a person, a leader, and in his policies from 2016-2020?

U.S. conservatives are anti-tax, anti-socialism. They oppose gay marriage. They are anti-abortion.
Libertarians are liberal on social issues but conservative on almost all others.
In favor of Sth., support Sth.
In opposition to Sth., oppose Sth., be anti-Sth.

*Homework for next session: Read the handouts on social issues and social stability posted on the course website.

10-29: Social Issues in U.S. Politics

*News: Amy Coney Barrett was confirmed and sworn in to the USSC, giving conservatives a 6-3 majority. She was confirmed almost along party lines 52-48 (all but one Republican confirmed her). Most previous confirmations in U.S. history have been bipartisan (supported by both parties)

CCP plenary meeting held, outlining the new Five Year Plan, #14. Xi Jinping has traveled the country a lot this year to survey the country. May contain a focus on agriculture?

*Review

*Finish Goldberg's article.

(on handouts)
*Poverty & Welfare

*Gun rights

*Abortion rights

*Race relations

*Next session: presentation on presidential candidates' policy proposals

11-2: 2020 Presidential Candidates' Policy Platforms

*News: Polls show Biden with a big lead over Trump nationally, but swing states are much closer. Militia activity is on the rise. Riots are possible.
*Review

*Videos on individual Americans on the political spectrum: answers will be posted on DingTalk

*Social Issues: Race Relations
"Black Lives Matter" Vs. White supremacy & police brutality (excessive force, racial profiling, etc.)

*Presentation on Presidential candidates' policy platforms.

*Speeches and statements in support or against any candidate?

*Homework: voting systems 1. direct election (no majority requirement...plurality OK) by DingTalk poll, 2. single round ranked choice (text me your ranking of the four candidates from 1-4, using the first letter of the party. Note that your #4 choice will lose points, while 1-3 will gain points according to rank.)

EXAMPLE OF 2.: LRDG or 1. G 2. D 3.L 4. R

Next session: Vocabulary Game

Next Tuesday: Small Conversation Groups (see schedule & group assignments by color)

11-12: Midterm Review Game

*Written Exam plans

*Oral exam schedule

*Midterm Review Game: Your team is your table (5 teams?). Choose a "team captain" to represent your team. The winning team gets a fabulous prize when I return to Changchun.
-Give an Example
-Which Level of Gov't? (1. National, 2. State/Provincial, 3. Local)
-Reading Excerpt (Dickinson's article on Covid-19 testing): Take five minutes to discuss w/ your table. Each team captain should send me your answers on DingTalk.
-Oral exam instructions & questions
-Rhyme Battle (if time permits)
-Dictation

*Example oral exam

11-24: Midterm Debriefing, Begin Discussion of Music & Politics

*News: Int'l Pact on regional economic cooperation. Signed between Asian nations, excluding the USA. RCE .
IPE (Int'l Political Economy, a subfield of IR).
Pres. Trump is still fighting the election results in court, claiming fraud. Will he ever concede?

*Midterm Results: Total Average (mean)= 75.7
Total High = 96   Total Low = 54
Oral Average = 41 (82%)
Oral High = 48   Oral Low = 33
Written Average =   34.8 (69.5%)
Written High = 48   Written Low= 16

*Option: Read the whole written exam OR just answer specific questions

*3 Handouts on Music

*For Thurs.: Read two articles about the censorship of music (on course website).

11-26: Music & Politics

*News: A Chinese official visited Japan to discuss regional issues, Covid-19 cooperation, etc.

*China launched a spacecraft to collect lunar samples.

*Pres. Xi congratulated President-Elect Biden on his win. VPs also shared greetings. NYT published an editorial by former Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Fu, on suggestions for the future of Sino-American relations.

*Warm-up: Ask your neighbor what his/her favorite singer/musician/ band and style of music are.

*Example songs: topics, styles, had you heard of the bands, do you like them or not?

Composers

*Music & Politics Handout

*Censorship of Music (& other media) – Two articles on the U.S. & other countries

*Next session: Structural/Institutional/Systemic Racism in the USA. Read the articles posted on the course website (two collections of charts, two articles). I will copy the texts to the course website, as the sites are not accessible in China.

12-1: Race & Racism in the USA

*News: China business summit promotes business investment in Guangxi.

French gov't lifted lockdown for the upcoming holidays.

Protesters in London demonstrated against lockdowns, with many arrested.

Australian PM asked China to apologize for picture of Australian soldiers killing Afghan civilians

*Review with discussion question: What kind of content needs to be controlled and censored more in music & other media: political or sexual? (Options: Neither. Both. Sexual > Political. Political > Sexual) Why?

To be a majority, something must be 50% or more. If less something is a minority. But if one is the largest minority, for example, white people in California are still the largest group, though no longer the majority, they are a plurality. (The plurality = the largest minority if there is no majority group.)

*Handout on describing a person
Religions have "followers" & believers
Race, Nationality, Ethnicity, Citizenship

*Business Insider & Vox Charts on Systemic/Institutional/Structural Racism
Vs. individual
The goal of the civil rights movement in the USA was to fight for equal rights and end racism of all kinds.

Most American individuals today will deny that they are racist.

*National Review denies it. Is the evidence of systemic racism strong, or are the differences just a "racial disparity" without racism?

Is preference the same as sexism? Sexism, like racism, means favoring one sex over another. Racism means favoring one race over others (similar to Social Darwinism). Are some things just

coincidental?

Helping historically disenfranchised minorities to get better jobs and educations is a policy called "affirmative action."

*Next Session: Discrimination against Asian Americans (read the article from The Conversation, sent as a pdf)

12-3: The Asian-American Experience

*News: Janet Yellen will be the first woman Sec. of the Treasury, subject to confirmation in Congress

UN says over 200 million people will need humanitarian assistance in 2021, an increase of 40%

*Review

* "The Long History of US Racism against Asian Americans" in The Conversation

*Comprehension Quiz

The "model minority" in the USA. Who is it, what does it mean, and what assumptions and expectations does it make of minorities?

*Important terms in describing groups of people: stereotype, prejudice, discrimination, persecution Vs. prosecution

*Next Session: Nationalism. Read two chapters from books by Ernest Gelner & Anthony D. Smith

12-8: Introduction to Nationalism

*News (incl. internet upgrade): (Wolf) Warrior diplomacy from China? An accusation from America.

Landslides and flooding in central, NE Italy.

Pres. Trump visited Georgia for a rally to gain support for Republican candidates in the Senate runoff election. Trump's lawyer Giuliani has tested positive for Covid-19 and is in the hospital for treatment.

Pres.-elect Biden has chosen a defense secretary who led forces in the Middle East, the first African-American Def. Sec.

*Review

*States (Weberian definition = a bounded territory with a gov't that has a monopoly on the legitimate use of force) & Nation-States (states which have a nation of the the same name & at least some nationalism)
Can a nation-state be multinational, multi-ethnic? How? Multiculturalism, education, and civic nationalism.

*Handout on Nationalism

*Chart: Citizen Concepts of the Nation-State. Where do you fit on the continuum? Do you know anyone at an extreme position?

Book Chapters: Who is the intended audience? How is a chapter in academic books like these similar and different from an academic

article?
*Ernest Gellner, Ch.1: Definitions
Why is it important or necessary in the social sciences to define our key terms (perhaps moreso than in the humanities or natural sciences)?

*Anthony D. Smith, Ch. 3: Paradigms

For Thurs., read the book chapters if you haven't yet.

12-10: Book Chapters on Nationalism

*News: Chinese military officials expressed strong opposition to the sale of weapons and other military equipment to Taiwan.

The Iranian nuclear scientist who was assassinated has resulted in several arrests, according to the foreign ministry. They suggest Israeli involvement with the help of U.S. intelligence agencies.

President-elect Biden has set a goal for Covid-19 vaccinations (and mask-wearing) for his first 100 days in office.

*Review

Book Chapters: Who is the intended audience? How is a chapter in academic books like these similar and different from an academic article?
*Ernest Gellner, Ch.1: Definitions
Why is it important or necessary in the social sciences to define our key terms (perhaps moreso than in the humanities or natural sciences)?
States Vs. Nations
What's the difference between a nation and an ethnic group? A civic nation is not (as much) an ethnic group.
"Nationalism-in-the-abstract": Do nations need and deserve states? What is the fate of a "stateless nation" such as the Kurds or the Rohingya?
Is "national self-determination" a real right of nations or just a capitalist/imperialist excuse to interfere?

*Handout: Other definitions of "nation" & the Marxist class challenge.

*Anthony D. Smith, Ch. 3: Paradigms
What are paradigms? For nationalism, paradigms explain: 1. When did nations form (are they old or new?)? 2. How did nations form (are they natural or constructed?)? 3. Why did nations form/why do they exist today? (Of what "instrumental" use are nations?)
Smith's introductions to nationalism theoretical paradigms: Modernism
Perennialism (& "Ethnosymbolism")
Primordialism

*For Tues., read the handouts on Sinophobia (Anti-Chinese sentiment & acts, including excerpts from academic articles) and

policies toward minorities (top of pg. 2 on Just War & HI, going from accommodation to genocide)

12-15: Finish Nationalism Book Chapters, Begin Policies toward Minorities, Sinophobia

*News: some Chinese enterprises have been removed from U.S. stock market listings.
China & Japan are cooperating to fight Covid-19.
306-232 Electoral College votes were cast, making the election results official.
A new Russian missile has been announced which is said to be able to penetrate U.S. missile defenses.
Global climate summit was held on the 5th anniversary of the Paris Accord on Climate Change. Some such as China have announced new goals in emissions reductions.
Academic articles sessions will begin the course next semester (there aren't enough sessions left before the final exam).
*Review

*Alterity: Dealing with "the other" as opposed to "the self" for states. "Traditional" states Vs. "Virtual" states.

*Handout: Policies toward minorities who are "internal others" in the state.

Next session: After signing up w/ two classmates for a presentation topic (in the Oral Exam sign-up spreadsheet on DingTalk), meet to plan and prepare your group's presentation for Tues., Dec. 22nd.

12-16: Finish Nationalism, Prepare Presentations

*News: Somalia & Kenya are in conflict, severing diplomatic relations

Vladimir Putin congratulated Biden on his Electoral College victory, but Trump (and his supporters vowed to continue to try to overturn the election results). There was also a large hack of U.S. security agencies (the Pentagon) by Russia. Senate Majority Leader McConnell also recognized Biden as president-elect.

UNDP Human Development Report published, focusing on environmental and military issues.

*Review

*Handout: Overseas Chinese (The Chinese Diaspora) as an example of targets of jingoism and extreme nationalism throught history. Introduce concept of Sinophobia. Did Indonesia commit genocide against its Chinese minority?

*Discuss another way to differentiate between nationalism & patriotism: do you feel a connection with "Overseas Chinese"? Should the Chinese state have protected the ethnic Chinese victims of the events listed in the handout? Why/why not? Are ethnic Chinese citizens of Western countries still (and will always be) Chinese? Why/why not?
PRC state nationalism & "Greater China" nationalism

* "Greater China" & Irredentist Nationalism: Should/must lands once under Chinese control be returned to the Chinese state to make the Chinese nation whole/complete? Have you heard of "Great Ming" revivalism?

*In your presentation groups, discuss your plans for the presentation. If time permits, I will check in with each group for a few minutes.

Next session: Present on your articles in your groups (and be prepared to answer our questions about your topic and presentation)

12-22: Student Presentations

No news or review today. Groups will present in the order on the sign-up sheet.

If we don't finish all the presentations today, it may be necessary for the last group(s) to record a video of their presentation and share it with us on DingTalk.

Next session: Vocabulary Game (need an extra laptop computer)

12-24: Final Nationalism Presentation, Vocabulary Game

(Today's session will conclude 10-15 minutes late to accommodate the last student presentation.)

*Elvin, Raymond, & Nee present on "Critical Han Studies"

*Divide into two teams & set up extra laptop computer for the game.

*Round 1: Say as much as you need to get your team to guess the word on the card (but no gestures). Round 2: Gestures only (no speaking).

*Next session: Small Conversation Groups (same groups & times as before...I'll resend the group list.)

12-31: Final Review Game

Sign up for an oral exam appointment.

Sit with your team from the Midterm Review Game.

*Give an example
*Vocabulary Round 2 (Gestures only)
*Oral exam questions
*Reading Comprehension Quiz
*Which Paradigm of Nationalism? (Modernism, Perennialism, or Primordialism?)
*Dictation

This is our last session together this semester. Thanks for your cooperation and patience, and good luck on your exams!