

Political Science 1100, Section 1: American Government Syllabus

Summer 2015
June 8, 2015-July 2, 2015

Mo/Tu/We/Th/F
12:10pm-2:10pm
Middlebush Hall, Room 309

Instructor: Christopher Patane
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Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 2:10pm-3:30pm, and 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 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. You are required to purchase both of these books, but a copy of the main course textbook is available on reserve in Ellis Library. It will be available for the entirety of the course for you to copy/scan as necessary.

Textbook: Morone, James A. and Rogan Kersh. 2014. *By The People: Debating American Government*. New York: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 978-0-19-021614-6

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.

Grading

Quiz 1: (20%)

Quiz 2: (20%)

Quiz 3: (20%)

Comprehensive Final Exam: (40%) on Thursday July 2, 2015

Grading Scale

97-100: A+	87-89: B+	77-79: C+	67-69: 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 matter.

Following the guidelines provided on the University's Title IX website, as an employee of the university, I am a mandatory reporter of any conduct or reports of conduct that I am made aware of. More information about this, and the services provided by the Title IX office can be found at: <http://title9.missouri.edu/>.

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 2015 (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. Given the shorter time period of the course, we will cover more material each week than during a regular course. Quizzes will be held at the end of class each Friday, and the final exam will be held on the final day of class.

Extra Credit: I will tie the lectures and course discussions to current news stories such as Supreme Court decisions and the upcoming 2016 primary elections. In addition, I will offer five points of extra credit each week to students who find a story relating to our discussions for the week (an equivalent quiz grade). There will be a post on the "Assignments" section of the course Blackboard site for you to post your responses. I also encourage you to bring these up in class as it will help further our

discussions during the week.

Week 1, June 8-12: Political Thought, The Constitution, Federalism, and Congress.

- Textbook:
 - Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 13.
- E-Reader:
 - “Introduction to Democracy in America” pp. 6-11.
 - Dow, Jay. “The Federalist and Anti-Federalist Debates” pp. 13-18.
 - Missouri Constitution, discussion. (document will be posted on Blackboard)
- **General Outline:**
 - Monday, June 8 : Chapters 1 and 2, American Political Thought
 - Tuesday, June 9: Chapter 3, The Constitution
 - Wednesday, June 10: Chapter 4, Federalism and the Missouri Constitution
 - Thursday, June 11: Chapter 13, Congress
 - Friday, June 12: E-reader discussion and Quiz 1

Week 2, June 15-19: Presidency, Bureaucracy, Judiciary, Civil Liberties.

- Textbook:
 - Chapters 14, 15, 16, and 5.
- E-Reader:
 - Hulse, Carl. “Behind the Noisy Clashes, 2 Chambers That Don’t Understand Each Other.” pp. 81-82.
 - Neustadt, Richard E. “The Power to Persuade.” pp. 87-92.
- **General Outline:**
 - Monday, June 15: Chapter 14, The Presidency
 - Tuesday, June 16: Chapter 15, The Bureaucracy
 - Wednesday, June 17: Chapter 16, The Judiciary
 - Thursday, June 18: Chapter 5, Civil Liberties
 - Friday, June 19: E-reader discussion and Quiz 2.

Week 3, June 22-26: Civil Rights, Participation, Public Opinion, and Media, Campaigns and Elections.

- Textbook:
 - Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.
- E-Reader:
 - Letter from a Birmingham Jail.
 - Civil Rights Act of 1964 pp. 127-134.
- **General Outline:**
 - Monday, June 22: Chapter 6, Civil Rights
 - Tuesday June 23: Chapter 7, Political Participation
 - Wednesday June 24: Chapter 8, Public Opinion
 - Thursday June 25: Chapter 9 and 10, The Media and Campaigns and Elections

- Friday, June 26: E-reader discussion and Quiz 3.

Week 4, June 29-July 2: Parties, Interest Groups, Domestic and Foreign Policy

- Textbook:
 - Chapters 11, 12, 17, and 18.
- E-Reader:
 - Olson, Mancur. “The Logic of Collective Action” pp. 61-62.
 - Petrocik, John. “What Does an Election Tell You? The 2008 Election, Looking to 2012.” pp. 50-55.
- **General Outline**
 - Monday, June 29, Chapter 11, Parties
 - Tuesday, June 30, Chapter 12, Interest Groups and E-reader discussion
 - Wednesday, July 1, Chapters 17 and 18, Domestic and Foreign Policy
 - Thursday, July 2: Comprehensive Final Exam.