
INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN POLITICS



Political Science 101
The Ohio State University



Autumn 2005
M,W 4-5:18
Hitchcock Hall (HI) 131

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introductory explanation of how the American political process works. The course examines basic principles of American politics, problems of collective decision-making, purposes of government, the formal institutions of national government—Congress, the Supreme Court, the Presidency, and the bureaucracy—congressional and presidential elections, the role of the media, and the mobilization of citizens through political parties and interest groups.

REQUIRED TEXT

Patterson, Thomas E. 2004. *We the People: A Concise Introduction to American Politics*. Sixth Edition. Boston: McGraw-Hill.

INSTRUCTORS

Instructor	Title	Office	Phone	Email	Hours
John R. Wright	Professor	2062 Derby	292-9025	wright.569@osu.edu	T,F 2-3
Lakeyta Bonnette	TA	2004 Derby	292-9498	bonnette.15@osu.edu	M,W 11:30-12:30
Vanessa Bouche	TA	2030 Derby	TBA	bouche.1@osu.edu	W 11:30-1:30
Carla Jackson	TA	3078 Derby	292-3917	jackson.1353@osu.edu	T 4-5; W 2:30-3:30
Todd Makse	TA	2001 Derby	403-0570	makse.1@osu.edu	T 12-1:30; W 11:30-1

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

September	21	Introduction and Overview
	26	Patterson, Chapter 1
	28	Patterson, Chapter 2
October	3	Patterson, Chapter 3; Article 3. “The Size and Variety of the Union as a Check on Faction,” James Madison, <i>The Federalist Papers</i> , No. 10, 1787
	5	Patterson, Chapter 4; Article 14 (see Chapter 17). “Rights, Liberties, and Security: Recalibrating the Balance After September 11,” Stuart Taylor Jr., <i>Brookings Review</i> , Winter 2003
	10	Chapter 5; Article 16. “Winks, Nods, Disguises—and Racial Preference,” Carl Cohen, <i>Commentary</i> , September 2003
October	12	Chapter 17; Article 92 (see Chapter 1). “Now Do You Believe We Need a Draft?” Charles Moskos and Paul Glastri, <i>The Washington Monthly</i> , November 2001
	17	midterm examination
	19	Patterson, Chapter 11; Article 36. “The State of Congress,” Richard E. Cohen, Kirk Victor, and David Baumann, <i>National Journal</i> , January 10, 2004
	24	Patterson, Chapter 12; Article 32. “The Imperial Presidency,” <i>The Economist</i> , November 3, 2001
	26	Patterson, Chapter 13; Article 51. “Washington’s Mega-Merger,” <i>The Economist</i> , November 23, 2002
	31	Patterson, Chapter 14; Article 50. “Reconsidering ‘Bush v. Gore,’” Gary Rosen, <i>Commentary</i> , November 2001
November	2	Patterson, Chapter 10; Article 15. “Upon Further Review,” Ken Paulson, <i>American Journalism Review</i> , August/September 2003.
	7	midterm examination
	9	Patterson, Chapter 6; Article 65. “Leaders Should Not Follow Opinion Polls,” Robert Weissberg, <i>USA Today Magazine</i> (Society for the Advancement of Education), May 2002
	14	Patterson, Chapter 7; Article 9. “America’s Ignorant Voters,” Michael Schudson, <i>The Wilson Quarterly</i> , Spring 2000
	16	Patterson, Chapter 8; Article 67. “Who Needs Political Parties?” Richard M. Valelly, <i>The American Prospect</i> , August 14, 2000
	21	Patterson, Chapter 9; Article 70. “Identity Crisis,” Shawn Zeller, <i>National Journal</i> , April 27, 2002
	23	Thanksgiving break
	28	Patterson, Chapter 15; “The Death of Horatio Alger,” Paul Krugman, <i>The Nation</i> , January 5, 2004 (available at http://www.thenation.com/doc/20040105/krugman)
	30	Patterson, Chapter 16
December	5	Final examination , 3:30-5:18 p.m.

GRADING AND PROCEDURES

Final grades for the course will be based on students' performance on three exams—two midterms and a final—homework exercises, a paper, and participation in the discussion section. Points will be allocated as follows:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Points</u>
Exams	1000
1 st midterm	300
2 nd midterm	300
final	400
Homework	500
Paper	300
Section participation	200

Students are required to complete all assigned readings, three examinations, all homework exercises, a paper, and section assignments. Students are also expected to attend all lectures and discussion sections. Homework assignments are the online quizzes (multiple choice and true-false) associated with each chapter in the Patterson text and accessible at <http://www.mhhe.com/pattersonwtp6>. These must be completed and emailed to your TA by 4 p.m. of the day the chapter is assigned. The paper requirement is 3-5 typewritten pages on a topic to be assigned.

Make-up exams will be given only in unusual circumstances as determined by the instructors (e.g., hospitalized illness, family or personal emergency), and only if instructors have been notified of the circumstances prior to the scheduled examination. Documentation of circumstances must be provided upon request.

Instances of suspected academic misconduct will be reported to the appropriate administrative bodies. Academic misconduct is defined by the University (3335-31-02) as “any activity which tends to compromise the academic integrity of the institution, or subvert the educational process.” I encourage students to review the University’s procedures concerning academic misconduct by clicking on <http://www.osu.edu/offices/oa/procedures/1.0.htm>

Students with any condition, such as physical, psychiatric/emotional, medical or learning disability, which will make it difficult to carry out the work as outlined in this syllabus, or which will require extra time for exams, should notify us and the Office for Disability Services within the first two weeks of the course. All information and documentation of disability is confidential.