

AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

POLS 1100-90,91

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

FALL 2007

Instructor: Stephen L. Nelson, J.D., Ph.D.(A.B.D.)

Email: slnlaw@yahoo.com (you can also contact me via WebCT).

Office Hours : By appointment only.

If you want to make an appointment, please send me an email with a list of times you are available to meet. If you would like to speak with me over the telephone, send me an email with your phone number and a list of times you are available to speak with me.

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the study of American governments, including its central themes, institutions, and controversies. While this is an on-line course, the course goals will be the same as if we were in a normal classroom setting. At the end of this course you should: have a broader knowledge of politics in the United States and a deeper understanding of what external and internal influences shape and inform our government.

About this Course:

Because this is an on-line course, with no weekly class meetings, your ability to be self-motivated and participate in class discussions (through on-line postings) will be critical to your ability to be successful in the class.

Each week (with the exception of the midterm week – Week 8), you will have two primary responsibilities: (1) to read a chapter in the Greenberg and Page text and take a quiz on that chapter; and (2) to read a chapter (or a series of chapters) in one of the Alderman and Kennedy books and make two posts on the discussion board – one initial post of your own, and one post in response to another student’s initial posting.

Accommodation Notice :

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.

Course Requirements :

A. Quizzes:

There are 14 quizzes (one for every week except Week 8). Each quiz has 20 questions (multiple choice and true/false). The quiz becomes available at the beginning of each week and is due before the next week begins. Quizzes may be taken any time after they become available, but will not be accepted after the due date. You will have two hours to

complete the quiz once you start it. Your first submission will be your score on the quiz, but you make take the quiz multiple times to ascertain the correct answers. Each question is worth 2 points. Quiz scores are worth 25% of your final grade.

B. Discussion Posting:

At the beginning of each week, I will post a question on the discussion board that relates to the week's reading in the Alderman and Kennedy books. During the week, you will be required to make at least two postings: (1) an initial posting in response to my question; and (2) a posting in response to the posting of another student. Each of these postings must be made prior to the beginning of the next week when I will pose a new question to the next reading assignment for your response.

I have decided to make your mandatory posting due each Friday. This requirement will ensure that you have plenty of response options over the weekend when it comes to posting a response. Of course, you can post your initial posting prior to Friday, and you can respond prior to Friday as well. Once again, this requirement is just to ensure that we don't have a large number of double postings during the last couple of hours in the week. The due dates for postings are described below in the weekly assignments portion of this syllabus.

When you post something on the discussion board, you should try to use class material (if possible), current events (if possible), and inject your personal opinion. A high quality mandatory posting will not necessarily be multiple paragraphs in length (but should be at least 4-5 sentences), but will contain a cogent argument which responds directly to the question asked and does not contain spelling or grammatical errors. A high quality posting in response to another students posting may be slightly shorter in length than the initial posting, but should still contain a cogent argument and correct spelling and grammar.

Each posting is worth up to 3 points (in other words, you could receive less than 3 points if your posting does not conform to the criteria above). This section of the course is worth 25% of your final grade.

Although I want to use this portion of the class to foster a healthy and vigorous debate between students, I reserve the right to delete any posting I choose. I will delete a posting if it is unreasonably derogatory towards another student. Otherwise, the posting board will be fair game. If I delete your posting, you will not receive credit for it. In short, don't refrain from engaging each other, but please make every effort to be respectful.

Midterm Essay:

As you will see below, you will not have any reading assignment for Week 8. Instead, prior to the beginning of Week 8, I will post an essay question to which you will need to respond by the end of Week 8. This essay assignment will serve as your midterm examination. You will be required to write between 3 and 5 pages, and will receive more specific direction prior to Week 8. This assignment will be graded on a point scale of 0-100 and be worth 20% of your final grade.

Final Examination:

The final exam will be taken on campus at a designated site. Those of you who are not in the area to take the exam on campus must make special arrangements through the TAC

center. EVERYONE MUST REGISTER WITH THE TACE TO TAKE THE EXAM AT LEAST TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE EXAM DATE. On your home page, you will see an icon to register for the final exam. Click on the icon and follow the instructions.

The final exam consists of 100 multiple choice and true/false questions, each of which will be taken from the quizzes. The questions will be worth 3 points each, and the final exam will be worth 30% of your final grade.

The Texts:

Edward S. Greenberg and Benjamin L. Page, America's DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (2ND ED), (2007)
Ellen Alderman and Caroline Kennedy, IN OUR DEFENSE: THE BILL OF RIGHTS IN ACTION (1991)
Ellen Alderman and Caroline Kennedy, THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY (1995)

First of all, in selecting the texts for this course, I made every effort to minimize your personal costs. These books are not only inexpensive, they are easy to read and very understandable. The Alderman and Kennedy books, in particular, "read like a novel" and should be fairly enjoyable to read during this semester.

The Course:

Week 1: August 20, 2007 – August 26, 2007

Reading assignment and quiz: Greenberg and Page, Chapter 1

Quiz available: 12:01 a.m., August 20, 2007

Quiz due: 11:59 p.m., August 26, 2007

Reading assignment and discussion post: Alderman and Kennedy, IN OUR DEFENSE, 21-88

Discussion Thread available: August 20, 2007

Mandatory posting due: 11:59 p.m., August 24, 2007

Response posting due: 11:59 p.m., August 26, 2007

Week 2: August 27, 2007 - September 2, 2007

Reading assignment and quiz: Greenberg and Page, Chapter 2

Quiz available: 12:01 a.m., August 27, 2007

Quiz due: 11:59 p.m., September 2, 2007

Reading assignment and discussion post: Alderman and Kennedy, IN OUR DEFENSE, 89-111

Discussion Thread available: August 27, 2007

Mandatory posting due: 11:59 p.m., August 31, 2007

Response posting due: 11:59 p.m., September 2, 2007

Week 3: September 3, 2007 – September 9, 2007

Reading assignment and quiz: Greenberg and Page, Chapter 3

Quiz available: 12:01 a.m., September 3, 2007

Quiz due: 11:59 p.m., September 9, 2007
Reading assignment and discussion post: Alderman and Kennedy, IN OUR DEFENSE, 113-144
Discussion Thread available: September 3, 2007
Mandatory posting due: 11:59 p.m., September 7, 2007
Response posting due: 11:59 p.m., September 9, 2007

Week 4: September 10, 2007 – September 16, 2007

Reading assignment and quiz: Greenberg and Page, Chapter 6
Quiz available: 12:01 a.m., September 10, 2007
Quiz due: 11:59 p.m., September 16, 2007
Reading assignment and discussion post: Alderman and Kennedy, IN OUR DEFENSE, 145-205
Discussion Thread available: September 10, 2007
Mandatory posting due: 11:59 p.m., September 14, 2007
Response posting due: 11:59 p.m., September 16, 2007

Week 5: September 17, 2007 – September 23, 2007

Reading assignment and quiz: Greenberg and Page, Chapter 7
Quiz available: 12:01 a.m., September 17, 2007
Quiz due: 11:59 p.m., September 23, 2007
Reading assignment and discussion post: Alderman and Kennedy, IN OUR DEFENSE, 207-272
Discussion Thread available: September 17, 2007
Mandatory posting due: 11:59 p.m., September 21, 2007
Response posting due: 11:59 p.m., September 23, 2007

Week 6: September 24, 2007 – September 30, 2007

Reading assignment and quiz: Greenberg and Page, Chapter 8
Quiz available: 12:01 a.m., September 24, 2007
Quiz due: 11:59 p.m., September 30, 2007
Reading assignment and discussion post: Alderman and Kennedy, IN OUR DEFENSE, 273-281
Discussion Thread available: September 24, 2007
Mandatory posting due: 11:59 p.m., September 28, 2007
Response posting due: 11:59 p.m., September 30, 2007

Week 7: October 1, 2007 – October 7, 2007

Reading assignment and quiz: Greenberg and Page, Chapter 9
Quiz available: 12:01 a.m., October 1, 2007
Quiz due: 11:59 p.m., October 7, 2007
Reading assignment and discussion post: Alderman and Kennedy, IN OUR DEFENSE, 283-311
Discussion Thread available: October 1, 2007
Mandatory posting due: 11:59 p.m., October 5, 2007
Response posting due: 11:59 p.m., October 7, 2007

Week 8: October 8, 2007 – October 14, 2007

No reading assignments

Complete Midterm essay – must be submitted by 11:59 p.m., October 14, 2007

Week 9: October 15, 2007 – October 21, 2007

Reading assignment and quiz: Greenberg and Page, Chapter 10

Quiz available: 12:01 a.m., October 15, 2007

Quiz due: 11:59 p.m., October 21, 2007

Reading assignment and discussion post: Alderman and Kennedy, IN OUR DEFENSE, 313-335

Discussion Thread available: October 15, 2007

Mandatory posting due: 11:59 p.m., October 19, 2007

Response posting due: 11:59 p.m., October 21, 2007

Week 10: October 22, 2007 – October 28, 2007

Reading assignment and quiz: Greenberg and Page, Chapter 11

Quiz available: 12:01 a.m., October 22, 2007

Quiz due: 11:59 p.m., October 28, 2007

Reading assignment and discussion post: Alderman and Kennedy, THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY, 3-49

Discussion Thread available: October 22, 2007

Mandatory posting due: 11:59 p.m., October 26, 2007

Response posting due: 11:59 p.m., October 28, 2007

Week 11: October 29, 2007 – November 4, 2007

Reading assignment and quiz: Greenberg and Page, Chapter 12

Quiz available: 12:01 a.m., October 29, 2007

Quiz due: 11:59 p.m., November 4, 2007

Reading assignment and discussion post: Alderman and Kennedy, THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY, 53-147

Discussion Thread available: October 29, 2007

Mandatory posting due: 11:59 p.m., November 2, 2007

Response posting due: 11:59 p.m., November 4, 2007

Week 12: November 5, 2007 – November 11, 2007

Reading assignment and quiz: Greenberg and Page, Chapter 13

Quiz available: 12:01 a.m., November 5, 2007

Quiz due: 11:59 p.m., November 11, 2007

Reading assignment and discussion post: Alderman and Kennedy, THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY, 151-222

Discussion Thread available: November 5, 2007

Mandatory posting due: 11:59 p.m., November 9, 2007

Response posting due: 11:59 p.m., November 11, 2007

Week 13: November 12, 2007 – November 18, 2007

Reading assignment and quiz: Greenberg and Page, Chapter 14

Quiz available: 12:01 a.m., November 12, 2007

Quiz due: 11:59 p.m., November 18, 2007

Reading assignment and discussion post: Alderman and Kennedy, THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY, 225-272

Discussion Thread available: November 12, 2007

Mandatory posting due: 11:59 p.m., November 16, 2007

Response posting due: 11:59 p.m., November 18, 2007

Week 14: November 19, 2007 – November 25, 2007

Reading assignment and quiz: Greenberg and Page, Chapter 15

Quiz available: 12:01 a.m., November 19, 2007

Quiz due: 11:59 p.m., November 25, 2007

Reading assignment and discussion post: Alderman and Kennedy, THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY, 273-320

Discussion Thread available: November 19, 2007

Mandatory posting due: 11:59 p.m., November 23, 2007

Response posting due: 11:59 p.m., November 25, 2007

Week 15: November 26, 2007 – December 2, 2007

Reading assignment and quiz: Greenberg and Page, Chapter 16

Quiz available: 12:01 a.m., November 26, 2007

Quiz due: 11:59 p.m., December 2, 2007

Reading assignment and discussion post: Alderman and Kennedy, THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY, 321-341

Discussion Thread available: November 26, 2007

Mandatory posting due: 11:59 p.m., November 29, 2007

Response posting due: 11:59 p.m., December 2, 2007

Final Exam

Please register for final exam on-line through TAC (see course home page)

Final Note:

Steve reserves the right to alter this syllabus at any time for any reason.