

United States National Government
Spring 2007

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Political Science 1100-001
U.S. National Government
OSH 175
7:30am-8:20am MWF

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TEXT

O'Connor, Karen and Larry Sabato. American Government: Continuity and Change. Pearson and Longman, 2006 Edition. Here in referred to as your text. It is the strong recommendation of your instructor that you obtain the textbook for this class.

EXAMINATIONS

Midterm: Wednesday, February 28th, 2006 (7:30- 9:00am) (40%)

Final examination: Friday, April 27th, 2006 (8:00-9:00am) (50%)

The date of the Midterm is subject to change in order to accommodate speakers or to meet class needs.

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance will count towards your final grade (10%). Please come to class on-time and ready. Roll will be taken during class time. If you have any extenuating circumstances, please let the professor or TA know so they may provide any needed assistance. The professor and TA will come to each class on time and prepared. We hope that you will do the same.

OUTSIDE READINGS

You will be required to read one book pertaining to American Government. A list of approved books will be provided. You will write a one-page book report *as part of* the final exam.

OBJECTIVE:

Our goal in this class is to provide practical and useful information while fostering your interests in American politics despite the growing skepticism about government and government officials.

COURSE DATES:

January 8	Class Begins	January 15	Martin Luther King Day
January 17	Last Day to Drop	January 22	Last Day to Add
February 19	President's Day	February 28	Midterm Exam
March 2	Last Day to Withdraw	March 19-24	Spring Break
April 25	Classes End	April 27	Final Exam (8:00-10:00am)

I. BASIC PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNMENT

What is government? (The impact of people)	Lecture and Text, Chapter 1
Politics/Use of Power	Text, Chapter 1
Aristotle	
Enlightenment	
Totalitarian, Theocracy, Democracy, Republic	Lecture and Text, Chapter 1
Social Contract Theory: Hobbes, Locke, & Rousseau	
Who makes the decisions in America?	
What kind of government should Iraq have?	
Capitalism, Socialism, Communism	Lecture
Adam Smith, Karl Marx	

II. INDEPENDENCE AND THE CONSTITUTION

The English Heritage	Lecture and Text, Chapter 2
The Steps toward Union	Text, Chapter 2
Second continental Congress	
The Declaration of Independence	
Articles of Confederation	
Miracle of Philadelphia	Lecture Excerpts
Constitutional Convention	
The United States Constitution (Please know all the Articles and Amendments)	
Judicial review: <i>Marbury v. Madison</i> , 1803	Text, Chapter 10

III. FEDERALISM

Powers of Different Levels of Government	Lecture and Text, Chapter 3
Evolution and Development	
Phases of Federalism	
Federalism and the Supreme Court	
States and the Issue of Immigration	
Aftermath of Katrina and Intergovernmental Relationships	

IV. BILL OF RIGHTS

A Review of the Bill of Rights	Hand out with Supreme Court Cases
Civil Liberties	Text, Chapter 5
Civil Rights	Text, Chapter 6

V. POLITICAL BEHAVIOR-PUBLIC OPINION

What is Public Opinion?	Lecture and Text, Chapter 11
Political Socialization	
Political Ideology	Text, Chapter 1 & 11
How we form Political Opinions	
How Polls affect Politicians, Politics, and Policies	

VI. THE PRESIDENCY

Framers and the Creation of the Presidency	Text, Chapter 8
Powers and Roles of the Presidency	Lecture material from various authors
Constitutional Power and President Bush	
Development of Presidential Power	
The Presidential Establishment	Lecture, Text, Chapter 9 & Handout
Cabinet, Executive Office, IRAs	
Case Studies: Watergate, Iran Contra Affair and CIA Leak, President George W. Bush, the War on Terrorism, the Conflict in Iraq, and can President Bush function effectively as a “Lame Duck” President	
Brief review of US Foreign Policy	Text, Chapter 19 <i>*IF TIME PERMITS</i>

VII. CONGRESS

The Constitution and Our Legislative Branch	Lecture and Text, Chapter 7
Members of Congress	Guest Speaker Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT)
How is Congress Organized?	Lecture, Text, Chapter 7 & Handout
Administrative System	
Political System	
Committee System	
The Lawmaking Functions of Congress	Lecture and Text, Chapter 7
How a bill becomes a law	
Congress and Interest Groups	
Lobbying and Abramoff’s impact	
The New Congress and the President	

VIII. THE JUDICIARY

What is law? Types of laws	Lecture
Creation of the National Judiciary	Lecture and Text, Chapter 10
The Federal Court System	
The U.S. Supreme Court	
How the justices vote	Chapter 11
Who influences the Supreme Court?	Lecture
How are justices selected?	
What direction will Chief Justice Roberts take the Court?	

IX. ROAD TO THE WHITE HOUSE FOR 2008

What is a Political Party?	Lecture and Text, Chapter 12
Roles of Political Parties	Text, Chapter 12
Political Action Committees	Text, Chapter 12
Selection of Candidates	Lecture and Text, Chapter 13
Road to the White House	
The Election	Lecture and Text, Chapter 13
Is the Electoral College effective?	

Note: The order in which the items listed above are covered is subject to change due to scheduling and time availability.

Please keep yourself informed as to current events by regularly reading a major daily news source. Current events regarding the President and other salient events that transpire will be covered often in class. Free copies of the NY Times and USA Today are available in OSH and other buildings around campus.

The United States Constitution – 1787

1. Article I – Legislative Branch
2. Article II – Executive Branch
3. Article III – Judicial Branch
4. Article IV – Interstate Relations
5. Article V – Amendment Process
6. Article VI – Supreme law of the land
7. Article VII- Ratification

(The first ten Amendments constitute The Bill of Rights – passed by Congress on September 25, 1789 and ratified on December 15, 1791)

1. Amendment I – Freedom of religion, speech, press, petition and assembly
2. Amendment II – The right to bear arms
3. Amendment III- No quartering of soldiers, except in times of war
4. Amendment IV – No unreasonable search and seizure
5. Amendment V – Rights guaranteed to the accused
6. Amendment VI – Right to a speedy trial
7. Amendment VII – Trial by jury in civil cases
8. Amendment VIII - No cruel and unusual punishment
9. Amendment IX – Rights not listed are retained by the people
10. Amendment X – Powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution are reserved to the states
11. Amendment XI – State cannot be sued in a federal court by a citizen of another state (1795)
12. Amendment XII – How we elect the President (1804)
13. Amendment XIII – Abolition of slavery (1865)
14. Amendment XIV – Citizenship defined. Privileges or immunities. Due process of law and equal protection of the law applied to the states (1868)
15. Amendment XV – Suffrage for black males (1870)
16. Amendment XVI – Direct income tax (1913)
17. Amendment XVII – Direct election of Senators (1913)
18. Amendment XVIII – Prohibition. No manufacture or sale of alcohol (1919)
19. Amendment XIX – Suffrage for women (1920)
20. Amendment XX – Lame duck amendment (1933)
21. Amendment XXI – Reverse Prohibition (1933)
22. Amendment XXII – Limit President to two terms in office or ten years (1951)
23. Amendment XXIII– Three Electors for Washington D.C. (1961)
24. Amendment XXIV – Can't require poll taxes (1964)
25. Amendment XXV – Disability and succession (1967)
26. Amendment XXVI – Eighteen-year-old given right to vote (1971)
27. Amendment XXVII – Cannot raise salary during that term (1992)

Executive Branch

President – George W. Bush

Vice President – Dick Cheney

Executive Office of the President

Chief of Staff to the President: Joshua Bolten
Director, Office Management and Budget: Rob Portman
Chairman, National Economic Council: Allan Hubbard
Chairman, Council of Economic Advisers: Ben S. Bernanke
Advisor, National Security Council: Stephen Hadley
White House Office, Press Secretary: Tony Snow

Cabinet

Secretary of State: Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of Treasury: John Snow
Secretary of Defense: Robert M. Gates
Secretary of Homeland Security: Michael Chertoff
Attorney General: Alberto Gonzales
Secretary of Interior: Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary of Agriculture: Mike Johanns
Secretary of Commerce: Carlos Gutierrez
Secretary of Labor: Elaine Chao
Secretary of Health and Human Services: Michael Leavitt
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development: Alphonso Jackson
Secretary of Transportation: Mary E. Peters
Secretary of Energy: Samuel Bodman
Secretary of Education: Margaret Spellings
Secretary of Veterans Affairs: Jim Nicholson

Others

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff: General Peter Pace
National Intelligence Director: Mike McConnell (pending Senate Confirmation)
Director of Central Intelligence (CIA): Michael Hayden
EPA Director: Stephen Johnson

International

UN Secretary General: Kijoon Moon
Prime Minister of Israel: Ehud Olmert
President of Afghanistan: Hamid Karzai
Prime Minister of Iraq: Nouri al-Maliki
President of Iran: Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
President of the Palestinian Authority: Mahmoud Abbas
President of Lebanon: Fouad Siniora
Prime Minister of Great Britain: Tony Blair
Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany: Angela Merkel
President of the Russian Federation: Vladimir Putin
President of North Korea: Kim Jong-il
Prime Minister of Japan: Shinzo Abe

All information taken from www.whitehouse.gov

110th Congress Organization

United States House of Representatives

Democratic Majority (233) Republican Minority (201)
Majority Leader: Steny Hoyer-MD Minority Leader: John Boehner-OH
Majority Whip: James Clyburn-SC House Democratic Whip: Roy Blunt-MO
Speaker of the House: Nancy Pelosi-CA
Independents: 1
Total members: 435

United States Senate

Democratic Majority (49) Republican Minority (49)
Majority Leader: Harry Reid -NV Minority Leader: Mitch McConnell- KY
Majority Whip: Dick Durbin -IL Minority Whip: Trent Lott-MS
President Pro Tempore: Robert Byrd-WV
Independents: 2 (Caucus with Democrats)
Total members: 100

*The breakdown of Congress is subject to change.

The United States Supreme Court

John G. Roberts – Chief Justice

John Paul Stevens Samuel Alito
Antonin Scalia Anthony Kennedy
David Souter Clarence Thomas
Ruth Bader Ginsburg Steven Breyer

Political Parties

National Republican Party
Current Chairman- Ken Mehlman
New Chairman to be elected at RNC Winter Meeting (Jan. 17-20) will be Sen. Mel Martinez (R-FL).

National Democratic Party
Current Chairman- Howard Dean

Ten United States Supreme Court Cases that Have Shaped America

1. Baker v. Carr (1962)
Established the 'one man one vote' rule. State legislatures must reapportion every 10 years or Congress will do it for the state.
2. Bowers v. Hardwick (1986)
The case ruled that Homosexuals were not guaranteed the right of privacy and sodomy laws were held Constitutional. This case was overturned in Lawrence v. Texas (2003)
3. Brown v. the Board of Education (1954)
Overturned Plessy v. Ferguson (1896). It desegregated Anglos and African Americans in public places. All states must integrate public schools within ten years.
4. Bush v. Gore (2000)
The Supreme Court ruled that a recount in Florida of Presidential ballots was unconstitutional. They then ruled in favor of George W. Bush for President.
5. Engle v. Vitale (1962)
Ruled that prayer in public school violated the Establishment Clause.
6. Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)
Guaranteed the accused the right to assistance of counsel for defense.
7. Gregg v. Georgia (1976)
This trial found the Death Penalty to be Constitutional and reinstated its use. Established rules to be followed:
 - a. Meets contemporary standards of decency
 1. Treat people with dignity
 2. Proportional to crime
 3. No unnecessary infliction of pain
8. Lemon v. Kurtzman (1971)
Established the three pronged Lemon Test to ensure that the wall between church and state was maintained.
 - a. It has a secular legislative purpose.
 - b. Its principle or primary effect neither advances nor inhibits religion
 - c. It does not foster excessive government entanglement with religion.
9. Miranda v. Arizona (1966)
Ruled that anyone taken into police custody must be apprised of their rights. Anything they say can and will be used against them in a court of law. They have the right to have an attorney present before answering any questions in order to prevent self-incrimination. The detainee must also appear before a judge within a set amount of time (in Utah, 72 hours) and be informed of the charges being brought against him or her. This case is currently under review by the U.S. Supreme Court by considering the case of United States v. Dickerson.
10. Roe v. Wade (1973)
The Court ruled that abortion was a right guaranteed through the ninth Amendment and the Right of Privacy. A woman has the right to choose whether or not to abort the unborn fetus during the first trimester.