

Course Outline

Political Science - An Introduction to American Politics  
Spring, 2000  
Instructor: Mr. Marhenke (Msg. 495-1077)  
Saturday, 9:00 a.m. -11:50 p.m.

*PO1502*

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; 2000 - 2001 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)
Current Event Papers (4)	200	
Final Project (1)	100	
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	

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

*Course No.*

Grade	Percent	Points
A	90%	450 +
B	80%	400 - 449
C	70%	350 - 399
D	60%	300 - 349
F	59%	299 and below

Assignments:

**(4) Exams** worth 50 points each, please have a **Scantron 886** and a #2 pencil for each exam. Each exam will consist of multiple choice questions, short answer, and an essay question.

**(4) Outside (Current Issue) Reading assignments** worth 50 points each. Each reading assignment will be based on topics covered in class and by the text. Each will be due during or immediately after the appropriate section is covered in the text. Students may choose which four sections to write on, but only one assignment per section. These should be no more than 2 to 3 pages, double spaced, typed or printed.

**(1) Final Research Project** worth 100 points. This may take the form of a full length research paper, a short paper with visual displays, graphs, interviews, videos, or some other way of demonstrating research done over the semester on one topic of interest. This may be an individual, pair, or three person project.

Marhenke  
Spring, 2000

Tentative Course Calender

Jan. 15 First Day of Class: paperwork, opening, "Form a Government"  
22 American Government and Politics: Stability and Change  
21 Last Day To Drop a Class for a Refund  
29 The Constitution/Federalism **Current Event Paper**

Feb. 5 **Exam 1**  
12 Civil Liberties  
19 Civil Rights  
26 Civil Rights **Current Event Paper**

March 7 **Exam 2**  
10 Last Day to Drop Without a Grade  
11 Public Opinion/Interest Groups  
18 Political Parties **Current Events Paper**  
25 Campaigns, Elections, & the Media

April 1 Campaigns, Elections, & the Media  
8 **Exam 3**  
15 The Congress **Current Event Paper**  
22 Spring Break  
29 The Congress/The Presidency

May 6 The Presidency/The Judiciary **Project Due**  
13 **Exam 4 (Comprehensive Final)**