

Political Science 1100: American Government Syllabus

Spring 2016
M/W/F 12:00 to 12:50 pm
Middlebush Hall, Room 211

June 8, 2016

Instructor: Christopher Patane
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Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 2pm to 4pm, or by appointment

Course Description

This is an introductory course in which we consider the basic ideas, structures, and political processes of the United States government, including the fundamental institutional relationships in the federal system. By the end of the semester, students should be able to recognize the major players in American politics, the basic structure of the U.S. Government, and the roles ideas, individuals, and institutions play.

In addition, we will apply these ideas in our discussion about the development of civil liberties and rights and the defining/protecting of these rights. Students will also be introduced to patterns in voter turnout and civic participation, as well as the role of public opinion and the media. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to bring up current events or issues that apply to our academic discussions in class. I will attempt to set aside time each week to discuss these issues, and relate them to both our lecture and assigned readings.

Course Textbook

There are two required books for this course. The first one is the general textbook. The second is an e-reader that is necessary for exams and participation in class discussions.

Textbook: Ginsberg, Benjamin, Theodore J. Lowi, Margaret Weir, Caroline J. Tolbert, and Robert J. Spitzer. 2015. *We the People: An Introduction to American Politics*. Tenth Essentials Edition. New York: W. W. Norton & Company. ISBN: 978-0-393-93705-3

Blackboard E-reader: American Government E-Reader. Pearson Learning.

I expect you to have completed the readings before the day they appear on the syllabus.

Blackboard

All communication for this course will be conducted via the course's Blackboard site—this is also where students will set-up and access the assigned E-Reader—and University email. Any supplementary material, assignments, or changes to the course structure will be made available on this site. Each student should ensure that they have access to these materials and are able to receive emails through their student account. Please note that I cannot accept or respond to student emails that come from a non-university address.

Grading

Exam 1: (20%)

Exam 2: (20%)

Exam 3: (20%)

Five 20-point quizzes: (20% total)

Missouri Constitution Assignment: (20%)

While I am more than happy to provide make-up exams or quizzes for those that miss class, I cannot do so without a reason to excuse the absence. In order to make up a quiz or exam, the student is required to bring in some form of documentation justifying the absence—such as a doctor's note, obituary, etc.

Grading Scale

98-100: A+ 88-89: B+ 78-79: C+ 68-69: D+ 59 and below: F

94-97: A 84-87: B 74-77: C 64-67: D

90-93: A- 80-83: B- 70-73: C- 60-63: D-

Information and University Policies

Academic Honesty

Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

Classroom Conduct

The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the departmental chair or divisional director; the director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities; the MU Equity Office, or equity@missouri.edu.

All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor at the end of the course.

University of Missouri System Executive Order No. 38 lays out principles regarding the sanctity of classroom discussions at the university. The policy is described fully in Section 200.015 of the Collected Rules and Regulations. In this class, students may make audio or video recordings of course activity unless specifically prohibited by the faculty member. However, the redistribution of audio or video recordings of statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the course is prohibited without the express permission of the faculty member and of any students who are recorded. Students found to have violated this policy are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of section 200.020 of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters.

Title IX and Mandatory Reporting

University of Missouri policies and federal law prohibit all forms of sex discrimination in education, including discrimination on the basis of sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, and pregnancy. Discrimination includes any form of unequal treatment such as denial of opportunities, harassment, and violence. Sex-based violence includes rape, sexual assault, unwanted touching, stalking, dating/interpersonal violence, and sexual exploitation.

Because we care about our community, Mizzou employees are required to report all incidents of sex discrimination to the Title IX Office. The Title IX Office connects students with resources and helps them decide whether they wish to file a complaint of discrimination. To learn more, contact title9@missouri.edu or (573) 882-3880, or go to www.title9.missouri.edu. Students may also contact the Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention (RSVP) Center, a confidential resource, for counseling and other support: rsvp@missouri.edu or (573) 882-6638, or go to www.rsvp.missouri.edu. Both the Title IX Office and the RSVP Center can provide accommodations to students who need help with academics, housing, or other issues. The Title IX Office and the RSVP Center will respect your privacy.

Disability Services

If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in

case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible.

If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please register with the MU Disability Center, S5 Memorial Union, 573-882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations.

Copyright on Lecture and Course Materials

Copyright 2016 (Christopher Patane) as to this syllabus and all lectures. During this course, students are prohibited from selling notes or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the express written permission of the instructor teaching this course.

Class Outline

I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time. Changes will be announced in class and on the course Blackboard site. It is the responsibility of the student to take note of any changes.

Week 1, January 20 - 22: The Citizen and Government, American Political Thought

Textbook: Chapter 1.

E-reader: None

Week 2, January 25 - 29: The Founding and Constitution

Textbook: Chapter 2, The Constitution of the United States of America pp. A11-A31, Federalist 10 and 51, Anti-Federalist Papers, pp. A33-A50

Week 3, February 1 - 5: Federalism

Textbook: Chapter 3

E-reader: McCulloch v Maryland, Gibbons v Odgen, Barron v Baltimore, pp. 42-48

Week 4, February 8 - 12: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Textbook: Chapter 4

E-reader: Griswold v. Connecticut pp. 149, Brown v. Board of Education pp. 157, Civil Rights Act of 1964 pp. 188

Week 5, February 15 - 20: Public Opinion

February 19, Exam 1

Textbook: Chapter 5

E-reader: "Public Opinion and the Death Penalty" pp. 52

Week 6, February 22 - 26: The Media

Textbook: Chapter 6

E-reader: "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital" pp. 56

Week 7, February 29 - March 4: Parties, Participation, Elections

Textbook: Chapter 7

E-reader: "What Does an Election Tell You?" pp. 73

Week 8, March 7 - 11: Interest Groups

Textbook: Chapter 8

E-reader: "The Logic of Collective Action" pp. 86, "Legislative Hearings: Providing Policy Information in the Policy Process" pp. 80

Week 9, March 14 - 18: The Missouri Constitution

No class March 16 and March 18: International Studies Association Conference.

Missouri Constitution Assignment due March 20

Week 10, March 21 - 25: Congress

March 25, Exam 2 Textbook: Chapter 9

E-reader: "Congress: The Electoral Connection" pp. 110, "Behind the Noisy Clashes, 2 Chambers that Don't Understand Each Other" pp. 113

Week 11, March 28 - April 1: No Class, Spring Break

Week 12, April 4 - 8: The Presidency

Textbook: Chapter 10

E-reader: "The Power to Persuade" pp. 122

Week 13, April 11 - 15: The Bureaucracy

Textbook: Chapter 11

E-reader: "Bureaucracy and the Public Interest" pp. 135

Week 14, April 18 - 22: Judiciary

Textbook: Chapter 12

E-reader: "History of Merit Selection" pp. 129

Week 15, April 25 - 29: Domestic Policy

Textbook: Chapter 13

E-reader: "The Great American Bubble Machine" pp. 212

Week 16, May 2 - 5: Foreign Policy

May 3, Exam 3 Textbook: Chapter 14

E-reader: none

Week 17, May 9 - 13: Finals Week