

Introduction to American Government
Political Science 1101
Fall 2017
Class Meetings: MWF 9:05 – 9:55am
Instructor: Jeffrey M. Glas, PhD

Contact Information:

Office Hours: MW 1pm – 2pm

Office Location: 380A Baldwin Hall

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Course Prerequisites: None

I. Course Description:

This course is a college level introduction to American government. The primary goal of this course is introduce students to the scientific study of politics. To this end the course is designed to provide students with an historical and conceptual background of politics in the United State of America as well as a scientific perspective for understanding the relationships

II. Course Requirements and Graded Evaluation

(2.1) Required Text

Kernell, Samuel, et al. *The logic of American politics*, 8th edition. CQ Press, 2017.
ISBN: 9781506358666

(2.2) Exams

There will be three exams in this class. Each exam is worth 30% of your grade. (The exams together constitute 90% of your final grade)

(2.3) Assignments, Discussion, and Attendance

Learning is an active exercise. Students at all levels of learning and accomplishment benefit when they are actively engaged in class. I will assess your attendance and participation through weekly assignments/quizzes, group activities, and class discussions worth 10% of your final grade.

(2.4) Exam Schedule

First Midterm Exam	30%	September 20 th
Second Midterm Exam	30%	October 18 th
Final Exam	30%	December 8 th
Participation	10%	Weekly

(2.5) Grading

All grades (including final grades) will be assigned following the system depicted below:

A+	≥	98	C+	=	78
A	=	94-97	C	=	74
A-	=	90	C-	=	70
B+	=	88	D	=	60 – 69
B	=	84	F	≤	59
B-	=	80			

III. Course Schedule and Assignments¹

Week 1: The Logic of American Politics Week of August 14th

Read Chapter 1

Week 2: The Constitution Week of August 21st

Read Chapter 2

Week 3: Federalism Week of August 28th

Read Chapter 3

Week 4: Civil Rights Week of September 4th

Read Chapter 4

Monday, September 4th – No classes

Week 5: Civil Liberties Week of September 11th

Read Chapter 5

Week 6: Exam 1 Week of September 18th

Exam 1 – Wednesday, September 20th

Week 7: Congress Week of September 25th

Read Chapter 6

Week 8: Presidency Week of October 2nd

Read Chapter 7

¹ The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.

Week 9: Judiciary

Week of October 9th

Read Chapter 9

Week 10: Second Exam

Week of October 16th

Exam 2 – Wednesday, October 18th

Thursday, October 19th – Withdrawal Deadline

Week 11: Public Opinion

Week of October 23rd

Read Chapter 10

Friday, October 27th – Fall Break

Week 12: Voting, Campaigns, and Elections

Week of October 30th

Read Chapter 11

Week 13: Political Parties

Week of November 6th

Read Chapter 12

Week 14: Interest Groups

Week of November 13th

Read Chapter 13

Week 15:

Week of November 20th

No Classes – Thanksgiving Break

Week 16: The Media

Week of November 27th

Read Chapter 14

Last Week of Classes

Week 17: Exam Week

Week of December 4th

Exam 3 – Friday, December 8th @ 8:00am