

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

POLITICAL SCIENCE 101
INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
FALL QUARTER 2006

Cockins Hall, Room 218 -- Mon/Wed: 3:30-5:18 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Barbara B. Lewis

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Office Hours: Monday: 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 1:30-2:30 p.m. or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

This course explores the fundamentals of American government and politics, primarily at the national level. We begin by examining the basic principles upon which our country was founded and our political system emerged. We will then study important factors of influence such as political culture, public opinion, political participation, political parties and interest groups.

We will also analyze the basics of the three branches of our federal government: the U.S. Congress, the Presidency, including the bureaucracy, and the Courts.

Upon successfully completing this course, you will have a fundamental understanding of our representative form of government and a deeper appreciation of politics and the importance of political participation.

REQUIRED TEXT:

America's New Democracy, 3rd ed, 2006, Morris Fiorina, Paul Peterson, D. Stephen Voss, Bertram Johnson

ADDITIONAL READINGS: Realclearpolitics.com and major Ohio newspaper websites

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Participation (Discussion and Possible Pop Quizzes)		10%
Midterm Exam	October 23	30%
Gubernatorial Project	Beginning October 2	25%
Final Exam	November 29, 3:30-5:18 p.m.	35%

GRADING SCALE:

A	94% and above
A-	90-93%
B+	87-89%
B	84-86%
B-	80-83%
C+	77-79%
C	74-76%
C-	70-73%
D+	67-69%
D	60-66
E	59% and below

POLICY ON ATTENDANCE: Students are required to attend each class session and to be prepared to discuss the readings assigned for that day. (See discussion of pop quizzes below.)

POP QUIZZES: Pop quizzes may be given periodically. They will consist of two parts: A question that covers the subject matter discussed during the previous class session and a question that covers the assigned reading material for the day of the pop quiz. The level of everyone's class attendance and participation will determine the number of quizzes your instructor pops.

POLICY ON MISSED POP QUIZZES: Students missing a pop quiz will receive a grade of zero. There will be no make-up pop quizzes. This rule will be applied at my sole discretion.

EXAMS: Exams will focus on class lectures, discussions and readings. Questions will be essay and term definitions.

POLICY ON MISSED EXAMS: Students missing an exam will receive a grade of zero. This rule will be applied at my sole discretion. Exceptions in true emergency situations are inevitable. Appropriate documentation must be provided. If you must miss an exam (such as in cases of serious illness or family/personal emergencies), contact me as soon as possible PRIOR to the scheduled test time. You must promptly contact me upon your return to set the date, time and location of the make-up exam. Make-up exams **MUST** be completed within FIVE (5) days of the regularly scheduled examination. Make-up exams are given at my sole discretion.

GUBERNATORIAL PROJECT: The Gubernatorial Project is a very interesting assignment which will center on the 2006 Ohio Governor's race. You will be asked to submit a series of mini-papers and to do one class presentation based on your findings. A detailed explanation will be given in the October 2 class.

POLICY ON LATE PAPERS: Late papers will be reduced by one-third of a grade for each day they are late (including weekend days) and should be turned in to my mailbox located in Derby Hall. There will be no exceptions to this rule unless there is an **EXTREME** emergency, promptly supported by appropriate documentation. This rule will be applied at my sole discretion

POLICY ON CELLULAR PHONES AND PAGERS: Out of respect for others, please turn off and put away all cell phones and pagers before entering the classroom.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated. Cases of academic misconduct will be promptly reported to the university committee on academic misconduct and handled according to university policy. Penalties can include failing this class and/or expulsion from the university.

For further information about academic integrity issues, please visit <http://www.osu.edu/offices/oa/procedures/1.0.html>

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: If you have any condition, such as a physical, psychiatric/emotional, medical or learning disability, that will make it difficult for you to carry out the work as outlined in this syllabus, or will require extra time for quizzes or exams, please notify both the instructor and Wayne DeYoung in the Political Science Department (292-2880) as soon as possible so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

—INTRO TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT—

WEEK 1

September 20 Course Introduction

PART ONE: THE FOUNDATIONS OF OUR GOVERNMENT

September 25 Our Democratic Republic
Chapter 1

WEEK 2

September 27 The U.S. Constitution
Chapter 2

October 2 Federalism
Chapter 3

PART TWO: FACTORS WHICH INFLUENCE OUR GOVERNMENT

WEEK 3

October 4 American Political Culture
Chapter 4

October 9 Public Opinion and the Media
Chapter 5

WEEK 4

October 11 Voting
Chapter 6

October 16 National Elections
Chapter 7

WEEK 5

October 18 Political Parties and Interest Groups
Chapter 8

October 23 **MIDTERM EXAM**

PART THREE: THE THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

WEEK 6

October 25 The Congress
Chapter 9

October 30 The Presidency
Chapter 10

WEEK 7

November 1 The Bureaucracy
Chapter 11

November 6 The Courts
Chapter 12

WEEK 8

November 8 Civil Liberties
Chapter 13

PART FOUR: THE LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY

November 13 Civil Rights
Chapter 14

WEEK 9

November 15 Public Policy

Chapter 15

November 20 Project Reports

HEY, ALMOST HOME!!!

WEEK 10

November 22 Project Reports

November 27 Wrap up and Final Review

November 29 **FINAL MIDTERM EXAM**
(3:30-5:18 p.m.)