

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 101: INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN POLITICS  
Winter 2006**

Instructor: Roman Ivanchenko

Class Hours: 2:30 am-4:18 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays

Class Location: ML 0129 (Mendenhall Laboratory)

Office Hours: 12:45 pm-2:15 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays

Office Location: 2081 Derby Hall. Note: if I am not in my office during the office hours then I am either in 2037 Derby or 2049 Derby.

Office Phone Number: 292-6550 (I will only answer if I am in my office)

The best way to contact me is via e-mail. My e-mail address is [ivanchenko.1@osu.edu](mailto:ivanchenko.1@osu.edu). Please, don't hesitate contacting me if you have questions.

**YOUR CLASSMATES' INFO** (for emergency purposes):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In this class, I will provide an introduction to American political behavior and American institutions. Among other topics, we will discuss the origins of American political culture, individual political participation, the effects of mass media on public opinion, the structure of Congress and the Executive, the nature of civil liberties, and development of the civil rights in the United States.

Warning: this class will cover a lot of material. We will average about a chapter of new material per class session. I expect you to do all readings in advance. After completing a reading for the upcoming lecture, try thinking about what was the most confusing or interesting thing and bring it up in the next class. If you choose to slack off and start studying for the tests a few days before them, you will not do well. You simply cannot learn all the material presented in this class by reading it two days before an exam. The solution is obvious: study the class material according to the schedule, don't wait until the exam date to open the book. Since the material is

likely to be difficult, I encourage you to ask me to clarify things as we go along. Don't just wait until the last moment. If something presented in class is not clear, don't be afraid to raise your hand, tell me to stop, and to explain it. If anything, I will think highly of your courage.

Required textbook for this class:

Fiorina, Morris P, Paul E. Peterson, D. Stephen Voss, and Bertram Johnson. 2006. *America's New Democracy*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. New York, NY: Pearson/Longman.

## **GRADING**

We will have three tests: two midterms and the final. Both midterms are worth 30 points of the final grade. The final is worth 40 points of the final grades. The tests will normally consist of 30 to 50 multiple choice questions. The second midterm is not cumulative, but the final is cumulative.

There are no make-up tests. If you skip a test without a legitimate reason (legitimacy is determined by a department's policy), you receive 0 as the grade for the skipped test. If you skip a test due to a legitimate reason, you will be allowed to earn the points by taking a test consisting of essay questions during my office hours.

**Regrading Policy:** after I distribute graded assignments back to students, you will have 10 days to appeal your grade (10 days from the date of distribution regardless of whether you were in class on that day). If you think that there is a problem with your grade, you may resubmit your assignment, and I will regrade it. I will regrade the whole thing, not just the parts that you think are problematic. If you fail to resubmit your assignment during this ten day window, and you still want to challenge the grade, you need to pursue other avenues of appeal.

Grading Scale:

93-100%: A  
90-92.9: A-  
87-89.9: B+  
83-86.9: B  
80-82.9: B-  
77-79.9: C+  
73-76.9: C  
70-72.9: C-  
67-69.9: D+  
60-66.9: D  
<60: E

## **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

This is an upper-level class, which means that I do not need to worry about academic misconduct. However, if you have any confusion about what constitutes academic misconduct, it is your obligation to consult the Ohio State University Code of Student Conduct. Should you ignore the guidelines of honest academic behavior, you will be punished in accordance with the university policies.

## **ETHICAL BEHAVIOR**

You are all responsible and intelligent adults, which means that the following warnings/requests are superfluous, however, please, make sure that you behave respectfully toward other individuals in the classroom. Everyone (including your instructor) will avoid offensive language. It is understandable that some of the topics that we will discuss are politically and emotionally charged; however, learn to express your opinions in a non-offensive manner. Believe me, if anything this ability will help you progress in your lives long after college. I reserve the right to conduct discussions in a parliamentary manner: all questions and comments would be directed toward and the recognition of speakers will come from the moderator/me. Additionally, please make sure to turn your phones/pagers off before the class. Also, sleeping in class is considered to be an invitation for an exercise in Socratic questioning.

## **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Any student who needs assistance with the class due to a disability must notify me to make appropriate arrangements. You must contact the university's Office of Disability Services (292-3307) to receive appropriate documentation.

## **UNIVERSITY MANDATED LANGUAGE**

### **Goals/Rationale:**

Courses in social science help students understand human behavior and cognition, and the structures of human societies, cultures and institutions.

### **Learning Objectives:**

1. Students understand the theories and methods of scientific inquiry as they are applied to the studies of individuals, groups, organizations, and societies.
2. Students comprehend human differences and similarities in various psychological, social, cultural, economic, geographic, and political contexts.
3. Students develop abilities to comprehend and assess individual and social values, and recognize their importance in social problem solving and policy making.

## **SCHEDULE** (subject to change)

Day 1 (January 4th) Introduction of the class material.  
Democracy in the United States  
Read: Chapter 1

Day 2 (January 9th) The U.S. Constitution  
Read: Chapter 2

Day 3 (January 11th) Federalism  
Read: Chapter 3

Day 4 (January 16th) American Political Culture  
Read: Chapter 4

Day 5 (January 18th) Public Opinion and the Media  
Read: Chapter 5

Day 6 (January 23rd) Individual Participation  
Read: Chapter 6

**Day 7 (January 25th)**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Midterm**

Day 8 (January 30th) National Elections  
Read: Chapter 7

Day 9 (February 1st) Political Parties and Interest Groups  
Read: Chapter 8

Day 10 (February 6th) Congress  
Read: Chapter 9

Day 11 (February 8th) Presidency  
Read: Chapter 10

Day 12 (February 13th) Bureaucracy  
Read: Chapter 11

Day 13 (February 15th) Judiciary  
Read: Chapter 12

**Day 14 (February 22th)**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Midterm**

Day 15 (February 22th) Civil Liberties  
Read: Chapter 13

Day 16 (February 27th) Civil Rights  
Read: Chapter 14

Day 17 (March 1st) Public Policy  
Read: Chapter 15

Day 18 (March 6th) Ohio Government

**Day 19 (March 8th) Review**

The final exam will be held on Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, between 1:30 pm and 3:18 pm..  
(BUT CHECK THE OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY EXAM SCHEDULE)