

POLS 1100-005 American National Government

Koji Haraguchi

Office: OSH 306

Hours: Mon: 5:30-6:00 and 8:30-9:00 p.m.

Thu: 1:00 -2:00 or by appointment

Phone: 581-6473

E-mail: k.haraguchi@m.cc.utah.edu

POLS 1100-005

Fall 2005

M: 6:00-8:30 PM

OSH 238

This course is an introduction of American politics and government. Its goal is to develop basic understanding of the federal government of the United States and major political issues the nation has faced.

The world of politics is complicated. Conflicting forces work simultaneously: ideals and reality, changes and continuity, division and unity, conflict and cooperation. Through this course the students are expected to make some sense out of this complicated political world and make sound judgments as citizens based on proper understanding of their government and political issues.

As a Japanese scholar who has studied the United States for 15 years, the instructor will provide unique views of American politics from international and comparative perspectives. With the help of the students with domestic insights and experiences, I believe that the class can achieve better understandings of American politics and government.

Course Requirements

The students are required to participate in class, take FOUR exams, FIVE news quizzes, and write ONE debate paper.

Midterm and Final Short Answer Exams (In-Class): Students will be asked to answer 80 multiple-choice or T/F questions in both exams. The midterm exam will cover chapters 1 through 8 and corresponding lectures. The questions of the final exam will come from chapters 9 through 14 and corresponding lectures. Each exam is worth 80 points.

Midterm and Final Essay Exams (Take Home): Students will be asked to answer 2 essay questions in each exam. Essay questions are given a week before the due. Each essay should be no less than 500 words and no more than 600 words. The midterm questions will come from chapters 1 through 8 and corresponding lectures. The questions for the final will come from chapters 9 through 14 and corresponding lectures. Each exam is worth 20 points

New York Times Quizzes: Students are responsible to read the New York Times on weekdays. The instructor will pick 5 to 8 articles and post them on WebCT every week and give a quiz every three weeks. Out of the 15 to 24 assigned articles, the students will be asked 10 questions, mostly multiple choice, T/F, or blank filling questions. Each exam is worth 10 points. The instructor will count best 4 scores out of 5 quizzes.

Debate and Debate Paper: The class will have 5 or 6 debates during the semester, based on the subreader *You Decide*. Seven students will participate in each debate. Each side of the debate is represented by three debaters and one student serves as moderator. Debaters will prepare their arguments and questions to the other side before the class based on the assigned chapter of *You Decide* and other sources. Moderator will organize the debate into four sections: introduction, presentation of arguments, cross-questioning and answering, and conclusion. Based on the debates where the students lead, they write debate papers. The paper should be double spaced and 5-7 pages long with 12 point font.

The debate and the paper are worth 60 points. For the details of the debate and debate paper, please refer to the instruction distributed separately.

Class attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to prepare and engage in class discussions actively. The instructor may take attendance at random.

Please note that there are no make-up assignments in this course. If you anticipate having a scheduling conflict you should see me as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements. In the case of an emergency or some other extenuating circumstance, alternative assignments will be given after careful consideration by the instructor.

Midterm	100 points (Short answer = 80, Essay = 20)
Final Exam	100 points (Short answer = 80, Essay = 20)
Debate Paper	60 points
NYT quizzes	40 points (10 points each quiz. best 4 scores out of 5 quizzes)

Total	300 points

Grading Scale:

95% or above = A, 90 - 94% = A-, 87 - 89% = B+, 83 - 86 % = B, 80 - 82 % = B-,
77 - 79% = C+, 73 - 76 % = C, 70 - 72 % = C-, 67 - 69% = D+, 63 - 66 % = D,
60 - 62 % = D-, 59% or below F

Course Materials

O'Connor, Karen and Larry Sabato. 2006 *Essentials of American Government 2006 Edition*

Rourke, John T. 2005 *You Decide ! 2005: Current Debates in American Government*

-New York Times paid subscription available at Union OR free web subscription (<http://www.nyt.com>).

I Foundations of Government

Aug. 29	COURSE OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 1
Sept. 5	Labor Day holiday (NO CLASS!!)
Sept. 12	THE CONSTITUTION O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 2 Debate 1 "Guns, Safety, and the Constitution", 1st chapter of <i>You Decide !</i>
Sept. 19	FEDERALISM O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 3 New York Times Quiz 1
Sept. 26	CIVIL LIBERTIES O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 4 Debate 2 "Anti-Terrorist Legislation", 4th chapter of <i>You Decide !</i>

Oct. 3 CIVILRIGHTS
O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 5
Debate 3 "BANNING DILATION AND EXTRACTION (PARTIAL-BIRTH) ABORTIONS:" 3rd chapter of *You Decide!*

II Institutions of Government

Oct. 10 CONGRESS
O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 6
New York Times Quiz 2
Debate 4 "Congressional Term Limits" 11th chapter of *You Decide!*
Midterm Essay Questions available

Oct. 17 THE PRESIDENCY AND THE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY
O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 7 & 8
Midterm Essay Exam Due

Oct. 24 **MIDTERM SHORT ANSWER EXAM**

Oct. 31 THE JUDICIARY
O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 9
New York Times Quiz 3
Debate 5 "The Death Penalty" 16th chapter of *You Decide!*

III: POLITICAL BEHAVIOR

Nov. 7 PUBLIC OPINION AND THE NEWS MEDIA
O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 10
Debate 6 "Embedded Reporters during the War with Iraq" 16th chapter of *You Decide!*

Nov. 14 POLITICAL PARTIES AND INTEREST GROUPS
O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 11
New York Times Quiz 4

Nov. 21 CAMPAIGNS, ELECTIONS, AND VOTING
O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 12
Debate Paper Due

IV: PUBLIC POLICY

Nov. 27 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES
O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 13
New York Times Quiz 5
Midterm Essay Questions available

Dec. 5 FOREIGN AND MILITARY POLICIES
O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 14
Final Essay Exam Due

Dec 12 6:00-8:00 **Final Exam**

Persons with Disabilities

The University of Utah Political Science Department seeks to provide equal access to programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the instructor and to the Center for Disability Services, <http://disability.utah.edu/>, 162 Olpin Union Bldg, 581-5020 (V/TDD) to make arrangements for accommodations. This information is available in alternative format with prior notification.

Plagiarism Warning

This course adopts zero-tolerance policy in regard to plagiarism cases. Plagiarism, using others' work without proper citation, is a serious offense. It is also considered academic dishonesty to turn in your own papers for more than one course. Plagiarism cases will be reported to relevant authorities and may result in extremely severe consequences. Since written work is part of the course requirements, you may need to consult to various sources that describe how to cite references. Plagiarism has become an issue particularly at the age of internet; one can just copy and paste entire papers or portions of papers in a matter of seconds. Just changing the wording of the passages you use does not save you from plagiarizing. You need to refer to any source even if it is an internet one. If you have any further questions, please see me for clarification before it is too late