

Political Science 1100-020  
**American National Government**

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Thursdays 6:00-9:00

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*“...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*, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition. Houghton Mifflin. ISBN 0-618-56274-5.

**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 covers theories of democracy, federalism, political participation, the role of the media, political parties, Congress, the presidency, the courts, civil rights, and civil liberties. 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 four examinations. The first three exams will be worth 100 points each. The final exam is comprised of two parts and will be worth a total of 200 points. The first part of the exam will cover the specific chapters discussed in the last section of the course. The second part of the exam will be comprehensive. In addition, the first exam will be an open book/note exam. The reason for this is to provide students with an understanding of how future exams will be conducted. The remaining exams will be closed book and taken in class. The dates for each of the exams are:

- Exam #1- June 1<sup>st</sup> (Open Book/Note)
  - Exam #2- June 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - Exam #3- July 13<sup>th</sup>
  - Final Exam- August 3<sup>rd</sup> (Comprehensive)
2. Three short written assignments will be due at various times during the semester. Each of these assignments will be worth 50 points. Each of these papers will be no longer than three pages and will reflect the student's own ideas about current events and how they relate to course content. More information will be given on each of these assignments one week before they are due. The assignment due dates are:
- Assignment #1- June 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Assignment #2- July 6<sup>th</sup>
  - Assignment #3- July 27<sup>th</sup>
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 710 points possible in the course. Grades will be determined on the total number of points students earn. The grading breakdown is:

A = 710-667	C = 545-525
A- = 666-639	C- = 524-497
B+ = 638-617	D+ = 496-475
B = 616-596	D = 474-454
B- = 595-568	D- = 453-426
C+ = 567-546	E = 425-0

**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 so that alternative arrangements can be made.

### **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. Please 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. Due to budget constraints, the Political Science department will no longer allow instructors to print out student assignments received by e-mail. Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated.

### **Course Outline:**

Week 1- May 18- **Course Introduction, Democracy and American Government**

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

Chapter 2- Majoritarian or Pluralist Democracy

Week 2- May 25- **The Constitution and Federalism**

Reading Assignment: Chapter 3- The Constitution

Chapter 4- Federalism

Week 3- June 1- **Federalism and Congress**

Exam #1 (Open Book/Note)

Reading Assignment: Chapter 11- Congress

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

Week 4- June 8- **The Presidency**

Reading Assignment: Chapter 12- The Presidency

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

Week 5- June 15- **The Judiciary**

Assignment #1 Due

Reading Assignment: Chapter 14- The Courts

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

Week 6- June 22- **Civil Liberties and Order**

Exam #2

Reading Assignment- Chapter 15- Order and Civil Liberties

Week 7- June 29- **Civil Rights and Equality**

Reading Assignment: Chapter 15- Order and Civil Liberties

Chapter 16- Equality and Civil Rights

Week 8- July 6- **Linking People with Government (Part I)**

Assignment #2 Due

Reading Assignment: Chapter 5- Public Opinion and Socialization  
Chapter 6- The Media

Week 9- July 13- **Linking People with Government (Part II)**

Exam #3

Reading Assignment: Chapter 7- Participation and Voting

Week 10- July 20- **Linking People with Government (Part III)**

Reading Assignment: Chapter 8- Political Parties

Chapter 9- Nomination, Elections, Campaigns

Chapter 10- Interest Groups

Week 11- July 27- **Public Policy**

Assignment #3 Due

Reading Assignment: Chapter 17- Policymaking

Week 12- August 3- **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.