

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 1100-090
AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
ONLINE COURSE
SUMMER SEMESTER 2005**

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THE FOLLOWING POINTS ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.

- 1. Please use the above email address to communicate with me personally. I check it much more often than the email function in the WebCT program.**

- 2. Having taught this course several times I have learned it is imperative you know and understand the following:**
 - A. 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 quizzes and assignments.**

 - B. If you have never taken an online course, I suggest you explore the ONLINE COURSE STUDENT ORIENTATION found on the WebCT page after logging on. 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.**

 - C. ABSOLUTELY no late assignments or quizzes will be accepted!! The quizzes and assignments become available on specific dates and are due on specific dates. In order to make the due dates more simple I have made all quizzes due on Fridays; all assignments due on Wednesdays (EXCEPT ASSIGNMENT 6 WHICH IS DUE ON A MONDAY; all mandatory posts due on Tuesdays; and all responsive posts due on Thursdays. Assignments or quizzes sent via email will not be accepted. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO SUBMIT YOUR QUIZZES OR ASSIGNMENTS!!! POWER FAILURES AND COMPUTER FAILURES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AS EXCUSES. ABSOLUTELY NO LATE QUIZZES OR ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED!!!! I AM A POLITICAL SCIENCE INSTRUCTOR NOT A COMPUTER EXPERT!!! COMPUTER PROBLEMS ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!!!**

- D. The bulletin board function of this course is a very important part of your grade. 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. If you post them on the main board, they might be overlooked.
- 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 what I expect, 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 (yes, 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. (A full explanation is in a later part of this syllabus.) I will respond privately to each mandatory and responsive post you make. In my reply I will include your score for that particular post. PLEASE 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 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. **IF YOU DO NOT DOWNLOAD AND MAKE COPIES OF THE QUIZZES WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE, THEY WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE AFTER THE DUE DATE; THEREFORE YOU WILL NOT HAVE THEM TO STUDY FOR THE FINAL.**

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.

Text

Janda, Kenneth, Jeffrey M. Berry and Jerry Goldman 2005. *The Challenge of Democracy (8th Edition)*. Houghton Mifflin. ISBN 0-618-56274-5

Diclerico, Robert E., and Allan S. Hammock 2004. *Points of View (9th Edition)*. McGraw Hill. ISBN 0-07-281739-9

Course Requirements

1. Assignments:

There are six assignments consisting of two essay questions each. Due dates are on the calendar and in the body of this syllabus and will always be on a Wednesday except assignment 6 which is due on a Monday. Each essay is worth 25 points therefore each assignment 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 and will always be on a Friday.

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. I suggest you download the quiz, print it off, answer the quiz questions while reading the chapter or chapters, then go back into WebCT and officially take the quiz. This is not cheating!!

As I mentioned before, the final exam is taken directly from the quizzes; therefore, be certain to keep copies of the quizzes with the correct answers because they will NOT be available after the due date.

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** post is in response to the posting(s) of another student(s). PLEASE NOTE MANDATORY POSTS ARE DUE ON TUESDAYS AND RESPONSIVE POSTS ARE DUE ON THURSDAYS. NO LATE POSTINGS WILL BE READ. 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 be understandable. You should use your readings as well as personal opinion in your responses. Your response, though not formal, should be meaningful and add to the discussion. One or two sentences or a brief paragraph is **not** a meaningful response.

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 *Points of View*, Chapter 1: Democracy.

Important dates:

May 16	Quiz 1 and Assignment 1 available
May 20	Quiz 1 due Quiz 2 available
May 24	Lesson 1 Mandatory post due
May 25	Assignment 1 Due, Assignment 2 Available
May 26	Lesson 1 Responsive post due

Lesson Two: Foundations of American Government

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

From *Points of View*: Chapter 2: The Constitution and Chapter 3: Federalism

Important dates:

May 31	Lesson 2 Mandatory post due
June 2	Lesson 2 Responsive post due
June 3	Quiz 2 due, Quizzes 3a, 3b, and 3c available
June 8	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 *Points of View*, Chapter 4: Public Opinion; Chapter 5: Voting; Chapter 6: Campaigns and the Media; Chapter 7: Elections; Chapter 8: Political Parties; Chapter 9: Interest Groups

Important dates:

June 14	Lesson 3 Mandatory post due
June 16	Lesson 3 Responsive post due
June 17	Quizzes 3a, 3b, and 3c due, Quizzes 4a and 4b available.
June 22	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 *Points of View*: Chapter 10: Congress; Chapter 11: The Presidency; Chapter 12: Bureaucracy; Chapter 13: Courts

Important dates:

June 28	Lesson 4 Mandatory post due
June 30	Lesson 4 Responsive post due
July 4	Quizzes 4a and 4b due, Quiz 5 available
July 6	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 *Points of View*: Chapter 14: Civil Liberties; Chapter 15: Civil Rights

Important dates:

July 12	Lesson 5 Mandatory post due
July 14	Lesson 5 Responsive post due
July 15	Quiz 5 due, Quizzes 6a and b available
July 20	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

Important dates:

July 26	Lesson 6 Combined Mandatory and Responsive Post due
July 29	Quizzes 6a and 6b due

August 1

Assignment 6 due

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3RD --- FINAL EXAM!!!!
REMEMBER YOU MUST REGISTER TO TAKE THE
FINAL.