

Political Science 1100-005
American National Government

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Office Hours: By Appointment

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OSH 235
Thursday: 4:35- 7:05

“...the principles on which the constitutions of the American states rest, the principles of order, balance of powers, true liberty, and sincere and deep respect for law, are indispensable for all republics; they should be common to them all; and it is safe to forecast that where they are not found the republic will soon have ceased to exist.”

- Alexis de Tocqueville (1848)

Text:

Janda, Kenneth, Jeffrey M. Berry, and Jerry Goldman. 2005. *The Challenge of Democracy*, 8th Edition. Houghton Mifflin. ISBN 0-618-37244-X

Course Description and Purpose: The primary purpose of this course is to introduce students to the principles associated with American government. This course will rely heavily on the Constitution of the United States as the basis for our discussion of the various components that comprise our governmental system. Specifically, this course will cover theories of democracy, federalism, political participation, the role of the media, political parties, Congress, the presidency, the courts, civil rights, civil liberties, and American economic, foreign and domestic policy. At the conclusion of the course, students will have a better appreciation of their government and an increased knowledge of what is expected of them in terms of their own citizenship.

Course Requirements:

1. During the course of the semester, there will be five examinations worth 100 points each. The final exam will be comprehensive. In addition, the first exam will be an open book/open note exam. The reason for this is to provide students with an understanding of how future exams will be conducted. All of the remaining exams will be closed book. The dates for each of the exams are:

- Exam #1 (Open Book)- January 26th
- Exam #2- February 16th
- Exam #3- March 9th
- Exam #4- April 20th
- Final Exam- May 4th

2. Two short written assignments will be due at various times during the semester. Each assignment will be worth 50 points. There will be a choice of three assignments, but you are required to complete only two. Each of these papers should be no longer than three pages and must reflect the student's own ideas about a reading assignment that will be available at the Marriot Library's Reserve Desk. Specific assignment information will be given for each of these assignments one week before they are due.
 - Assignment #1- February 2nd
 - Assignment #2- March 2nd
 - Assignment #3- April 6th

3. There will be five random quizzes given during the semester. Each quiz will be worth fifteen points. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped and will not count against you. The purpose of these quizzes is twofold: first they will ensure that students are attending class on a regular basis and second they will help prepare students for questions that will be on the exams. The quizzes will cover material from the previous week's lecture and reading assignment.

Grading:

There will be a total of 660 points possible in the course. Grades will be determined on the total number of points earned. The grading breakdown will be as follows:

A = 620-660	C = 488-507
A- = 594-619	C- = 462-487
B+ = 574-593	D+ = 442-461
B = 554-573	D = 422-441
B- = 528-546	D- = 396-421
C+ = 508-527	E = 0-395

Late Work:

Late work is unacceptable in this course and will be penalized accordingly. All assignments are due at the first of class on the dates identified. Assignments turned in up to one week late will automatically be penalized by twenty five percent. Work will not be accepted after one week of the initial due date. The dates of the exams are provided in the syllabus and you will be expected to take exams when they are scheduled. If you know that you will not be able to attend class on the night of an exam, you will need to notify me in advance. I will make exams available to you in the university's testing center. The testing center charges all students a nominal fee (\$5.00) for tests taken in the testing center.

Miscellaneous Items:

1. Please turn your cell phones and pagers off during class. If you have a laptop, please make sure that it is turned on prior to class beginning. If you forget to turn off your cell phone, please do not answer it in class.
2. Be respectful of all ideas expressed in class by the instructor or by fellow students. The inherent nature of politics is based on the notion of conflicting and competing ideas. While you should feel free to disagree with any idea expressed in class, please do so in a constructive, non-demeaning way. Keep in mind that real learning only occurs when people are willing to examine all facets of an issue before making an informed decision.
3. Written assignments will not be accepted by e-mail. If you are not going to attend class when an assignment is due, you may leave it for me (in advance) in the political science office located in OSH 252. Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated.

Course Outline:

Week 1- Jan 12th - Course Introduction, Democratic Values

Reading Assignment: Chapter 1- Freedom, Order or Equality?

Chapter 2- Majoritarian vs. Pluralist Democracy

Week 2- Jan 19th – The Constitution & Federalism

Reading Assignment: Chapter 3- The Constitution

Chapter 4- Federalism

Week 3- Jan 26th – The Congress

Exam #1 (Open Book/Open Note)

Reading Assignment: Chapter 11- The Congress

Article I of the U.S. Constitution (Appendix)

Week 4- Feb 2nd - The Presidency and The Bureaucracy

Assignment #1 Due

Reading Assignment: Chapter 12- The Presidency

Chapter 13- The Bureaucracy

Article II of the U.S. Constitution (Appendix)

Week 5- Feb 9th - The Courts

Reading Assignment: Chapter 14- The Courts

Article III of the U.S. Constitution (Appendix)

Week 6- Feb 16th – Public Opinion and Political Socialization

Exam #2

Reading Assignment: Chapter 5- Public Opinion & Socialization

- Week 7- Feb 23rd – **The Media, Participation and Voting, and Political Parties**
Reading Assignment: Chapter 6- The Media
Chapter 7- Participation and Voting
- Week 8- March 2nd – **Political Parties, Nominations, Elections, and Campaigns**
Assignment #2
Reading Assignment: Chapter 8- Political Parties
Chapter 9- Nominations, Elections & Campaigns
Chapter 10- Interest Groups
- Week 9- March 9th – **Interest Groups, Order and Civil Liberties**
Exam #3
Reading Assignment: Chapter 15- Order and Civil Liberties
- Week 10- March 16th – **Spring Break (No Class)**
- Week 11- March 23rd – **Order and Civil Liberties (cont.), Equality and Civil Rights**
Reading Assignment: Chapter 15- Order and Civil Liberties (cont).
Chapter 16- Equality and Civil Rights
- Week 12- March 30th – **Policymaking and Economic Policy**
Reading Assignment: Chapter 17- Policymaking
Chapter 18- Economic Policy
- Week 13- April 6th – **Domestic Policy**
Assignment #3
Reading Assignment: Chapter 19- Domestic Policy
- Week 14- April 13th – **Global Policy**
Reading Assignment: Chapter 20- Global Policy
- Week 15- April 20th – **Exam #4**
Final Exam Review
- Final Exam- May 4th – **Final Exam**

Statement on Academic Honesty:

I expect academic honesty in this course. This statement means, among other things, that the written work you submit in this course must be your own. Any work you submit should be the product of your individual effort and not the work of others. Work submitted for this course must not have been submitted in a previous course nor may it be submitted in any course being taken concurrently without the knowledge and approval of all instructors concerned. An act of academic dishonesty is a violation of the university's regulations regarding student conduct. As such, an act of academic dishonesty may result in a failing grade for the course and may result in a recommendation to university officials for additional disciplinary action. The following definition is from the university's Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities (Policy 8-10, rev 3, July 14, 1997): "Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one's work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information ... It also includes facilitating academic dishonesty by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic dishonesty." Definitions of these terms as well as information regarding your rights and responsibilities as a student are available in the university's policies and procedures manual

<http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html>.

Equal Access:

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Schedule Changes:

The schedule of assignments or due dates may need to be changed based upon events that occur during the course of the semester. If changes need to be made, advance notification will be made by the instructor in class.