
**Political Science 101:
Introduction to American Government
Spring 2006**

Instructor:

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Office: BSB 1170A
Office Hour: Thursday 11:00-3:30

Course Information:

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:30 – 10:45
BSB 1171 / BSB 4133
CRN: 23670 & 23671

Course Requirements

Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy (12th Ed)
George C. Edwards III, Martin P. Wattenberg, & Robert L. Lineberry
MyPoliSciLab Student Starter Kit
You will also need to bring headphones for the computers in the lab.

Attendance, Participation & In-Class Activities (140 points)

- Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. If you are late to class, it is your responsibility to let me know you are present – failure to do so will result in an absence.
- If you are more than 10 min. late to class, you will be deducted ½ of your attendance/participation points for that day.
- Three to five unexcused absences will lower your final grade by a full letter grade; six or more absence will result in a failing grade for the course.
- Participation points will also be deducted if students do not participate in class assignments and activities – regardless of attendance record.
- In order to obtain the attendance/participation points, you must attend all classes and be an active participant in class activities.

Exams: (300 points)

- Three Exams: non-comprehensive; 100 points each
- Format: 25 multiple choice (2 points each), 2 short essay questions (25 points each)
- You must attend the review sessions for exam information and study guides. Do not e-mail me asking me about the exam if you decide to skip class the day of review!
- I will not administer makeup exams except in cases of **documented serious emergencies**. "Serious emergency" include being hospitalized for illness or injury at the time the exam was being administered, but not for being home with the flu or a cold. "Documented" means written proof, such as a letter from a physician in the case of medical emergencies.
- If you know before an exam that you cannot make it on the scheduled date (i.e. court date, military duty, or university sports event- for athletes only), see me and you may be allowed to take the exam early, but you will not be allowed to take the exam after the scheduled date for any reason that you knew about before the exam. Documentation is still required.

Media Journals (60 points):

- 3 Ring Binder or Folder, or Spiral Notebook
- Entries do **not** have to be typed – However, if I cannot read your handwriting & the presentation is sloppy – points will be deducted
- For your weekly entries, try to compare the way different media sources and/or reporters cover the same event during a day or week.
- Examine articles that deal with any aspect of American government. Feel free to include political cartoons if you wish.
- 3 “spot checks” will be offered during semester on the day of exam reviews.
- 15 weeks, 30 entries; 2 entries per week
- Begin with Week 2 (Sunday, January 15 to Saturday, January 21)
End with Week 16 (Sunday, April 23 to Saturday, April 29)

Journal Entry #1

Week 2 – Sunday, January 15 to Saturday, January 21, 2006

Source Date – January 20, 2006

Internet, Newspaper, or Magazine Source Information:

List title, date, and source. Articles must be included!

*** OR ***

Radio or Television Source Format:

Source Information (date, time, program, and description of event).

Description of Coverage:

Is the piece descriptive? Is it fair and balanced? Is it biased? How is it framed? Is the coverage positive or negative in its tone? **THIS IS NOT A SUMMARY BUT A CRITIQUE OF THE COVERAGE**

Reaction: Your reaction to event.

Overall Point Distribution (500 points total):

300 points – Exams

60 points – Media Journals

140 points – Attendance, Participation & In-Class Activities – You must be in class to get these points!

Grading Scale:

90-100% = A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

59% and lower = F

Schedule (May be subject to change with prior notice):

January 10	(T)	Course Overview & What are American Civic Values Simulation	
January 12	(Th)	Chapter 1. Introducing Government in America	
January 17	(T)	Chapter 2. The Constitution	Week 2:
January 19	(Th)	Chapter 3. Federalism	Begin Media Journals
January 24	(T)	Living Document Exercise / Case Studies	
January 26	(Th)	Chapter 4. Civil Liberties & Public Policy	
January 31	(T)	Chapter 5. Civil Rights & Public Policy	
February 2	(Th)	Exam Review	
February 7	(T)	Exam #1	
February 9	(Th)	Chapter 6. Public Opinion and Political Action	
February 14	(T)	Chapter 7. The Mass Media and the Political Agenda	
February 16	(Th)	Chapter 8. Political Parties	
February 21	(T)	Chapter 9. Nominations & Campaigns	
February 23	(Th)	Chapter 10. Elections & Voting Behavior	
February 28	(T)	Chapter 11. Interest Groups	
March 2	(Th)	Exam Review	
March 7	(T)	Exam #2	
March 9	(Th)	Interest Group Presentation – Preparation	
March 14	(T)	Interest Group Presentations	
March 16	(Th)	Interest Group Presentations	
March 21	(T)	Spring Break	
March 23	(Th)	Spring Break	
March 28	(T)	Chapter 12. Congress	
March 30	(Th)	Project Vote Smart	
April 04	(T)	Chapter 13. The Presidency	
April 06	(Th)	Presidency Video	
April 11	(T)	Chapter 15. The Federal Bureaucracy	
April 13	(Th)	Centralia Case Study & Bureaucracies that Work	
April 18	(T)	Chapter 16. The Federal Courts	
April 20	(Th)	MPSA Conference – No Class	
April 25	(T)	Chapter 18. Social Welfare Policymaking	Week 16:
April 27	(Th)	Exam Review	Last week of MJournals
May 2	(T)	Final Exam – 10:30 to 12:30 – Media Journal Due In case of Conflict: Course listed <i>first</i> has precedence (alpha order).	

Journal Entry # _____

Week _____ : _____

Source Date: _____

Source Information (Title, Date, Source):

Description of Coverage:

Reaction: