

UNITED STATES POLITICS: CURRENT PROBLEMS AND CONTROVERSIES

Political Science 111
Section 25574
Spring 2007 Semester

**Classroom: Behavioral Sciences Building, Room 1171
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00am to 12:15pm**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

DEPARTMENT: The Department of Political Science
University of Illinois at Chicago
1007 West Harrison Street
Chicago, Illinois 60607-7137
Telephone: (312) 996-3105
Facsimile: (312) 413-0440

INSTRUCTOR: Tige C. Johnson
Office: Behavioral Sciences Building Room 1170A
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12:15pm to 1:00pm and by appointment
Voicemail (312) 416-0312 (Instructor)
Facsimile: (312) 416-0312 (Instructor)
Email: conlawclass@yahoo.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

United States Politics: Current Problems and Controversies (POLS 111) seeks to analyze current political problems and controversies in the context of past and future public policies and the development of political institutions.

PREREQUISITE(S):

NONE.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Textbooks (Note - you must purchase the textbook, available at the UIC Student Bookstore [750 South Halsted], by the second week of class):

Rourke, John T. You Decide! 2007: Current Debates in American Politics. New York: AB Longman 2007.
(ISBN 0-321-43016-6).

Strunk, William and White, E.B. The Elements of Style. Fourth Edition. Massachusetts: AB Longman 2000.
(ISBN 0-205-30902-X).

Additional Course Materials will be distributed in advance of each class session as required.

Daily Newspapers and other sources

While this is not a current events course, you need to keep up with news about politics to understand examples we will discuss in class. Also, I will incorporate news reports and analyses as application questions in your final examination. I suggest that you regularly read the New York Times.

GRADING POLICY:

Class participation, the research paper and presentation, and the final exam collectively will test students' mastery of the course objectives according to the following performance standards:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Percentage Range</u>	<u>Standard of Review</u>
A	90-100	Excellent recall, comprehension, or application, defined as: no errors of fact <u>plus</u> inferences and interpretations that are solidly grounded in assigned readings and reflect an awareness of complexity.
B	80-89	Superior recall, comprehension, or application, defined as: a few errors of fact <u>plus</u> inferences and interpretations that are somewhat grounded in assigned readings, with a few significant omissions or misinterpretations, and some appreciation of complexity.
C	70-79	Average recall, comprehension, or application, defined as: a fair number of errors of fact <u>plus</u> a mixture of warranted and unwarranted, or correct and incorrect, inferences and interpretations of assigned readings along with minimal appreciation of complexity.
D	60-69	Below average recall, comprehension, or application, defined as: errors of fact outnumber correct responses, <u>plus</u> more unwarranted than warranted and more incorrect than correct inferences and interpretations, and a lack of appreciation of complexity.
F	< 60	Extremely poor recall, comprehension, or application, defined as: serious errors of fact, predominance of unwarranted and incorrect inferences and interpretations, and severe lack of appreciation of complexity.

COMPONENTS OF YOUR GRADE:

Your grade will be based on writing tasks that measure reading comprehension, analytical and critical thinking skills according to the performance standards described above. Your grade will have three components:

1. Class Participation and Attendance - **30%**
2. Research Paper and Presentation - **35%**
3. Final Examination - **35%**

DEADLINES AND PENALTIES FOR LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

To receive full credit, written assignments must be delivered to the Instructor on the date due. Assignments handed in any day after the due date will have twenty (20) points deducted from the earned grade. If you know you are going to miss a class with a due date, you may hand in your assignment early or you may E-mail the assignment to me or fax the assignment to me at the fax number noted above, on the due date prior to the time class is to commence (the facsimile copy will be automatically coded with the time and date the materials were delivered and the point deductions discussed above will apply equally to faxed and emailed materials).

ATTENDANCE, CLASS PREPARATION AND PARTICIPATION:

Students are expected to attend all classes; participation is expected and encouraged. Experience shows that there is a direct relationship between attendance and performance in this course. To comprehend the reading material for this course and to benefit from what we do in class, you must read assigned readings before coming to each class session.

IN ADDITION, IF YOU FAIL TO ATTEND ANY CLASS SESSION, A REQUIRED WRITTEN ELEMENT WILL BE SUBSTITUTED FOR THAT MISSED CLASS SESSION. FAILURE TO TIMELY COMPLETE THE WRITTEN ELEMENT WILL RESULT IN EXPONENTIAL DOUBLING OF THE LENGTH OF THE REQUIRED WRITTEN SUBSTITUTE ASSIGNMENT.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO POLICIES:

1. **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY.** UIC prohibits the following conduct: all forms of academic dishonesty including cheating, plagiarism, knowingly furnishing false information to the University, forgery, alteration, or fraudulent use of University documents, instruments or identification. For more information, please consult your student handbook.
2. **THE WRITING CENTER.** The UIC Writing Center, located at 100 Douglas Hall, offers weekly skills workshops, individual writing assistance, tutorial assistance, and reading skills improvement training. You are encouraged to use the UIC Writing Center as a resource.
3. **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.** Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Office of Disability Services (“ODS”). Please contact ODS at (312) 413-2183 (voice) or (312) 413-0123 (TTY).
4. THIS COURSE IS INTENDED FOR GENERAL EDUCATION PURPOSES ONLY. THE INFORMATION IS NOT INTENDED TO BE LEGAL ADVICE, NOR SHOULD IT BE USED AS SUCH.

DAILY COURSE SCHEDULE

- January 16, 2007** - Introduction to the Course; Review of Syllabus; Introduction to Professor and Classmates.
- January 18, 2007** - Debate 1 - The Constitution (assignment) – [You Decide!] pp. 2-14].
- January 23, 2007** - Debate 1 - The Constitution (DEBATE) – [You Decide!] pp. 2-14].
- January 25, 2007** - Debate 2 - Federalism (assignment) – [You Decide!] pp. 16-31].
- January 30, 2007** - Debate 2 - Federalism (DEBATE) – [You Decide!] pp. 16-31].
- February 1, 2007** - Debate 3 - Civil Rights (assignment) – [You Decide!] pp. 32-42].
TOPICS ASSIGNED FOR REPORT AND PRESENTATION.
- February 6, 2007** - Debate 3 - Civil Rights (DEBATE) – [You Decide!] pp. 32-42].
- February 8, 2007** - Debate 4 - Civil Liberties (assignment) – [You Decide!] pp. 44-59].
- February 13, 2007** - Debate 4 - Civil Liberties (DEBATE) – [You Decide!] pp. 44-59].
- February 15, 2007** - Debate 5 - American People/Political Culture (assignment) – [You Decide!] pp. 60-70].
- February 20, 2007** - Debate 5 - American People/Political Culture (DEBATE) – [You Decide!] pp. 60-70].
- February 22, 2007** - ***NO CLASS TODAY – PAPER PREPARATION.***
Thesis Statement emailed to Professor by Midnight tonight for credit.
- February 27, 2007** - Discussion of Topics assigned for Report and Presentation.
- March 1, 2007** - Debate 6 - Public Opinion/Participation (assignment) – [You Decide!] pp. 72-81].
- March 6, 2007** - Debate 6 - Public Opinion/Participation (DEBATE) – [You Decide!] pp. 72-81].

- March 8, 2007 -** Debate 12⁻ The Presidency (assignment) – [You Decide! pp. 184-197].
- March 13, 2007 -** Debate 12⁻ The Presidency (DEBATE) – [You Decide! pp. 184-197].
- March 15, 2007 -** Debate 17⁻ Criminal Justice Policy (assignment) – [You Decide! pp. 258-276].
- March 20, 2007 -** Debate 17⁻ Criminal Justice Policy (DEBATE) – [You Decide! pp. 258-276].
- March 22, 2007 -** ***RESEARCH PAPER DUE BY 11:30am TODAY.***
- March 27, 2007 -** NO CLASS SESSION – SPRING BREAK.
- March 29, 2007 -** NO CLASS SESSION – SPRING BREAK.
- April 3, 2007 -** Student Presentations (as assigned).
- April 5, 2007 -** Student Presentations (as assigned).
- April 10, 2007 -** Student Presentations (as assigned).
- April 12, 2007 -** Debate 18⁻ Education Policy (assignment) – [You Decide! pp. 278-291].
- April 17, 2007 -** Debate 18⁻ Education Policy (DEBATE) – [You Decide! pp. 278-291].
- April 19, 2007 -** Debate 19⁻ Foreign Policy (assignment) – [You Decide! pp. 292-309].
- April 24, 2007 -** Debate 19⁻ Foreign Policy (DEBATE) – [You Decide! pp. 292-309].
- April 26, 2007 -** **TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAMINATION DISTRIBUTED AND DISCUSSED.**
- May 1, 2007 -** NO CLASS SESSION.
- May 3, 2007 -** ***TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAMINATION DUE BY 11:30am TODAY.***

NOTE: *This is a tentative outline of the daily course schedule; the Instructor reserves the right to change this Daily Course Schedule as necessary to meet course objectives.*