

POLS 3

POLITICAL SCIENCE SYLLABUS

An Introduction to American Government

Instructor: Neal F. Johnson
To contact: Call K.R.C.C. Switchboard
Drop Date: Friday: March 8th

Text and Term Paper Reference

Schmidt, Steffen; Shelley, II, Mack C.; Bardes, Barbara A.
American Government and Politics Today. St. Paul, MN: West
Publishing Company, 1993.

Goldstein, Eleanor, ed. What Citizens Need to Know About World
Affairs. Boca Raton, Florida: Social Issues Resources
Series, Inc., 1990. (Part V, Regions of the World: A
Historical Sketch.)

Campbell, William Giles et alii. Form and Style. Palo Alto:
Houghton Mifflin Company, 1990.

SUBSTITUTE FOR ABOVE WORK: Hacker, Dianna. A Potket Style Manual.
Boston: bedford Books fo St. Martin's Press, 1993.

Optional Readings for Papers:

Ashe, Arthur. Days of Grace. N.Y.: Alfred A Knopf, 1993. (Chapt. 5)

Brimelow, Peter. Alien Nation. N.Y.: Random House, 1995.

Chavez, Linda. Out of the Barrio. N.Y.: Basic Books, 1991.

D'Souza, Dinesh. The End of Racism. N.Y.: The Free Press, 1995.

_____. Illiberal Educaiton. N.Y.: Vintage Books, 1992.

Sowell, Thomas. Inside American Educaton. N.Y.: The Free Press,
1993.

_____. Race and Culture. N.Y.: Basic Books, 1994.

_____. The Vision of the Anointed. N.Y.: Basic Books,
1995.

Schlesinger, Arthur M., Jr. The Disuniting of America. N.Y.: W.W.
Norton & Company, 1992.

Objectives

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the structure and function of the U.S. Government. However, no course is complete without an attempt to understand those factors influencing those who make decisions and the impact those decisions may have on the lives of the people. Therefore, economics will play a major role in the course as it effects both government and is effected by government.

Assignments and Tests

The course is divided into four sections: (1)Politics, Who Rules in America and the Structure and Function of the Government, (2)the Three Branches of Government, (3)Economics and Politics, and (4)the Development of Foreign Policy. Sections 1 and 2 will be tested together, part 3 will be tested separately. Part 4 will be tested on the final exam. With regard to Part 4, and the papers that you are to write as explained in the following section, Part V of What Citizens Need to Know About World Affairs, must must be read by Week 3. You may be tested in the first exam on this reading. This will prepare you for the Foreign Policy section and help you in your understanding of the foreign policy topics on which some of you will be writing. Tests may consist of identification, matching, true-false sections, or any combination of the above, and may have an essay section in which you will be asked to write on one of two or more essays. The final exam may be any of the above. Its format will be announced.

There will also be a map test given throughout the term. Students may take the test as many times as they wish. A list of items will be provided for you to learn. All map questions will be taken from the list.

Papers

Students are expected to write one term paper over the course of the Term. These papers are to be no more than two pages in length. The papers are to deal with topics of interest in United States History and politics from 1945 to present. They are to be critical essays as well as reports. This will be explained in class. Examples of subject areas will be listed below. The paper is due week nine (9). Please note that English proficiency will play a major part in your grade. Papers not handed in on time will receive a grade of F. Absence from class on the day the papers is due will not constitute an excuse. If a problem arises see or call me!!!

Subject areas for Term Papers:

1. American Russian foreign policy 1945-1949. The start of the

Cold War.

2. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) What for?
3. American Immigration Policy - Cost to Taxpayers
4. The United Nations...goals and realities
5. Racism: What is it?
6. Slavery: What was and is it?
7. Nuclear Weapons...why and results given the "no war" period from 1945 to 1993
8. Civil Rights in the '50's and '60's...meaning and results.
9. Aids and the '60's ... any connection?
10. Affirmative Action and the Civil Rights acts of 1964 and 1991....are they the same?
11. The War on Poverty, the oil imbargo, COLAS.....effect on inflation in the late '60's and '70's.
12. The Theology of Abortion - Significance
13. What is the philosophical and theological definition of "human."

The instructor, at his discretion, reserves the right to change the paper or topic, in any way and at any time.

The format of the Paper should be as follows: All papers will be typed and double spaced. Bibliographies will follow the APA style to be found in Campbell.

Grades

Grades will be assessed as on a total points basis, with points distributed as follows:

- (1) Tests count 50 points each...total points 150
- (2) Term Paper counts 150 points
- (3) Map Test Counts 30 points

Total points possible for the semester 330.

In Percentage Terms: A=90; B=80; C=70; D=60; F=59 or lower

Attendance Policy: Students missing three consecutive (in a row) class periods will be dropped from the class. After the final drop date no student can be dropped and will receive a final grade.

ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1 - 7

Topic: Political Science - A Definition and Who Rules America

Reading: Schmidt, Chapters

1. Introduction - America in a World of Change
7. Public Opinion
8. Interest Groups
9. Political Parties
10. Campaigns, Candidates and Elections
11. The Media

Topic: The Structure and Function of the Government

Reading: Schmidt, Chapters

2. The Constitution
3. Federalism
12. The Congress
13. The President
14. The Bureaucracy
15. The Judiciary

TEST

Week 8 - 13

Topic: The Goals of Government and Economics

Reading: Schmidt, Chapters

16. Politics of Economic Policy Making
17. Domestic Policy
4. Civil Liberties
5. Civil Rights
6. Striving for Equality
19. State and Local Government

TEST

Week 14 - 18

Topic: Foreign Policy

Reading: Schmidt, Chapter 18. Foreign and Defense Policy

FINAL EXAM