American National Government
Pos 2041 - Summer

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Office Hours 8:45-9:45 A.M., Mon. - Wed.

This course is designed to familiarize the student with the basic political processes in the United States. We will be exploring the meaning of democracy and the workings of our institutions of government as they were designed and as they exist today. We will also focus our attention on the concept of "power" - what it means, who has it, who doesn't and what its implications are.

Course objectives:

1. To provide an historical and substantive understanding of the American political system.
2. To teach students how to separate fact from opinion, how to evaluate opinions (some are more valid than others), and how to differentiate between what was, what is, and what ought to be.
3. To provide assistance in teaching students **how** not **what** to think.
4. To help students understand the competing interests a diversity in our society in order to enable them to participate in a more aware and rational manner in future decision making.

As members of a global community, this course is designed to assist students to become critical thinkers, to respect and understand diversity, and to understand the importance of becoming life-long learners. The world is changing dramatically, and it is critical that if nothing else, graduates of universities understand this and develop the ability to think, question, and be able to find solutions to both old and new problems for our society.

Please Read: Important!!!

My teaching style is not for everyone. If you can't take hand written notes and listen at the same time, if you expect me to just teach "to the test" so you can just memorize "stuff", get through the class with a decent grade and not learn anything, this course is NOT for you. I lecture, discuss current events and history, give examples and further information on how and what you are reading and listening to in class applies to the real world.

This is a University course - not High School. You are adults and I will treat you as such. Education is Learning= Learning is Understanding!

E-mail use does not mean I am available for "office hours" 24-7! I check at least once a day usually in the morning (except on weekends), but I don't sit at my computer all day for immediate responses. (Please don't e-mail me at 11 PM Friday and expect a fast response)

Please remember this is a short semester, so stay on top of the reading and studying. You will understand lecture and discussion much better if the text is read prior to of class discussion. The further ahead you read, the better off you will be. **Read** the text before coming to class.

It is *essential* (as in – you must) for you to contact at least two or three of your classmates for information if you miss a class or to share notes. This is not just a suggestion! Finding out what you missed is **your responsibility!** After doing that, please feel free to come by and see me if you need further clarification or still have questions. I will not email or speak with you individually concerning questions from a missed class if you do not contact someone else first. Then…. I'm all yours!

Please don't email me about questions you may have that are answered in the text or on the syllabus. Please search for the answer yourself first, then contact me if you can't find the answer. I am happy to answer any real questions you may have.

I am always available to help you during my office hours, before/after class, or by appointment.

Course Requirements and Grade Composition:

Students will be expected to read **all** text assignments **prior** to class (I'll keep you updated on what should be read when as we go along) and to "keep up" on current events. I do not take attendance on a daily basis, but **you** are responsible for all class lecture material and for any changes made in the syllabus or any thing course related. One of the most basic guidelines for success in this course is coming to class every day and reading the text. I do not post my lectures on the web or loan them to you because you missed class- this class is based on face to face learning in a university course. I will use class time to add additional terms and concepts not presented in the book, so if you do not attend class, you will **not** know some material that will be covered on tests!!!!!

Since there are always a few students who forget this = ******* One more time!! If you feel it's my responsibility to keep you up to date on all course information, you're in the wrong class.

There will be three objective tests given during the term, each counting 33.3% of your final grade. An essay make-up will only be considered if you get in touch with me (phone, talk to me in class, email etc.) within 24 hours days of missing a test! There are no exceptions. A quiz worth up to 3 extra points added to your final test average will be given about midway through the semester. The exact date will be announced in class 1 week prior to its presentation.

I must be fair to all students, so please don't ask for exceptions to the class rules or requirements. This syllabus is a "contract", so be sure to read it carefully so that you know what to expect from me and what I expect of you.

Text

GOVT 4, Henschen and Sidlow

Reading

Test #1- Introduction, Ch. 1-5 (approximately July 10th or 13th (TBA)
Test #2- Ch. 6-7, 10 and 8 & 9 (approximately July 27rd (TBA)
Test #3- Ch. 11-16 (15 and 16 may not be covered given time constraints _ I'll let you know as the term progresses)

The first two test dates will be confirmed in class at least 1 week in advance and Test 3 will be the last day of class

Tests are 50 M/C and possibly T/F questions. You will need answer sheets (#2052 – light brown, narrow) and #2 pencils with erasers that actually erase without leaving smudges

Grade Calculation

Grade Scale:

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
below 60	F

I do not use plus/ minus grades or automatically "round up" numerically (a 79.9 is a C!!!!!). Please don't ask me to round up your grade.

Add your 3 test grades together and divide by 3 then add any extra credit = that is your grade. I only calculate grades once at the end of the semester, but it is very simple for you to do it on your own during the term.

* Plagiarism of any kind will result in a failing grade for this course.

* Cell phones and all other electronic devices must be turned **off** during class. If your phone rings, you will stand up and apologize to the entire class for your "thoughtless" behavior **OR** you will required lead the class in a chorus round of singing "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" (the class will join in and we'll go a few rounds!) or other options I may choose to use – like answering the call and quacking like a duck to you caller without saying another word.

* The use of laptop computers is not allowed (too much past abuse)

This syllabus and all other class requirements may be changed at any time by your Instructor.

Please place this and any attachments in your notebook and do not lose it. Thanks

"It is of the greatest importance in a republic not only to guard against the oppression of its rulers, but to guard one part of society against the injustice of the other part"

Alexander Hamilton

"The best argument against democracy is found in talking to the average voter for five minutes"

Winston Churchill

"Never be afraid to raise your voice for honesty and truth and compassion against injustice and lying and greed. If people all over the world, in thousands of rooms like this one, would do this, it would change the earth."

William Faulkner