

Political Science 1100: American Government Syllabus

Spring 2015
Tu/Th 8:00 to 9:15 am
Middlebush Hall, Room 310

January 16, 2015

Instructor: Christopher Patane
217 Professional Building
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Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

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.

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

Exam 1: (25%)

Exam 2: (25%)

Exam 3: (25%)

Missouri Constitution Assignment: (25%)

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 matters.

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.

Week 1, January 20 - 22: Introduction and American Political Thought

Textbook: Chapter 2.

E-reader: "The Rights of the Colonists" pp. 4-6, "Introduction to Democracy in America" pp. 6-11.

Week 2, January 27 - 29: The American Constitution

Textbook: Chapter 3, The Constitution of the United States of America (Appendix II) pp. A-3-A-19.

E-reader: Dow, Jay. "The Federalist and Anti-Federalist Debates" pp. 13-18.

Week 3, February 3 - 5: Federalism

Textbook: Chapter 4

E-reader: “Gibbons v. Ogden” and “Barron v. Baltimore” pp. 32-34.

Week 4, February 10 - 12: Congress

Textbook: Chapter 13

E-reader: Hulse, Carl. “Behind the Noisy Clashes, 2 Chambers That Don’t Understand Each Other.” pp. 81-82.

Week 5, February 17 - 19:

February 17, Exam 1

February 19, No Class: International Studies Association Conference

Missouri Constitution Assignment, due February 26

Week 6, February 24 - 26: Presidency

Textbook: Chapter 14

E-reader: Neustadt, Richard E. “The Power to Persuade.” pp. 87-92.

Week 7, March 3 - 5: Bureaucracy

Textbook: Chapter 15

E-reader: Wilson, James Q. “Bureaucracy and the Public Interest.” pp. 96-103.

Week 8, March 10 - 12: Judiciary

Textbook: Chapter 16

E-reader: None

Week 9, March 17 - 19: Civil Liberties

Textbook: Chapter 5

E-reader: “Mapp v. Ohio” pp. 105-107, “State of Missouri v. Canada” pp. 109-112.

Week 10, March 24 - 26: Spring Break

Week 11, March 31 - April 2: Civil Rights

Textbook: Chapter 6

E-reader: “Letter from a Birmingham Jail,” Civil Rights Act of 1964.” pp. 127-134.

Week 12, April 7 - 9: Public Opinion and the Media

April 7, Exam 2 Textbook: Chapters 8 and 9

E-reader: Petrocik, John. “Public Opinion and the Death Penalty.” pp. 35-38.

Week 13, April 14 - 16: Political Participation

Textbook: Chapter 7

E-reader: None

Week 14, April 21 - 23: Parties and Interest Groups

Textbook: Chapters 11 and 12

E-reader: Olson, Mancur. "The Logic of Collective Action." pp. 61-62.

Week 15, April 28 - 30: Campaigns and Elections

Textbook: Chapter 10

E-reader: Petrocik, John. "What Does an Election Tell You? The 2008 Election, Looking to 2012." pp. 50-55.

Week 16, May 5 - 7: Public and Foreign Policy

Textbook: Chapters 17 and 18

E-reader: Overby, Marvin. "American Attitudes about Homosexuality, Same-Sex Marriage, and Gay Adoption." pp. 149-152.

Week 17, May 12 - 14: Finals Week

Tuesday, May 12, 12:30-2:30 pm, Final Exam