

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 101
INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN POLITICS
WINTER QUARTER 2004**

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Office Hours:
Mon. & Wed. 12:00-1:00
and by appointment

Main Lecture is Monday and Wednesday, 10:30-11:48 in OU (Ohio Union) Room 0224.

Course website: <http://class.osu.edu>

Teaching Assistants:

Anand Sokhey - Course Administrator. Phone: 292-9499. Office#: 2168 Derby Hall with office hours on Tuesday and Thursday, 11:30-12:30 p.m. and by appointment. sokhey.2@osu.edu

Dino Christenson - Discussion Section Leader. Phone: 247-8743. Office#: 100 Derby Hall with office hours on Wednesday, 2-4:00 p.m. and by appointment. christenson.24@osu.edu

Erin McAdams - Discussion Section Leader. Phone: 292-1426. Office#: 2031 Derby Hall with office hours on Wednesday, 1-2:00 p.m. and by appointment. mcadams.19@osu.edu

Eric Russell - Discussion Section Leader. Phone: 247-8743. Office #: 100 Derby Hall with office hours on Tuesday 1:30-3:30 p.m. and by appointment. russell.160@osu.edu

Lyndsey Young - Discussion Section Leader. Phone: 292-9492. Office #: 2021 Derby Hall with office hours on Wednesday 12:30-2:30 p.m. and by appointment. young.1025@osu.edu

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Political Science 101 is the introductory course in American politics, and as a result, it has several basic objectives that pertain both to your knowledge of government and to the tools you need to be a broadly educated member of society. The specific course objectives are:

To introduce you to basic principles, institutions, and processes in American national government

To encourage you to think critically about important political issues

To help you to observe and consider the ways in which political issues directly affect our lives

EXPECTATIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Your responsibilities for the course include regular attendance and participation in class, preparation with the assigned readings, and timely completion of assignments. **Preparation** for lecture and discussion is crucial. I expect you to read the material in the assigned texts for each day in advance of the class. Discussion sessions will involve lectures as well as discussion. Because class discussion is important, a portion of your final grade (described below) will reflect the quantity and quality of your class **participation**. It should not be difficult for you to obtain full participation credit if you make an effort to complete the Website assignments, contribute to discussion in the small group sessions on a weekly basis, and participate in the threaded discussion list. With regard to **attendance**, I expect you to attend class regularly--*lectures may contain new information in addition to reinforcing the readings and the material from the website activities. Associated discussion material may be on the exam.* The discussion sections are central to the course and will be the primary basis for the participation grades. Though attendance is not a formal part of the final grade, I may reward students with excellent attendance records by boosting their final grade by 1/2 of a letter grade at my discretion (e.g., a B+ would become an A-). Finally, you will need to complete all course **assignments** in a timely fashion. Specific assignments are listed below by chapter. These are website assignments, which form the basis for the discussion sections and which will be included on the three exams. You should prepare answers to the questions in the conclusion of each discussion section assignment and turn it into your discussion section leader. You should also complete the “test yourself” section at the end of any discussion section assignment and submit it. The two midterm exams and the final exam will follow the multiple choice format. In constructing each exam, I will draw on lecture material as well as the reading assignments. There are numerous student study aides on the course website that I hope you will enjoy using and find useful for understanding the material and preparing for the exams.

You must complete all course assignments in a timely fashion. All students will take exams at the time they are scheduled. If you cannot avoid missing an exam for a justifiable reason, you must tell me in advance, and I may allow you to take a make-up (probably essay only) exam without penalty. Others who miss exams will most often not be allowed to retake the exam; however, in extraordinary circumstances, you will be allowed to retake the exam with a grade penalty of one letter grade for each day between the exam and the time that you contacted me, including the day of the exam.

ASSISTANCE

I want to help you to do well in this course, and I hope that you will feel free to talk with any of the teaching assistants, course administrator, or myself with questions about readings and assignments, concerns about the course, or for suggestions about studying and understanding the material. Our scheduled office hours are listed at the top of the syllabus, but we are always happy to arrange alternative times to meet if these are inconvenient. We also check email

frequently and try to check phone messages on a daily basis. There is also a threaded discussion list on the website. So there are a variety of ways to communicate in a timely fashion.

Be sure to check out the following open access site at www.ablongman.com/edwards. There is a free online study guide here for students.

Students with disabilities should talk to me *during the first week of the quarter* about their needs and any assistance or arrangements that may be necessary. Course materials are available in alternative formats upon request. For such materials please contact Mr. Wayne DeYoung, 2140 Derby Hall, 154 North Oval Mall, 292-2880.

GRADING

The items described above will contribute to your final grade, which will be determined on the basis of the points you have earned out of 200 total possible points. The point values for each assignment are as follows:

Exam I: 50
Exam II: 50
Final Exam: 60
Website assignments: 20
Participation: 20

Total: 200

The scale for the *letter* grades for each exam will be determined after the exams are graded, and similarly the final grade scale will be determined after all of the points for the course are added. The scale will never be any more strict, though, than 180 points=lowest A-, 160 points=lowest B-, etc. (I will assign +/- grades.)

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

All course materials are available at SBX, and may also be available from other campus bookstores.

George C. Edwards III, Martin P. Wattenberg, and Robert L. Lineberry. 2005.
Government In America: People, Politics, and Policy (Allyn and Bacon/Pearson Longman Publishing)

This is the central text for the course. The course website contains additional information and study materials that you will find helpful, particularly in preparing for exams. It is critical that you purchase the book with the access code for MyPoliSciLab. Accessing this website provides additional information that will be helpful to you in learning the material and contains the material for the Discussion Section Assignments. The access codes are bundled with the textbook that is sold through the bookstores.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

All readings are required.

Week 1

Mon 1/3: Course Introduction

Wed 1/5: Government in America (Chapter 1)

Thurs 1/6: Discussion Section Assignment: Chapter 1 Simulation (Aunt Martha)

Week 2

Mon 1/10: The Constitution (Chapter 2)

Wed 1/12: Federalism (Chapter 3)

Thurs 1/13: Discussion Section Assignment: Chapter 2 Visual Literacy (American System of Checks and Balances) & Chapter 3 Simulation (You Are a Federal Judge)

Week 3

Mon 1/17: NO CLASS due to Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

Wed 1/19 Civil Liberties and Public Policy (Chapter 4)

Thurs 1/20: Discussion Section Assignment: Chapter 4 Comparison (Comparing Civil Liberties)

Week 4

Mon 1/24: Civil Rights and Public Policy (Chapter 5)

Wed 1/26: Public Opinion and Political Action (Chapter 6)

Thurs 1/27: Discussion Section Assignment: Chapter 5 Simulation (You Are the Mayor) and Chapter 6 Participation (Are You a Liberal or a Conservative?)

Week 5

Mon 1/31: **Midterm Exam I**

Wed 2/2: The Mass Media and the Political Agenda (Chapter 7)

Thurs 2/3: Discussion Section Assignment: Chapter 7 Visual Literacy (The Media)

Week 6

Mon 2/7: Political Parties (Chapter 8)

Wed 2/9: Nominations and Campaigns (Chapter 9)

Thurs 2/10: Discussion Section Assignment: Chapter 8 Simulation (You Are Redrawing the Districts in Your State) and Chapter 9 Comparison (Comparing Political Campaigns)

Week 7

Mon 2/14: Elections and Voting Behavior (Chapter 10)

Wed 2/16: Interest Groups (Chapter 11)

Thurs 2/17: Discussion Section Assignment: Chapter 10 Simulation (You Are a Presidential Campaign Consultant) and Chapter 11 Timeline (Interest Groups and Campaign Finance)

Week 8

Mon 2/21: **Midterm Exam II**

Wed 2/23: Congress (Chapter 12)

Thurs 2/24: Discussion Section Assignment: Chapter 12 Simulation (You Are a Member of Congress)

Week 9

Mon 2/28: The Presidency (Chapter 13)

Wed 3/2: The Federal Bureaucracy (Chapter 15)

Thurs 3/3: Discussion Section Assignment: Chapter 13 Timeline (With the Stroke of a Pen: The Executive Order Over Time) and Chapter 15 Comparison (Comparing Bureaucracies)

Week 10

Mon 3/7: NO CLASS – INSTRUCTOR OUT OF TOWN

Wed 3/9: The Federal Courts (Chapter 16)

Thurs 3/10: Discussion Section Assignment: Visual Literacy (Case Overload)

Final Exam: As scheduled by the University