

Course Outline

**Political Science - An Introduction to American Politics**  
Fall, 1998  
Instructor: **Mr. Marhenke** (Msg. 495-1077)  
Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.

*drop deadline*

Course Objectives:

Learn major concepts, terms and issues covered throughout the texts, lectures, handouts, and assignments.

Texts:

American Government and Politics Today: The Essentials, by Schmidt, Shelley, and Bardes; 1998-1999 edition.

Participation and Conduct:

All students are encouraged to ask questions for clarification, amplification, or for purpose of discussion about the topics at hand or current events related to the subject matter. Because this class is enriched through discussion and understanding other's viewpoints, it is expected that everyone will show respect for each person and opinion in this class.

It is the responsibility of the student to know what happened when absent from all or part of a class. Please have two or more fellow students to check with. If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance will be recorded on a daily basis. If a student arrives after roll has been taken, the student must notify the instructor of their attendance at the end of the class period. If a student misses six consecutive class meetings without notifying the instructor in a M.W.F. class, the instructor may drop the student. Our class meets for three hours each time. Therefore attendance for the entire class is very important, and more than two complete consecutive absences may lead to a drop from the class. Please notify the instructor whenever an absence is necessary. **Perfect attendance will earn ten extra credit points for your grade.**

Grading Policy:

| Total Points      |                                 |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Exams (4)         | 200 (make-ups must be arranged) |
| Readings (4)      | 200                             |
| Final Project (1) | 100                             |
| Total             | 500                             |

**\*\*This class is in A -F basis only\*\***

Marhenke  
Fall, 1998

Tentative Course Calender

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| Aug. 20  | First Day of Class: paperwork, opening, "Form a Government" |
| Aug. 27  | American Government and Politics: Stability and Change      |
| Sept. 3  | The Constitution/Federalism                                 |
| Sept. 10 | Exam 1 <b>Writing Project</b>                               |
| Sept. 17 | Civil Liberties   |
| Sept. 24 | Civil Rights  |
| Oct. 1   | Striving for Equality <b>Writing Project</b>                |
| Oct. 8   | Exam 2  |
| Oct. 15  | Public Opinion/Interest Groups                              |
| Oct. 22  | Political Parties <b>Writing Project</b>                    |
| Oct. 29  | Campaigns, Candidates, and Elections                        |
| Nov. 5   | The Media   |
| Nov. 12  | Exam 3 <b>Writing Project</b>                               |
| Nov. 19  | The Congress  |
| Nov. 26  | No Class  |
| Dec. 3   | The Presidency/ The Judiciary                               |
| Dec. 10  | <b>Turn In Final Project</b>                                |
| Dec. 17  | <u>Exam #4</u>  |

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Tentative Course Calendar

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| Aug. 22  | First Day of Class: paperwork, opening, "Form a Government" |
| Aug. 29  | American Government and Politics: Stability and Change      |
| Sept. 5  | The Constitution/Federalism                                 |
| Sept. 12 | Exam 1 <b>Writing Project</b>                               |
| Sept. 19 | Civil Liberties   |
| Sept. 26 | Civil Rights  |
| Oct. 3   | Striving for Equality <b>Writing Project</b>                |
| Oct. 10  | Exam 2  |
| Oct. 17  | Public Opinion/Interest Groups                              |
| Oct. 24  | Political Parties <b>Writing Project</b>                    |
| Oct. 31  | Campaigns, Candidates, and Elections                        |
| Nov. 5   | The Media   |
| Nov. 14  | Exam 3 <b>Writing Project</b>                               |
| Nov. 21  | The Congress  |
| Nov. 28  | No Class  |
| Dec. 5   | The Presidency/ The Judiciary                               |
| Dec. 12  | <u>Exam #4</u> <b>Turn in Final Project</b>                 |

Political Science 2  
Mr. Marhenke

Directions for Writing Outside Reading Assignments

Read a minimum of four articles pertaining to American Government and/or Politics. Each of the four articles should be related to one of the parts of the course, as outlined in the contents section of your book. One article per part (4 total) please. You are encouraged to read as many articles as you like. The articles should be from an outside source, such as a newspaper, magazine, journal, internet, or book. Articles should not be over two years old. Please use a different source for each article, and make clear what part of the text the article relates to.

Summarize the article, answering these types of questions: What does the author want us to remember or learn from this article? What is the most important piece of information in this article?

Then comment on the article. Was there any part of the article that did not seem clear to you as you read the article? What were your thoughts as you read the article? Did the article bring more questions to your mind? Did the article seem fair, or did the author take a side to make a point?

Your summaries and comments should be typed, double-spaced, and no longer than two or three pages. Use the following format:

Name

Date

Topic (from text)

Gerald Piel, "Diffusing the Population Bomb," The Nation, March 21, 1994

Summary:

Comment: