

Political Science 1100-020
American National Government

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Office Hours: By Appointment

Summer Semester 2007
Bountiful Extension
T,TH: 6:00-9:00

"...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 two examinations worth 200 points each. Exam questions will consist of multiple choice, short answer/fill in the blank, and vocabulary terms. The dates for each of the exams are:
 - Exam #1 (Chapters 1-4; 11-14) – June 5th
 - Exam #2- (Chapters 6-10, 15-17)- June 19th
2. One short (5-6 page) paper will be assigned during the course. The paper will be worth 100 points. The subject of the paper will be given during the 2nd week of class. The paper will be due on June 14, 2007.

Grading:

There will be a total of 500 points possible in the course. Grades will be determined on the total number of points earned. The grading breakdown will be:

A =	470-500	C =	370-384
A- =	450-469	C- =	350-369
B+ =	435-449	D+ =	335-349
B =	420-434	D =	320-334
B- =	400-419	D- =	300-319
C+ =	385-399	E =	0-299

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 Bountiful center's 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 my box in the Sandy center. Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated.

Course Outline:

Week 1- May 15th - Course Introduction, Democratic Values

Reading Assignment: Chapter 1- Freedom, Order or Equality?
Chapter 2- Majoritarian vs. Pluralist Democracy

Week 1- May 17th – The Constitution & Federalism

Reading Assignment: Chapter 3- The Constitution
Chapter 4- Federalism

Week 2- May 22nd – The Congress

Reading Assignment: Chapter 11- The Congress
Article I of the U.S. Constitution (Appendix)

Week 2- May 24th - The Presidency and The Bureaucracy

Reading Assignment: Chapter 12- The Presidency
Chapter 13- The Bureaucracy
Article II of the U.S. Constitution (Appendix)

Week 3- May 29th - The Courts

Reading Assignment: Chapter 14- The Courts
Article III of the U.S. Constitution (Appendix)

Week 3- May 31st – The Media, Participation and Voting, and Political Parties

Reading Assignment: Chapter 6- The Media
Chapter 7- Participation and Voting

Week 4- June 5th – Exam #1

Exam #1 (Ch's 1-4, 11-14)

Week 4- June 7th – Political Parties, Nominations, Elections, and Campaigns

Reading Assignment: Chapter 8- Political Parties
Chapter 9- Nominations, Elections & Campaigns
Chapter 10- Interest Groups

Week 5- June 12th – Order and Civil Liberties, Equality and Civil Rights

Reading Assignment: Chapter 15- Order and Civil Liberties
Chapter 16- Equality and Civil Rights

Week 5- June 14th – Equality and Civil Rights (cont.), Policymaking Paper Due

Reading Assignment: Chapter 16- Equality and Civil Rights
Chapter 17- Policymaking

Week 6- June 19th – Exam #2

Exam #2 (Ch's 6-10, 15-17)

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.