

POLS 2051 - AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Fall 2011

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10:30am to 12:00am and by appointment

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COURSE OBJECTIVE:

This course will introduce students to the principles, institutions and processes of the American political system. This knowledge will provide a foundation enabling students to better understand and critically evaluate our form of government. Specifically, this course is designed to familiarize students with political behavior and its relationship to the executive, legislative, and judicial functions of government. Students also will be introduced to the bureaucracy responsible for administering social welfare, regulatory, foreign, economic, and fiscal policies.

GENERAL EDUCATION OBJECTIVES:

This course also aims to educate students about and instill a life-long desire to understand our political and social system. Specifically the students will be able to demonstrate mastery of factual knowledge of the subject matter; understand the levels of association, from friends and family, to economy and polity, and to civilizations of global significance seen in the social sciences; and explain diversity of cultures, across time and space, as well as universal social characteristics and global networks.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

O'Connor, Karen and Larry J. Sabato. 2010. *American Government: Roots and Reform*. New York: Longman. Electronic Text and Mypoliscilab access ISBN 1256308412. Textbook package (Harcover and access to Mypoliscilab) ISBN 125612639X

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENT: Mypoliscilab

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT: TurningPoint Clicker available at the union

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students will be required to complete the assigned readings in the textbook and the on-line assignments. The on-line assignments will be equal to 25 points. Each quiz is 1 point and each multimedia assignment is 1 point. In-class quizzes and participation will also equal 25 points. Attendance will be monitored through the use of TurningPoint Clickers at the beginning and at the end of class. Participation questions will be asked throughout the lecture using TurningPoint Clickers. The following URL (<http://grok.lsu.edu/Categories.aspx?parentCategoryId=991>) provides information on the registration and use of your TurningPoint Clicker. You must obtain and register your clicker by Tuesday September 30. In addition, three exams of equal weight (100 points each) will be administered. The final examination will not be cumulative. Makeup exams will not be given unless the instructor is notified **in advance** and agrees the absence was necessitated by a documented emergency or is a university excused absence according to PS-22. Makeup examinations are all essay comprised of 22 identifications and 14 short answer essay questions. Your final grade is computed from the **SUM** of the three tests and the on-line assignments as follows:

313-350 = A
278-312 = B
243-277 = C
208-242 = D
Below 207 = F

The lectures are intended to prepare you for the exam. Material will be presented in the lecture that is not in the textbook and **will be** on the exam. Class begins at 9:10 am. Students should come to class prepared and be attentive and responsive during the lecture **with cell phones off**. Laptops **are not** allowed in class. Students are expected to attend regularly, **punctually and for the duration of the class**.

Students are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct which can be located at [http://appl003.lsu.edu/slas/dos.nsf/\\$Content/Code+of+Conduct?OpenDocument](http://appl003.lsu.edu/slas/dos.nsf/$Content/Code+of+Conduct?OpenDocument). Violators will be referred immediately to the Dean of Students.

COURSE OUTLINE

Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
August 23	Introduction	
25	The Political Landscape	Chapter 1
	The Political Landscape – <u>Moodle Quiz Due</u> Chapter 1	
	Chapter 1 - <u>Moodle 1.6 Multi-Media Quiz Due</u> mypoliscilab multimedia 1.6 Visual Literacy: Who are Liberals and Conservatives? What's the Difference? - Assess the role of political ideology in shaping American politics	
30	Constitution/Federalism	Chapters 2 & 3
	The Constitution - <u>Moodle Quiz Due</u> Chapter 2 Moodle quiz due	
	Federalism <u>Moodle Quiz Due</u> Chapter 3	
	The Constitution - <u>Moodle 2.4 Multi-Media Quiz Due</u> Chapter 2- mypoliscilab multimedia 2.4 - Comparative: Comparing Constitutions - Analyze the underlying principles of the U.S. Constitution	
September 1	Civil Rights in Perspective	
6	Judiciary	Chapter 5
	The Judiciary – <u>Moodle Quiz Due</u> - Chapter 5/mypoliscilab Chapter 9 quiz due – Moodle	
8	Judiciary	Chapter 5
13	Civil Liberties	Chapter 6
	Civil Liberties - <u>Moodle Quiz Due</u> Chapter 6/mypoliscilab Chapter 4	
15	Civil Liberties	Chapter 6
20	Civil Rights	Chapter 7
	Civil Rights - <u>Moodle Quiz Due</u> Chapter 7/mypoliscilab Chapter 6	
22	Civil Rights	Chapter 7
	<u>EXTRA CREDIT (1 POINT):</u> Civil Rights <u>Moodle 6.3 Multi-Media Quiz Due</u> Civil Rights - Chapter 7/ mypoliscilab Chapter 6 - mypoliscilab multimedia 6.3 – Comparative: Comparing Civil Rights - Analyze the civil rights movement and the effects of the Civil Rights Act of 1964	
27	FIRST EXAMINATION	
29	Public Opinion	Chapter 8
	Public Opinion - <u>Moodle 10.2 Multi-Media Quiz Due</u> Chapter 8/ mypoliscilab Chapter 10 - mypoliscilab multimedia 10.2 – Simulation: You Are a Polling Consultant - Describe the methods for conducting and analyzing different types of public opinion polls.	
October 4	Public Opinion	Chapter 8
	Public Opinion - <u>Moodle Quiz Due</u> Chapter 8/ mypoliscilab Chapter 10	
6	Political Parties	Chapter 9
	Political Parties - <u>Moodle Quiz Due</u> Chapter 9/mypoliscilab chapter 11 quiz due	
11	Political Parties/Elections and Voting	Chapter 9/10
	Elections and Voting - <u>Moodle Quiz Due</u> Chapter 10/mypoliscilab Chapter 13	
	<u>EXTRA CREDIT (1 POINT):</u> Political Parties <u>Moodle 12.3 Multi-Media Quiz Due</u> Chapter 9 - mypoliscilab multimedia 12.3 – Simulation: You Are a Campaign Manager - Identify the functions performed by American political parties	
13	Fall Holiday	
18	Elections and Voting/Campaign Process	Chapter 10 & 11
	Elections and Voting - <u>Moodle 13.5 Multi-Media Quiz Due</u> Chapter 13 – mypoliscilab multimedia 13.5 – Visual Literacy: Voting Turnout - Identify six factors that affect voter turnout– Moodle quiz due	
20	Campaign Process/Media	Chapter 11 & 12
	Campaign Process - <u>Moodle Quiz Due</u> Chapter 11/mypoliscilab Chapter 14	

- 25 News Media/ Interest Groups Chapter 12 & 13
News Media - **Moodle Quiz Due** Chapter 12 quiz due/myopoliscilab Chapter 15
- 27 Interest Groups Chapter 13
Interest Groups - Moodle Quiz Due Chapter 13/myopoliscilab Chapter 16
EXTRA CREDIT (1 POINT): Moodle 16.3 Multi-Media Quiz Due Chapter 13 -
myopoliscilab multimedia 16.3 – Simulation – You Are a Lobbyist - Identify several strategies
and tactics used by organized interests
- November 1 **SECOND EXAMINATION**
- 3 Chapter 14 Congress Chapter 14
Congress - Moodle 7.2 Multi-Media Quiz Due Chapter 14/ myopoliscilab multimedia 7.2 –
**Visual Literacy: Why is it so Hard to Defeat an Incumbent – Characterize the demographic
attributes of members of Congress, and identify factors that affect their chances for
reelection**
- 8 Congress/President Chapter 14 & 15
Congress Moodle Quiz Due Chapter 14 quiz due – myopoliscilab Chapter 7
- 10 President Chapter 15
President Moodle Quiz Due Chapter 15 quiz due – myopoliscilab Chapter 8
EXTRA CREDIT (1 POINT): President – Moodle 8.2 Multi-Media Quiz Due Chapter 8-
myopoliscilab multimedia 8.2 – Simulation: Presidential Leadership - Identify and describe
the constitutional powers of the president
- 15 Bureaucracy Chapter 16
- 17 Bureaucracy Chapter 16
Bureaucracy - Moodle Quiz Due Chapter 16 quiz due – myopoliscilab chapter 9
- 22 Domestic Policy Chapter 17
Domestic Policy - Moodle Quiz Due Chapter 17 quiz due – Moodle
Domestic Policy - Moodle 17.2 Multi-Media Quiz Due Chapter 17 - myopoliscilab
multimedia 17.2 – Comparative: Comparing Health Systems - Describe the evolution of
health policy in the United States
- 24 Thanksgiving Holiday
- 29 Economic Policy Chapters 18
Economic Policy Moodle 18.3 Multi-Meida Quiz Due Chapter 18 - myopoliscilab multimedia
18.3 – Simulation: Making Economic Policy - Analyze the effect of the Federal Reserve
System on monetary policy
Economic Policy Moodle Quiz Due Chapter 18 quiz due
- December 1 Foreign & Military Policy Chapter 19
Foreign & Military Policy Moodle Quiz Due Chapter 19 quiz due
EXTRA CREDIT (1 POINT): Foreign Policy - Moodle Mulit-Media Quiz Due Chapter 19 -
myopoliscilab multimedia 19.4 – Visual Literacy: Evaluating Defense Spending - Identify
four contemporary foreign and defense policy challenges confronting the United States
- December 10 **THIRD EXAMINATION 12:30pm**
(Students arriving late for the final exam will be given an alternative exam that will consist of 22
identifications and 14 essays.)