

Ph.D.

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**POLITICAL SCIENCE 1100-3**  
**AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT**  
**Syllabus for Summer Semester 2005**  
**Monday 6:00pm - 8:30PM**  
**OSH 237**

**I. Course Overview**

This course introduces students to political science by looking at several aspects of America such as: the fundamental ideals of freedom, order and equality; the structure of our national government; the various ways people interact with the national government; the conflicts over equality and civil rights, and order and civil liberties; and the challenges of developing public policy in such areas as economic policy, domestic policy and global policy. Current issues like Social Security reform, tax reform, health care, and terrorism, and the war in Iraq will be used as case studies to bring the concepts taught in class and the text to life.

**II. Calendar of Classes**

May	16	Chapter 1: Freedom, Order, or Equality Chapter 2: Majoritarian or Pluralist Democracy Chapter 3: The Constitution
	23	Chapter 4: Federalism Chapter 5: Public Opinion and Political
Socialization		Chapter 6: The Media <b>Hand out Test #1: Test covers: Janda - Parts I</b>

**and II**

30 MEMORIAL DAY - NO CLASS

June 06 Chapter 7: Participation and Voting Chapter 8:  
Political Parties  
Chapter 8: Political Parties  
Chapter 9: Nominations, Elections, and Campaigns  
Return Test #1

13 Chapter 10: Interest Groups  
Chapter 11: Congress  
Chapter 12: The Presidency  
**Hand out Test #2: Test covers: Text - Part III**

20 Chapter 13: The Bureaucracy  
Chapter 14: The Courts  
Return Test #2

27 Chapter 15: Order and Civil Liberties  
Chapter 16: Equality and Civil Rights  
Chapter 17: Policymaking  
**Hand out Test #3: Test covers:  
Text - Part IV**

July 04 INDEPENDENCE DAY - NO CLASS

11 Chapter 18: Economic Policy  
Chapter 19: Domestic Policy  
Chapter 20 Global Policy

18 America: The Unusual (All Chapters)  
**Hand out Test #4: Test covers: Text - Part V and  
VI; and America the Unusual all chapters**

24 PIONEER DAY - NO CLASS

August 01 FINAL EXAM

### III. Books, Tests and Other Important Information

**Books:** 1. Kenneth Janda, et. al., The Challenge of Democracy:

Government in America, (Houghton Mifflin Company, 8th Edition, 2003). This popular college text has two main themes: The first is the conflict between three values that are a significant part of the American political debate - freedom, societal order and equality. The second theme focuses on the tensions between two visions of American democracy - pluralism and maoritarianism.

2. John W. Kingdon, American: The Unusual, (Thompson Wadsworth, 1999). John Kingdon writes a very short but very insightful analysis of why American democracy and society is so different almost all other democratic countries. In doing so he allows readers to look at America in a different and instructive way. In end of course evaluations students give this book high marks.

**Tests:** **Tests** are a combination of multiple choice, fill in the blank, or short answer essays. You are expected to take the test as scheduled. If circumstances prevent this, and you notify me ahead of the scheduled test, arrangements can be made for a different test time without penalty. Any student missing the test on the scheduled date and who does not notify me ahead of the test may still take a make up test within a week but will be penalized 15 percent. No missed tests may taken after a week has passed. **Grading** is not done on a curve. Rather grades are based on a straight line scale. 90% and up is an A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69%=D, 50-59% = D, 50 and below is an E. I may make some minor changes to this general policy based on overall class performance.

**Attendance and bonus points:**

I do not take attendance, but I will always provide for bonus point questions on all tests. The bonus point questions and the answers are given during classes and can only be obtained by attending the class in which the bonus point question is given. Bonus points can total 10% of possible points.

**Extra Credit:** There is no credit available in this class other than the bonus points already discussed so please don't ask.

**Contacting the**

**Professor:** I am an adjunct professor and therefore have no campus office or phone number. However, I do want to be available

and accessible. You are welcome to email me and I will respond quickly, within 48 hours. You can also call me at my home anytime. If I am not there (which is usually the case), leave a message and I will call you back, usually the same day. If all else fails you may call me at work, but I prefer to have this as a last option. I will make my self available after every class for meeting with students also. **If you miss a class, I strongly encourage you to contact me as soon as possible to see what was missed. Since my work sometimes forces me to change the agenda at short notice, consistent attendance or immediate contact after missing a class is to your definite advantage.**

**Persons with**

**disabilities:** Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations for the class are encouraged to notify the instructor at the beginning of the semester. Written documentation should be provided and the type of accommodations needed described. I will gladly work with any students with disabilities to make the class work. Just let me know.

**Important  
Semester**

**Dates:** Monday, May 30, Memorial Day - no class  
Monday July 4, Independence Day - no class  
Monday July 24, Pioneer Day - no class  
Wednesday, May 25 - Last day to drop classes  
Friday June 3 - Tuition payment due  
Tuesday May 31 - Last day to add classes  
Tuesday May 31 - Last day to choose CR/NC  
Tuesday, May 17 - Grades available on the Web

