

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

POLITICAL SCIENCE 101L
INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
FALL QUARTER 2005

Royer Student Activity Center -- Tues/Thurs: 9:30-11:18 a.m.

Instructor: Dr. Barbara B. Lewis

Office: 3125 Derby Hall

Phone: 292-0763

Email: Lewis.174@osu.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday: 11:30a.m.-12:30 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 analyze the basics of the three branches of our federal government: the U.S. Congress, the Courts and the Presidency, including the bureaucracy. Special emphasis will be placed on the Courts, with the President's nomination of new Justices to the U.S. Supreme Court and a lecture to this class by an Ohio Supreme Court Justice.

We will then study important factors that influence government, such as political culture, public opinion, political participation, political parties and interest groups.

Because this course is being offered in the midst of a hard-fought issues campaign to "reform" elections in Ohio, we will use the campaign as a learning opportunity to study electoral politics. Such "hands on" participation will supplement the text's emphasis on the importance of elections in our political system and also provide firsthand experience as to how volunteers can make a difference in influencing the outcome of an election.

After researching the pros and cons of both sides, you will then choose a campaign to work on for at least **five hours per week**. After the campaign is completed, you will write a paper briefly outlining the pros and cons of the debate and critically analyze your campaign, including strategy, implementation and results. You will then share your insights and observations in a panel discussion with the class.

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. Available at UBX Book Exchange, 10 E. 15th, 2nd floor.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Participation (Pop Quizzes and Discussion)		10%
Midterm Exam	October 25	30%
Assigned Paper	November 15	25%
Final Midterm	December 1, 9:30-11:18 a.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

CLASS DISCUSSION: Approximately one-half hour of several classes will include student discussion on current political topics, including the U.S. Supreme Court nominees, the issue campaigns that students will be working on, etc. Some discussion will be in the form of a panel discussion in which students will be divided into groups. Other discussion will be individual. In preparation, students will be required to gather information from several news sources, as well as their own campaign experience.

PAPER ASSIGNMENT: Students will critically analyze the 2005 Issue Reform Campaigns including the issues presented, the campaign strategies employed by your selected side, how effective they were, including the roles of any interest groups or interested parties. The paper will be typed, double spaced (12-point type), not to exceed five (5) pages in length. Paper results will be presented by each student in panel discussions.

POLICY ON LATE PAPERS: Late papers will be reduced by one-third of a grade for each day they are late (including weekend days). 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 MISSED EXAMS: Students missing an exam will receive a grade of zero. The only exceptions are in EMERGENCY situations where the appropriate documentation is promptly 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.

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.

POLICY ON CELLULAR PHONES AND PAGERS, ETC: Out of respect for others, please turn off all electronics before entering the classroom. No cell phones or other electronic devices are permitted in class during exams.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: All of the work you do in this course (including the assigned paper) is expected to be entirely your own. 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/oaap/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—

September 22 Course Introduction

PART ONE: THE FOUNDATIONS OF OUR GOVERNMENT

WEEK 1

September 27 Our Democratic Republic
Chapter 1

September 29 The U.S. Constitution
Chapter 2

WEEK 2

October 4 Federalism
Chapter 3

PART TWO: THE THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

October 6 The Congress
Chapter 9

WEEK 3

October 11 The Courts
Chapter 12

October 13 Guest Speaker:
Ohio Supreme Court Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton
Ohio Supreme Court Website

WEEK 4

October 18 The Presidency
Chapter 10

October 20 The Bureaucracy
Chapter 11

WEEK 5

October 25 **MIDTERM EXAM**

PART THREE: FACTORS WHICH INFLUENCE OUR GOVERNMENT

October 27 American Political Culture
Chapter 4

WEEK 6

November 1 Public Opinion and the Media
Chapter 5

November 3 Voting
Chapter 6

WEEK 7

November 8 National Elections
Chapter 7

November 10 Political Parties and Interest Groups
Chapter 8

WEEK 8

November 15 **PAPERS DUE** and Panel Discussion on Papers

PART FOUR: THE LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY

November 17 Civil Liberties
Chapter 13

WEEK 9

November 22 Civil Rights
Chapter 14

November 24 Thanksgiving

WEEK 10 HEY, ALMOST HOME!!!

November 29 Public Policy
Chapter 15

Review for Final Midterm

December 1

Final Midterm