

POLS 1100-005 American National Government

Koji Haraguchi

Office: OSH 156D

Hours: Mon: 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Wed: 7:20 -8:20 or by appointment

Phone: 581-7044

E-mail: k.haraguchi@utah.edu

POLS 1100-006

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M, W: 6:00-7:20 PM

OSH 113

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 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 20 years, the instructor will provide unique views of American politics from international and comparative perspectives. With the help of students with domestic insights and experiences, I believe that the class can achieve a better understanding of American politics and government.

Course Requirements

The students are required to participate in class, take ELEVEN quizzes, TWO exams, and write ONE paper based on a debate one engaged in.

Quizzes: The students are required to take 11 quizzes on WebCT. Each quiz will be available on Friday and due on 11:59 p.m. on next Wed. The quizzes are based on the Sabato's textbook and a few New York Times articles, which will be posted on WebCT every week. Each quiz contains 15 questions and worth 15 points maximum. Out of 11 quizzes, best 10 scores will be counted. Total points for quizzes = 150 points (30% of your grade). The quizzes are open-book ones and the students are allowed to consult the textbook and the assigned articles while they are answering questions. Please make sure to SAVE ALL answers before you hit FINISH button. I suggest you copy-and paste the quiz questions or print them off (right-click on the result page). About 70% of the final exam questions will be taken directly from the quizzes; therefore, be certain to keep copies of the quizzes with the correct answers.

Take-home Midterm Essay Exam (Questions available on Sept. 26 and due on Oct.3):

Students will be asked to answer 3 essay questions. One of the questions is mandatory (40 points) and two other questions are selective out of four options (30 points each). The questions will mainly come from the lectures, integrating information from the textbook, *You Decide* and other assigned readings. Each essay should be more than 500-word long. The instructor will collect printed examinations at the end of Oct. 3 class.

Debate and Debate Paper: The class will have 5 or 6 debates during the semester, based on the subreader *You Decide* or the articles the instructor chose. 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 150 points (30% of your grade). For the details of the debate and debate paper, please refer to the instruction distributed separately. Debate papers are due TWO WEEKS after each debate.

In-class Final Exam (Multiple Choice): The final exam covers all the chapters of the textbook. But don't worry. More than 70% of the questions will come from the 11 quizzes mentioned above. But for the final exam, you have to sit in class, instead of before your computer. The exam is a closed book one. You will have 90 minutes to answer 100 multiple choice or T/F questions.

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.

Quizzes	150 points
Midterm	100 points
Debate & Paper	150 points
Final Exam	100 points

Total	500 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 *Essentials of American Government 2008edition*
- Rourke, John T. 2005 *You Decide ! 2007: Current Debates in American Government*
- Reserve articles and NY Times articles posted on the course WebCT

I Foundations of Government

Aug. 20	COURSE OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION
Aug. 22	THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 1
Aug. 27	THE CONSTITUTION 1 O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 2
Aug 29	THE CONSTITUTION 2 1st Quiz Due (WebCT) due at 11:59 p.m.
Sept. 3	Labor Day (NO CLASS!!)
Sept. 5	FEDERALISM 1 O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 2 Debate 1 "EVENTUAL CITIZENSHIP FOR UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRANTS: REWARDING ILLEGAL BEHAVIOR OR REWARDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO AMERICA" 5th chapter of <i>You Decide!</i> 2nd Quiz Due (WebCT) due at 11:59 p.m.

- Sept. 10 FEDERALISM 2
O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 3
- Sept. 12 CIVIL LIBERTIES 1
O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 3
3rd Quiz Due (WebCT) due at 11:59 p.m.
- Sept. 17 CIVIL LIBERTIES 2
O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 4
Debate 2 "Anti-Terrorist Legislation: Threat to Civil Liberties or Constitutional Shield?" WebCT
- Sept. 19 CIVIL RIGHTS 1
O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 4
4TH Quiz Due (WebCT) due at 11:59 p.m.
- Sept. 24 CIVILRIGHTS 2
O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 5
Debate 3 "EVALUATING THE "RIGHT TO AN ABORTION" DECISION IN ROE V. WADE: POSITIIVE IMPACT OR NEGATIVE IMPACT?" 3rd chapter of *You Decide!*
- II Institutions of Government**
- Sept. 26 CONGRESS 1
O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 6
5TH Quiz Due (WebCT) due at 11:59 p.m.
Midterm Essay Questions available
- Oct. 1 CONGRESS 2
O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 6
- Oct. 3 THE PRESIDENCY AND THE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY 1
O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 7 & 8
Midterm Essay Exam Due
- Oct. 8 & 10 FALL BREAK (NO CLASS)
- Oct. 15 THE PRESIDENCY AND THE FEDERAL BUREAUCRACY 2
O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 7 & 8
- Oct. 17 THE JUDICIARY 1
O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 9
6TH Quiz Due (WebCT) due at 11:59 p.m.
- Oct. 22 THE JUDICIARY 2
O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 9
Debate 4, "Does America need environmental regulations?"
"The New Environmentalism" *CQ Researcher*, Dec. 1, 2006 (WebCT)

III: POLITICAL BEHAVIOR

- Oct. 24 PUBLIC OPINION AND THE NEWS MEDIA 1
O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 10
7TH Quiz Due (WebCT) due at 11:59 p.m.
- Oct. 29 PUBLIC OPINION AND THE NEWS MEDIA 2
O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 10
Debate 5 "U.S. MILITARY FORCES IN IRAQ: STAY THE COURSE OR WITHDRAW QUICKLY?" 19th chapter of *You Decide!*
- Oct. 31 POLITICAL PARTIES AND INTEREST GROUPS 1
O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 11
8th Quiz Due (WebCT) due at 11:59 p.m.
- Nov. 5 POLITICAL PARTIES AND INTEREST GROUPS 2
O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 11
- Nov. 7 CAMPAIGNS, ELECTIONS, AND VOTING 1
O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 12
9th Quiz Due (WebCT) due at 11:59 p.m.
- Nov. 12 CAMPAIGNS, ELECTIONS, AND VOTING 2
O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 12

IV: PUBLIC POLICY

- Nov. 14 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES 1
O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 13
10th Quiz Due (WebCT) due at 11:59 p.m.
- Nov. 19 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES 2
O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 13
Debate 6 "Does America Need National Health Insurance?"
"Universal Coverage" CQ Researcher, March 30, 2007 (WebCT)
- Nov. 21 NO CLASS (pre-Thanks Giving Wed)
- Nov. 26 FOREIGN AND MILITARY POLICIES
O'Connor and Sabato Chapter 14
- Nov. 28 FOREIGN AND MILITARY POLICIES
11th Quiz Due (WebCT) due at 11:59 p.m.
- Dec. 3 CONCLUSION AND FINAL REVIEW
- Dec. 5 **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