

**Political Science 321**  
**The Electoral Process**  
**ESSAY (20%)**

Due: Wednesday, November 23 (Week 9)

It must be submitted in class. **No late papers will be accepted.**

Based strictly on the reading and lectures in this class, write an original paper of 7-10 pages in length that provides an answer to the following question: **Given the state of voting behavior in the United States, does a lack of a politically knowledgeable electorate threaten the status of the US as a democracy?** Present and defend a thesis in your answer, employing as supporting evidence any four readings from the course and whatever material from lecture you find helpful.

Parameters:

1. You may NOT draw on sources other than the readings assigned in this class and the lectures.
2. Length: 7-10 pages.
3. Spacing: Double-spaced.
4. Margins: 1" margins.
5. Bibliography: MLA format
6. Font: 12-point, Times New Roman font.
7. Be sure to review rules and principles of **plagiarism**, even if you have no intention to cheat. Occasionally students are unaware of their obligations when submitting papers and inadvertently find themselves in trouble.