**GOV 50.08 Exam Grade Memo, Spring 2019**

**Prof. Kathleen Powers**

Dear Political Psychologists,

The grades for your first exam are now complete and recorded. There were 56 possible points on this exam. The **median grade** was 48, and mean was 46.3 The standard deviation was

5.2. Congratulations on a job well done overall – you were collectively strong, especially on questions that required application and higher-order learning.

Your score is recorded on Canvas, and your graded exam is available in the Government administration office (room 211). Either Mallory Connor or Roberta Seaver can direct you to where you can view your exam alongside the grading rubric. You may look for as long as you like and bring your exam to my office during scheduled office hours, but the **exams and rubrics must otherwise stay in the Administrative office**. You may not take photos of either (I trust you, but it should be stated…).

A few notes on my grading procedure: I grade blind to both the test-taker and previous responses. I grade 2 pages at a time to maximize reliability. On questions where responses consistently indicate a lack of clarity in the question, the grading is maximally generous. Partial credit is awarded when merited.

Final grades in this course will incorporate raw scores on each graded component and weight these scores as specified on the syllabus. From there, final scores will be curved so that the median grade is a B+. However, I will not apply that final curve until all graded components are recorded. Thus, while the scores in Canvas show the raw number of points earned out of 56, do not panic! Rather, see below for how to interpret your score **if this were the only graded component of the course**.

If this were the only graded component of the course, the following cutoffs would apply for each letter grade, based on the B+ median, standard deviation, and clustering in the data:

A: [50.5-56];

A-: [49, 50.49]

B+: [45.5-48.99]

B: [43-45.49]

B-: [37.5-42.99]

C+: below 37.5

The distribution of those letter grades – which again, are based on cut points for one exam weighted at 25% of your grade (**but the final curve will not come until the end of the term**). Please reach out if you have questions, concerns, ideas, or want to clarify any of the concepts that were less clear to you.

Sincerely, Prof. Powers