

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 1100-089**  
**AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT**  
**ONLINE COURSE**  
**SPRING SEMESTER 2008**

**INSTRUCTOR: SAMANTHA WOOLSEY, [swoolsey@ditell.com](mailto:swoolsey@ditell.com).**

1. *Welcome to Class!* Having taught this course several times, I have learned it is very important for everyone to know and understand the following rules for the course:

- 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 so 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 should become familiar with the WebCT software before beginning this course and you must be sure your computer can function with this software.
- C. The quizzes and assignments become available on specific dates and are due on specific dates. Please refer to the **syllabus or calendar** to determine due 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 initial and response postings will be strictly adhered to. Make sure to post your mandatory initial and response postings under the designated lesson on the bulletin board. 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 on "My Grades" in the "My Tools" area on the left. I will also provide comments. In order to view those comments, click on "Assignments" in the "Course Tools" area and then click on submitted assignments.

You will also receive scores for your participation on the bulletin board. The numerical scores are available by clicking on "My Grades" in the "My Tools" area on the left. I will also provide comments privately to

each mandatory and responsive post via email. Be sure to check the “Mail” icon in the “Course Tools” area on the left. 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.

3. The best way to contact me is via webct email. My other email address is noted at the top of the syllabus, but it should only be used if the webct email system is not available. Usually, most inquiries can be addressed via email. However, if you would like to set up a telephone conversation, please provide me with your phone number and the best time to reach you. This will enable me to have all of the materials relating to your inquiry in front of me when we talk.

### **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, and hopefully creating a more realistic and informed 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 0-618-81017-X

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 (7<sup>th</sup> 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. Your **initial mandatory** posting will be in response to a question that I post on the discussion board. Your second **responsive** posting is in response to the posting(s) of another student(s). Your enjoyment of this course will most definitely be determined by your participation in the online discussions.

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 to advance and/or illustrate your argument, 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 7 <sup>th</sup>	Quiz 1 and Assignment 1 Available
January 14 <sup>th</sup>	Initial Mandatory Posting 1 Due
January 16 <sup>th</sup>	Response Posting 1 Due
January 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Quiz 1 Due, Quiz 2 Available
January 28 <sup>th</sup>	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:

February 4 <sup>th</sup>	Initial Mandatory Posting 2 Due
February 6 <sup>th</sup>	Response Posting 2 Due
February 11 <sup>th</sup>	Quiz 2 due, Quizzes 3a, 3b, and 3c Available
February 13 <sup>th</sup>	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 20 <sup>th</sup>	Initial Mandatory Posting 3 Due
February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Response Posting 3 Due
February 29 <sup>th</sup>	Quizzes 3a, 3b, and 3c Due, Quizzes 4a and 4b

March 4<sup>th</sup> Available  
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 10 <sup>th</sup>	Initial Mandatory Posting 4 Due
March 12 <sup>th</sup>	Response Posting 4 Due
March 24 <sup>th</sup>	Quizzes 4a and 4b Due, Quiz 5 Available
March 26 <sup>th</sup>	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:

April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Initial Mandatory Posting 5 Due
April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Response Posting 5 Due
April 9 <sup>th</sup>	Quiz 5 Due, Quizzes 6a and 6b Available
April 11 <sup>th</sup>	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 16 <sup>th</sup>	Initial Mandatory Posting 6 Due
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April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Response Posting 6 Due
April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Quizzes 6a and 6b Due
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Assignment 6 Due
April 28 <sup>th</sup>	Final Exam

**FINAL EXAM ON APRIL 28<sup>th</sup>  
REMEMBER YOU MUST TAKE THE FINAL AND YOU  
MUST REGISTER AT LEAST TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE  
TO TAKE THE FINAL.**