

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 1100-089/090
AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
ONLINE COURSE
SPRING SEMESTER 2006**

INSTRUCTOR: SAMANTHA WOOLSEY, swoolsey@ditell.com.

1. Having taught this course several times, I have learned it is imperative you know and understand the following:

- A. NO LATE WORK IS ACCEPTED. You must begin your work in this class the first day of the semester. Many students put off beginning their work for a week or two only to discover they have already missed assigned work.**
- B. If you have never taken an online course, I suggest you explore the online student forum found on the WebCT page after logging on. It provides an orientation for new students. Knowledge of how this software operates is essential. You must become familiar with the WebCT software before beginning this course and you must be sure your computer can function with this software. If you wait for two or three weeks, you will already be behind and your grade will have suffered greatly.**
- C. The quizzes and assignments become available on specific dates and are due on specific dates. Again, no late work is accepted.**
- D. The bulletin board function of this course is a very important part of your grade. Like all assigned work, due dates for the mandatory and response postings will be strictly adhered to. Make sure you post your mandatory and response postings under the designated lesson. You can find a complete description of my posting expectations under “Participation” in this syllabus.**
- E. Your scores – The quizzes are graded automatically in the WebCt program and your scores are available immediately.**

I will read and grade each of your essays. The numerical scores are available by clicking the “Student Profile” icon on the home page and then clicking “my grades.” I will also post comments concerning your essays. In order to view those comments, and thereby better understand course expectations, follow the following steps:

- a) Click on the Student Profile icon**
- b) Click on Assignments and Quizzes Access Information**

- c) **Click on Assignment and Quizzes Access Information (that step comes up twice)**
- d) **On the far right of the Action Menu you will see the word “quiz.” Click on it.**
- e) **Find the assignment desired, on the far right click “completed.”**
- f) **Your assignment and score will be displayed. Click on the number in the number column and you will see your score and my comments.**

You will also receive scores for your participation on the bulletin board. I will respond privately to each mandatory and responsive post you make. In my reply I will include your score for that particular post. Be sure to check the “Mail” icon on your home page. That is how I will communicate with you privately.

- F. **The final exam consists of 100 questions taken directly from the quizzes. I strongly suggest you download and save a copy of each the quiz as it becomes available. You will then automatically have a study guide for the final. I will not be able to make the quizzes available after their due date.**

2. 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 the 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.

Course Description

For many of you this will be a new and exciting learning experience. Communication between the instructor and individual student and communication between students will be far greater than in a normal classroom setting. Your success in this course will be directly related to your willingness to participate in the discussions and your self-motivation to “get the job done.”

The goals of this course will be the same as those in a normal classroom setting. First, this course is meant to broaden and deepen our knowledge of politics in the United States. We will accomplish this through the study of the Constitution, the institutions, which comprise contemporary American governments, and the organizations which connect American citizens to their government. Second, as a political scientist, I am especially interested in reexamining that which you have learned before about American

government, perhaps questioning the validity of those teachings, and hopefully recreating a more realistic and educated view of American government and politics.

I am looking forward to a lively, academic discussion of American government and the politics that surround us.

Texts

Janda, Kenneth, Jeffrey M. Berry and Jerry Goldman 2005. *The Challenge of Democracy*. Houghton Mifflin. ISBN 0-618-56274-5

Miroff, Bruce, Raymond Seidelman, and Todd Swanstrom 2005. *Debating Democracy*. Houghton Mifflin. ISBN 0-618-43766-5.

On Electronic Reserve: Parenti, Michael. *Democracy for the Few (7th Edition)* Wadsworth. ISBN 0-312-39250-8. Chapters 2 and 5.

Course Requirements

1. Assignments:

There are six assignments, each consisting of one three-four page essay. Due dates are on the calendar and in the body of this syllabus. Each assignment/essay is worth 50 points.

Total points for assignments = 300 points (30% of your grade)

Assignments may be turned in anytime after they are available; however, absolutely no late assignments will be accepted.

2. Quizzes:

There are 10 quizzes; each has 20 questions at 1 point per question.

Total points for quizzes = 200 points (20% of your grade)

Due dates are on the calendar and in the body of this syllabus.

Quizzes may be taken anytime after they are available but will not be accepted after the due date.

There are no time limits on the quizzes. You may take as long as you like to complete each quiz; however, your first submission will be your score. After you have received your score you may take the quiz multiple times to ascertain the correct answers.

3. Final Exam:

On your home page you will see an icon to register for the final exam. Click on it and follow the instructions.

You must register to take the final!!!

The final exam will consist of 100 multiple-choice questions, which will be taken from the quizzes. Each question is worth 3 points.

Total points for final = 300 points (30% of your grade)

Please note the final exam will be taken at a designated site in person and on campus. Those of you who are not in the Salt Lake area must make special arrangements with the TAC center. **Everyone must register with TAC to take the exam two weeks prior to the exam date.**

Because the final exam is taken from the quizzes, you should download the quizzes and print them as they become available. You will then be able to study for the final exam throughout the semester.

4. *Participation:*

The course is divided into six sections. As you prepare the assignments and prepare to take the quizzes, each student is required to participate in the online discussions that pertain to the specific section. You are encouraged to participate as much as you like; however, you are **required** to participate at least **twice** per section. The first **mandatory** posting will be in response to my first posting. Your second **responsive** posting is in response to the posting(s) of another student(s). Your success in this course will most definitely be determined by your participation in the online discussions. Through these discussions you will share ideas, which will help you, formulate academic responses to the assignments.

Your postings should use class material, current events and personal opinion. A high quality mandatory posting will contain a cogent argument, address every section of the question, contain obvious reference to material in both texts, and will have spelling and grammar checked. A brief paragraph will be insufficient. A high quality response posting will be slightly shorter in length, will reference material in at least one text, and will otherwise adhere to the mandatory posting criteria. Responses should identify the person to whom the response is addressed. One or two sentences will be insufficient. Each posting will be worth 16.5 points and each student will receive 2 participation points automatically.

Total points for participation = 200 points (20% of your grade)

Total points possible for entire course = 1,000
Your grade will be determined on a percentage basis. For example, if you earn 850 of the 1000 points, your grade will be 85% or a B.

Course Outline

Lesson One: Dilemmas of Democracy

Readings:

From *The Challenge of Democracy*, Chapter 1: Freedom, Order or Equality? and Chapter 2: Majoritarian or Pluralist Democracy?

From *Debating Democracy*, Chapter 2: Democracy: Overrated or Undervalued? and Chapter 5: Political Economy: How Democratic is the Free Market Economy?

Important dates:

January 9 th	Quiz 1 and Assignment 1 Available
January 13 th	Mandatory Posting 1 Due
January 19 th	Quiz 1 Due, Quiz 2 Available
January 23 rd	Responsive Posting 1 Due
January 25 th	Assignment 1 Due, Assignment 2 Available

Lesson Two: Foundations of American Government

Readings:

From *The Challenge of Democracy*, Chapter 3: The Constitution and Chapter 4: Federalism

From *Debating Democracy*, Chapter 1: The Founding: Debating the Constitution and Chapter 3: The New Federalism: Does it Create New Laboratories of Democracy or a Race to the Bottom?

Important dates:

January 30 th	Mandatory Posting 2 Due
February 3 rd	Quiz 2 due, Quizzes 3a, 3b, and 3c Available
February 6 th	Responsive Posting 2 Due
February 10 th	Assignment 2 Due, Assignment 3 Available

Lesson Three: Linking People With Government

Readings:

From *The Challenge of Democracy*, Chapter 5: Public Opinion and Political Socialization; Chapter 6: The Media; Chapter 7: Participation and Voting; Chapter 8: Political Parties; Chapter 9: Nomination, Elections and Campaigns and Chapter 10: Interest Groups

From *Debating Democracy*, Chapter 4: Civil Society: Does America Face a Crisis in Civic Engagement?; Chapter 9: The New Media and the Internet: Corporate Wasteland or Democratic Frontier?; Chapter 10: Political Parties and Elections: Are Voters United or Divided?; and Chapter 11: Campaigns and Elections: Organized Money Versus (Dis)Organized People?

Important dates:

February 17 th	Mandatory Posting 3 Due
February 24 th	Quizzes 3a, 3b, and 3c Due, Quizzes 4a and 4b Available
March 1 st	Responsive Posting 3 Due
March 3 rd	Assignment 3 Due, Assignment 4 Available

Lesson Four: Institutions of Government

Readings:

From *The Challenge of Democracy*, Chapter 11: Congress; Chapter 12: The Presidency; Chapter 13: The Bureaucracy and Chapter 14: The Courts

From *Debating Democracy*, Chapter 13: Congress: Can It Serve the Public Good?; Chapter 14: The Presidency: How Much Difference Does the Individual Make?; and Chapter 15: The Judiciary: What Should Its Role Be in a democracy?

Important dates:

March 8 th	Mandatory Posting 4 Due
March 20 th	Quizzes 4a and 4b Due, Quiz 5 Available.
March 22 nd	Responsive Posting 4 Due
March 24 th	Assignment 4 Due, Assignment 5 Available

Lesson Five: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Readings:

From *The Challenge of Democracy*, Chapter 15: Order and Civil Liberties and Chapter 16: Equality and Civil Rights

From *Debating Democracy*, Chapter 6: Civil Liberties and War: Debating the USA Patriot Act and Chapter 7: Civil Rights: How Far Have We Progressed?

Important dates:

March 30 th	Mandatory Posting 5 Due
April 3 rd	Quiz 5 Due, Quizzes 6a and 6b Available
April 6 th	Responsive Posting 5 Due
April 10 th	Assignment 5 Due, Assignment 6 Available

Lesson Six: Making Policy

Readings:

From *The Challenge of Democracy*, Chapter 17: Policymaking; Chapter 18: Economic Policy; Chapter 19: Domestic Policy and Chapter 20: Global Policy

On Electronic Reserve from *Democracy for the Few*, Chapter 2: Wealth and Want in the United States; Chapter 5: The Rise of the Corporate State

From *Debating Democracy*, Chapter 16: Economic Inequality: A Threat to Democracy?

Important dates:

April 14th

April 19th

April 21st

April 25th

Mandatory Posting 6 Due

Quizzes 6a and 6b Due

Responsive Posting 6 Due

Assignment 6 Due

**APRIL 28th IS THE FINAL EXAM!!!!
REMEMBER YOU MUST REGISTER TO TAKE THE
FINAL.**