

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

American Government
Political Science 1560 06
CRN: 44081
Fall Semester 2009

“I swear on the altar of God eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the minds of men.” Thomas Jefferson

“In decision, reason or choice of action sometimes science is at a loss—things happen because we believe.” Author unknown

- Time: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 12:00-12:50 p.m.
Room 303 Williamson Hall
- Instructor: Michael L. Paquet, Ph. D., Urban Studies and Public Affairs
Cleveland State University
M.A., Public Administration
The American University
B.A., Political Science
The Ohio State University
- Contact: Office – Political Science Department/444 DeBartolo Hall
Phone – 330.941.3436 E-mail – mlpaquet@ysu.edu
- Office Hours: Available upon request and immediately following and prior to each class.
- Course Description: General Education Program Information – Political Science 1560 is an approved course under the Societies and Institutions domain. This course describes the government of the United States with an emphasis on understanding the impact that democratic theory has had on American political institutions, as well as the role that effective citizenship has played and continues to play on the evolution of those institutions.
- Course Goals and Objectives: To encourage students to confront the values necessary for a democratic nation to prosper; help students understand important social issues that confront our society and those values necessary for a democratic nation to prosper; provide students with the skills that they need to participate as active and critical citizens in a democracy, including the fundamentals of the Constitution, and the political institutions and ideals established by that document. The course will also familiarize students with important events in American political and social history and encourage them to gather and interpret political data from the internet.

Incomplete Grade Policy:	An incomplete grade of “I” may be given to a student who has been doing satisfactory work in the course but, for reasons beyond control of the student and deemed justifiable by the instructor, had not completed all requirements for the course when grades were submitted. A written explanation of the reason for the “I” and a date (which must be within one year) by which all course requirements will be completed, must be forwarded to the Office of the Registrar for inclusion in the student’s permanent record with copies to the student and the department chairperson. The instructor will initiate a grade change upon completion of the course requirements. If no formal grade change occurs within one year, the “I” automatically converts to an “F”. If graduation occurs within the one-year period, the Incomplete grade will be converted to an “F” before graduation.
Americans with Disabilities Act:	Anyone requiring special adaptations or accommodations should inform the instructor as soon as possible. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, or when given an assignment for which accommodation is required, 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 accommodations is required. Students with disabilities must verify their eligibility through the Office of Disability Services.
Text:	Greenberg, Edward S. and Benjamin I. Page. 2009. <i>America’s Democratic Republic</i> . 3 rd ed. New York: Longman/Pearson Education, Inc.
Text Companion:	Daily national print or on-line news periodical, on-line news service or national media news broadcast.
Teaching Philosophy:	Philosophy of teaching embraces and promotes tenets of student-centered engaged learning techniques. It is inclusive of active engagement between student and instructor.
Teaching Methodology:	A combined lecture/recitation format with readings as companion to each subject will be used. Students are expected to participate in each class through the offering of questions and comments pertinent to discussion. If students have questions or need clarifications about course topics and processes or are having trouble understanding the material to be covered, please feel free to ask. The teaching methodology utilized places a heavy burden on the honor and responsibility of the student. Policies outlined in the Student Handbook with regard to cheating and plagiarism will be strictly enforced.

COURSE OUTLINE

Disclaimer: To accommodate unusual circumstances, the instructor reserves the right to make reasonable changes in the syllabus while the course is in progress. Questions about the interpretation of the syllabus and course requirements will normally be resolved by the instructor.

August 24 Introduction of course content by instructor, explanation of expectations, assignment of assessment papers, as well as review of syllabus.

Part One - Democratic Aspirations, Republican Constitutional Foundations

August 26 Reading Assignment: *America's Democratic Republic*
Chapter 1 – The American Democratic Republic
Class Assignment: Assessment Papers Due

August 28 & 31 Reading Assignment: *America's Democratic Republic*
September 2 & 4 Chapter 2 - The Constitution

September 7 No classes – Labor Day

September 9, 11 & 14 Reading Assignment: *America's Democratic Republic*
Chapter 3 - Federalism

September 16 & 18 Reading Assignment: *America's Democratic Republic*
Chapter 4 - Civil Liberties

September 21 & 23 Reading Assignment: *America's Democratic Republic*
Chapter 5 - Civil Rights

September 25 Course Review

September 28 MIDTERM EXAMINATION I

Part Two - Political Institutions

September 30, Reading Assignment: *America's Democratic Republic*
October 2 & 5 Chapter 6- Public Opinion & Political Learning

October 7 Reading Assignment: *America's Democratic Republic*
Chapter 7 – The News Media

October 12, 14 & 16 Reading Assignment: *America's Democratic Republic*
Chapter 8 – Interest Groups

October 19, 21 & 23 Reading Assignment: *America's Democratic Republic*
Chapter 9 – Political Parties

October 26 & 28	Reading Assignment: <i>America's Democratic Republic</i> Chapter 10 – Elections and Citizen Participation
October 30	Course Review
November 2	MIDTERM EXAMINATION II <i>Part Three – <u>Government Institutions</u></i>
November 4, 6 & 9	Reading Assignment: <i>America's Democratic Republic</i> Chapter 11 – Congress
November 11	No classes – Veteran's Day
November 13	Reading Assignment: <i>America's Democratic Republic</i> Chapter 12 – The Presidency
November 16 & 18	Reading Assignment: <i>America's Democratic Republic</i> Chapter 13 – The Federal Bureaucracy
November 20	Reading Assignment: <i>America's Democratic Republic</i> Chapter 14 – The Courts <i>Part Four -<u>What Government Does</u></i>
November 23	Reading Assignment: <i>America's Democratic Republic</i> Chapter 15 – The Budget and Economic Policies
November 25	No classes – Columbus Day observed
November 26 & 27	No classes – Thanksgiving Break
November 30	Reading Assignment: <i>America's Democratic Republic</i> Chapter 16 – Social Safety Nets
December 2	Reading Assignment: <i>America's Democratic Republic</i> Chapter 17 – Foreign Policy and National Defense
December 4	Course Review
Week of December 7	FINAL EXAMINATION

Assessment: Seven components comprise the evaluation process toward reaching a final grade.

They are two assessment papers, two midterm examinations, attendance, participation and a final examination. Each component of assessment will be considered by the following weight:

Midterm Examination 1	25%
Midterm Examination 2	25%
Final Examination	30%

The following components comprise the balance of weighted consideration and shall assist in the determination of the final grade:

Assessment Papers 1 and 2, Attendance, Participation

RUBRIC for short essay answers.

Score Requirement

- 10 Student demonstrates a clear understanding of the question. Essay is two to three paragraphs in length with no paragraph being of just one or two sentences and relates more than two concepts to the essay question from the text or class discussions. Grammar and spelling are of a professional capacity and consistent with MLA standards.
- 9-9.9 Student demonstrates a clear understanding of the essay question. Essay is at least two to three paragraphs in length with no paragraph being of just one or two sentences and relates at least two concepts to the essay question from the text or class discussion.
- 7-8.9 Student demonstrates an understanding of the essay question. Essay is at least two to three paragraphs in length with no paragraph being of just one sentence and relates a concept to the essay question from the text or class discussion.
- 5-6.9 Student demonstrates a partial understanding of the essay question. Essay fails to meet the two to three paragraphs criterion as well as the sentence requirement. A concept is loosely connected to the essay question from class discussion or the text.
- 3-4.9 Student fails to demonstrate a complete understanding of the essay question. Essay does not meet the paragraph or sentence length requirement as previously stated. No concept is directly connected to the essay which was presented in class or in the text.
- 1-2.9 Student fails to meet any of the above criterion yet attempts an answer.
- 0 Student fails to attempt an answer.