

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Political Science 1560

Fall, 2009

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COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course is a general introduction to the American political system. The course is designed to instruct students regarding the American constitutional system, the functional machinery (legislative, executive, and judicial branches) of government, as well as the various means of access to that machinery (voting, political parties, and so forth). At the end of the course, students are expected to have a solid understanding of the basics of American politics.

GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Political Science 1560 is an approved course under the Societies and Institutions domain, designed to fulfill general education goals 10, 11, and 12, while also addressing goals 1, 2, and 3. For listing of the goals for the general education requirements, access YSU's general education website at <http://www.cc.ysu.edu/ger/genedg.html>.

REQUIRED BOOK:

Edward Greenberg and Benjamin Page, *America's Democratic Republic*, 3rd Ed., (New York: Pearson Longman, 2009).

There is a Web CT site for this class – there will be assigned readings on that site for this class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students are required to take three exams in this course. Each exam will contain various types of questions:

- Multiple choice.
- True and false
- Fill in the blank
- Short essay question.

There will also be occasional quizzes. They will be announced.

GRADING:

A normal grading curve is used for the final grade: A=90-100%; B=80-89%; C=70-79%; D=60-69%; and F=59% or below.

GENERAL POLICIES:

Attendance: Students are expected to be in class every time. Much of the exam material will come from class lectures and discussions. As such, your presence in class is essential in order for you to perform well in the course. I will take attendance in class. **STUDENTS MAY NOT LEAVE CLASS EARLY! Students who miss more than 4 classes will have their grade dropped 10%-- WILL BE ENFORCED!**

Classroom Behavior: There will be **no eating** or informal conversing during the class period. Turn all beepers and cellphones off. Such behavior and gadgets can be distracting to your fellow students, not to mention irritating to me. Any snacks should be finished, and garbage disposed, prior to class. You may bring something to drink as long as you do so quietly and are considerate of others. These rules are for everyone's benefit, and most importantly are ordained to make sure that all of us are giving our undivided attention to the classroom session. they leave class until it is over. **Students are not to come to class late nor can they leave class before it is over. If this is a problem – drop the class now.**

Makeups: Students are expected to do the work at the scheduled time. Prior permission from me or notification by a

doctor are the only conditions under which makeups will be allowed. Those failing to do this will be given a zero for the exam in question. In the event a makeup exam is given, it will contain essay questions only.

Extra Credit: There will be **no extra credit** work in this course.

Incompletes: The University policy will be followed. According to the policy, “[a]n incomplete grade of I may be given to a student who has been doing satisfactory work in a course but, for reasons beyond the control of the student and deemed justifiable by the instructor, had not completed all requirements for a course when grades were submitted” (*Undergraduate Bulletin* 2006-2007, p. 36).

Academic Dishonesty: A definition of and policy on cheating and plagiarism is described under “Academic Misconduct” in the *Undergraduate Bulletin*. Anyone caught cheating or handing in plagiarized work will be given a zero for the assignment in question.

Americans with Disabilities Act: Anyone requiring special adaptations or accommodations should inform the instructor as soon as possible. In accordance with University procedures, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, please contact the Office of Disability Services (phone: 330-941-1372) in the Center for Student Progress at the beginning of the semester or when given an assignment for which an accommodation is required. Students with disabilities must verify their eligibility through the Office of Disability Services.

Class Schedule

The following schedule is an outline of the readings and the dates for the three exams. You will be notified as soon as possible should any changes to this schedule be necessary.

WEEK	Topics	Readings
1.	Introduction	
2.	The Constitution	Appendix A-6
3.	The Constitution Federalism	Ch. 2 and Appendix A-6 Ch. 3
First Exam		
5	The Presidency	Ch. 12
6	Congress	Ch 11
7	The Budget and Economic Policies	Ch 15
8	Social Safety Nets	Ch 16
9	The Courts	Ch 14
2nd Exam		
10	Civil Liberties	Ch. 4
11	Political Parties	Ch. 9
12	Elections	Ch. 10
13	Elections	Ch 10
14	Review	
15	Final Exam	