

PLEASE NOTE: The instructor for the class is a liberal.¹ If this is a problem, then drop the course.

Political Science 1100-005
U.S. NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
Spring 2007

Instructor
Lauren Holland
302 OSH, 581-4910

Office Hours: T, 12-1pm, TH,
9:30-10:30am. & by appointment.
lholland@poli-sci.utah.edu
l-holland@hotmail.com**

In addition, the instructor is available 10 minutes before and after class outside the lecture hall. This is a large class. It is up to you to contact the instructor and/or graduate assistants during office hours or by e-mail if you need help.

Teaching Assistants/ Supplemental Instructor

Patrick Jefferies (TA)
307 OSH, 915-9965
patrick.jefferies@poli-sci.utah.edu
Office Hours: W, 1-2pm.
Discussion/review session: M, 1-2pm

Nathan Melton (TA)
311 OSH, 585-7983
nathanmelton@msn.com
Office Hours: T, 9:30-10:30am
Discuss/review: TH, 8:30-9:30am

Autumn Orme (SI)
clue__less@hotmail.com
(435) 313-4564
Discussion sessions to be arranged

This class is an introductory survey course designed to acquaint students with the institutions, politics, and policies of the American political system, and the mechanics of citizenship. An underlying assumption of this course is that each individual is an indispensable part of the governmental system, a status that carries important rights and responsibilities. The objective of the course is the empowerment of each student; that is, to enable students to make their own political decisions. As such, a range of ideological positions is introduced including ones that will offend those who are attached to a rigid set of opinions (i.e., a dogma). ***If you are not prepared to entertain both negative and positive***

¹ "One who is open-minded or not strict in the observance of orthodox, traditional or established forms or ways." *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*.

positions on affirmative action, free speech, abortion and gender equality, then take a different section of PS 1100.

Required Text

Edward S. Greenberg and Benjamin I. Page, *America's Democratic Republic*, 2nd edition (2007)

In addition, each student is required to read a daily newspaper such as the *Salt Lake Tribune*, *Deseret News*, or *New York Times*. Student subscription rates are available from the Newspaper Agency Corporation for local papers, and in the student union for the *New York Times*. All three papers are available in Marriott Library, the Hinckley Institute of Politics (OSH 253), the Public Policy & Administration Library (OSH 214), and on the Internet. The edition on the internet is NOT a complete one so relying upon this source is a liability for the news quizzes. **The questions for the news quizzes are taken from the *Salt Lake Tribune*.**

Course Requirements

Examinations: There will be four examinations. The dates of the examinations are listed below in the syllabus. None of the exams is comprehensive. Each exam will include one essay and ten (10) multiple-choice, true-false, and/or short identification questions. Make-up exams are given only to students who cannot attend due to illness or an athletic or debate commitment, *and who have contacted the instructor in advance*. **Under no circumstances will late exams be given to students who cannot attend due to family or work commitments, including weddings, family vacations or job interviews out of town. If this course conflicts with your work schedule or family responsibilities, then drop the class.**

News Quizzes: There will be five (5) news quizzes formatted to test students' understanding of current events in national, state and local government, and in foreign affairs in which the United States government is involved. Only four (4) quizzes will be counted towards your final grade. This means that everyone can afford to miss at least one quiz, or your lowest quiz score automatically will be dropped. Each quiz will include five (5) short answer questions. The quiz will be comprehensive for the two (2) or three (3) weeks preceding each quiz excepting the morning of the test. **There is no early, late or make-up option for quizzes.** The exceptions are athletes or debate members who provide documentation of game or meet conflicts during the first full week of class. The dates of the quizzes are listed below on the syllabus.

Films: Students are required to watch two films during the semester. You will be tested on information about the film on an examination as indicated in the syllabus. Both films are available in DVD/VHS formats.

- *Crash*
- *Why We Fight*

Journals: Each student is required to keep a journal during the semester. Please purchase an appropriate booklet or folder. If you do not wish to purchase a booklet, we will provide re-cycled ones. The purpose of the journal is to provide a regular (but private) opportunity for students to record their reactions to the material in the course. For example, material that angered, informed, impressed, confused, enlightened, and/or depressed you could be recorded. Also, questions that you would like to have addressed and/or information clarified would be appropriate journal entries. You are required to record at least twice a week, preferably after class. Each journal entry should fill at least one page of a standard size booklet. Journals will be collected at the end of the semester. **To receive credit for the journal exercise, you must have complete (one full page) entries for each day of class and be in attendance on the day that the journals are collected. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Class Participation: Student participation is strongly encouraged. Given the sometimes controversial and challenging nature of the material in the class, students are invited to ask questions for clarification or make pertinent contributions to a class lecture.

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and stay until the class has been formally dismissed. Eating, talking and/or walking in and out during the lecture period are prohibited and may affect your grade.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Four Examinations (20 points) | 80 points |
| News Quizzes (5 points each) | 20 points |
| Journal | 10 points |

There are no extra-credit options for this course other than those indicated on this syllabus.

Grading: Students are credited with points for the amount of correct information that is provided on the exams and quizzes. **Letter grades are assigned on a curved basis beginning with the student with the highest number of points.** Thus, if 92 out of a 100 is the top score, then the grades are distributed accordingly with 92 (not 100) beginning the As. Final grades are computed on a point basis, with the top score once again beginning the distribution. Consideration will be given to students who attend class and review sessions

regularly. University regulations limit an incomplete to exceptional cases and students who have completed at least 80% of the course work.

Teaching Assistants and Supplemental Instructor: There are two graduate students and one undergraduate supplemental instructor assigned to this course. The TAs are instructed to help students with anything related to the class such as preparing for exams and news quizzes. The TAs also will hold weekly review/discussion sections, and office hours. The responsibility of the Supplemental Instructor is to hold weekly review/discussion sections. The office hours and/or discussion sections of the TAs, SI and instructor have been staggered to provide ample opportunity for every student in this class to receive personal attention if he/she takes the initiative.

Discussion Sections: Voluntary weekly discussion sections have been scheduled throughout the semester to provide an opportunity for students to review material in a small forum with a teaching assistant or the instructor. The days and times of the review sessions held by the teaching assistants are listed below. You do NOT need to attend the same session each week. The discussion sections hosted by the SI will be scheduled during the second week of class.

Mondays @ 1:00-1:50 pm., OSH 235 (Jefferies)

Thursdays @ 8:30-9:30 am., OSH 235 (Melton)

Course Outline and Reading Assignments: It is suggested that you complete the assigned readings either prior to or immediately following the class lecture.

Week One*:

January 9: Overview of the class.

Greenberg & Page, Preface.

January 11: Why be interested and involved in government and politics? How does a society that is divided by race, culture, ethnicity, religion, and socioeconomic status avoid implosion? What core values define America as a democracy?

Greenberg & Page, Chapter 1 & *The Declaration of Independence*
(appendix)

Week Two*:

January 16: Why did the Founders replace the Articles with the Constitution? What challenges confronted those attending the constitutional convention in 1787? What are the main features of our constitution? Were the Founders selfless

patriots or selfish elites? How did the Founders resolve controversies over slavery and states' rights? Is the U.S. Constitution still viable today?

Greenberg & Page, Chapter 2, *The U.S. Constitution* (appendix), and *Federalist Papers #10 & #51* (appendix)

January 18: The unique nature of American Federalism. What are the constitutional foundations of state and federal governmental powers? What factors and forces are responsible for changes in state- federal relations? What are the major features of federalism today? Is the current arrangement among federal, state and local governments conducive to solving America's problems?

Greenberg & Page, Chapter 3

Week Three*:

January 23: Federalism, contd.

January 25: **News Quiz #1**. Review for Exam #1.

Week Four*:

January 30: **Exam #1**. In class.

February 1: Politics and the People: public opinion and political learning. What constitutes public opinion? How is public opinion formed? What role does public opinion play in policymaking? What happens when the "public" doesn't agree and there are various "opinions"? What is the nature of our political learning? Is a free and open press critical to democracy? What role do the mass media play in a democracy?

Greenberg & Page, Chapters 6 & 7

Week Five*:

February 6: Interest Groups. What sorts of people join interest groups and why? What is the difference between private and public interest groups? What tactics do interest groups employ to influence government and politics? Why are some interest groups more successful than other ones? Do interest groups perform functions that are critical to or do they actually undermine democracy? Is government responsive to interest groups in ways that skew policies towards certain elite groups at the expense of the public interest?

Greenberg & Page, Chapter 8

February 8: Political Parties: their convoluted historical development and contemporary significance. What is a political party? Do political parties contribute to or undermine democracy?

Greenberg & Page, Chapter 9

Week Six*:

February 13: Elections. Who votes and why? Who doesn't vote and why? Does it matter? What role does money play in elections? **News Quiz #2**

Greenberg & Page, Chapter 10

February 15: Political participation. Who participates and why? Does participation matter? Does mass participation contribute to or undermine democracy?

Greenberg & Page, Chapter 10

Week Seven*:

February 20: **Review for Exam #2.**

February 22: **Exam #2.** In-class.

Week Eight*:

February 27: Congress. The structure and functions of Congress. Explaining congressional behavior and output.

Greenberg & Page, Chapter 11 & *Presidents and Congresses, 1789 -2005* (appendix)

March 1: Congress, contd.

Week Nine*:

March 6: The Presidency. The paradox of the American Presidency: strong or weak? What prevents presidential malfeasance?

Greenberg & Page, Chapter 12 & *Presidents and Congresses, 1789 -2005* (appendix)

March 8: Presidency, contd. The execution of war powers: going to war. **News Quiz #3.**

See the movie, *Why We Fight*.

Week Ten*:

March 13: The Bureaucracy: the linchpin, the keystone, to the smooth functioning of governments at the federal, state and local levels. **Review for Exam #3.**

Greenberg & Page, Chapter 13

March 15: **Exam #3.** In-class.

Spring Break= No class. March 19-23.

Week Eleven*:

March 27: The Functions and Structure of the Federal Judiciary. The American judicial process. The unique and changing role of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Greenberg & Page, Chapter 14, *Federalist Paper #78* (appendix), & *Chief Justices of the Supreme Court, 1789-2004*

March 29: Courts, contd. **Quiz #4.**

Greenberg & Page, Chapter 14

Week Twelve*:

April 3: Civil Liberties: freedom of expression. The balancing act: speech, press, religion, protest.

Greenberg & Page, Chapter 4

April 5: Civil Liberties: due process of law, privacy, abortion and gay rights.

See the film *Crash*.

Week Thirteen*:

April 10: Civil Rights: “[t]he test of the moral quality of a civilization is its treatment of the weak and powerless.” Judge Jerome Frank. Political, social & economic equality.

Greenberg & Page, Chapter 5

April 12: Civil Rights, contd.

Week Fourteen*:

April 17: Conclusion. Empowerment or abdication?

April 19: **Quiz #5. Review for Exam #4.**

Week Fifteen*:

April 24: **Exam #4.** In-class.

- *An asterisk indicates the approximate nature of the dates. This may affect the content and/or scheduling of the examinations. Students who do not attend class regularly and rely on this syllabus may be insufficiently prepared for the exams and news quizzes.
- **There sometimes is a compatibility problem between csbs (poli-sci) and AOL, MSN and hotmail. Students who have e-mail through AOL, msn or hotmail may want to communicate with me via my hotmail account.
- Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations to meet the expectations of this course are encouraged to bring this to the attention of the instructor as soon as possible. Written documentation of the disability should be submitted during the first full week of the semester along with the request for special accommodations. Please contact the Center for Disabled Student Service, 160 Union Building, 581-5020.
- NOTE: Any student caught cheating on an exam or news quiz will receive a failing grade for the entire class.