

Political Science 101
Professor Lowry
Office: Eliot 334

American Politics
Fall 2004
Office Hours: Monday 2-4

Description

This course considers the basic aspects of American politics and government: foundations, processes, institutions, civil liberties and rights. The format of the course consists of two lectures per week and a discussion section once a week.

Requirements

Students are expected to keep up with the readings. Lectures will complement the readings and students will be responsible for material in both. Further, material in the course is made relevant to current events. Therefore, students should keep up with the news. Attendance and participation in discussion sections is mandatory. Your grade will be determined by two exams (25% each), a final (40%), and participation in discussion sections (10%). The dates for the exams are listed on the syllabus and are not negotiable.

Readings

Two books are required for the course, a basic text and a reader on issues. The books are available in paperback in the bookstore. We may make other reading assignments available as the semester progresses.

Purpose

Upon completion of this course, you should have a basic knowledge of American politics. We feel that such knowledge is an important part of a general education. Our hope is that such knowledge will enable you to better understand and assess current events. We also hope that you, if you have not already done so, develop an interest in those events. Further, this course should enable you to consider Political Science as a major since it does provide an overview of numerous subject areas. Besides, it might even be interesting.

We reserve the right to change specifics in the syllabus as the semester progresses.

Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignments
9/1-9/3	Introduction	Text: 1
9/8-9/10	Constitution	Text: 2 Reader: 19
9/13-9/17	Federalism and Civil Rights	Text: 3, 5 Reader: 10
9/20-9/24	Public Opinion	Text: 6 Reader: 8
9/27	Catch-Up and Review	
9/29	Exam 1	
10/4-10/8	Voting and Elections	Text: 7 Reader: 7
10/11-10/15	Political Parties	Text: 8 Reader: 2
10/18-10/20	Interest Groups	Text: 9 (no sections)
10/25-10/29	The Media Catch-Up and Review	Text: 10 Reader: 4
11/1	Exam 2	
11/3-11/5	Election 2004	
11/8-11/12	Congress	Text: 11 Reading to be Assigned
11/15-11/19	Presidency	Text: 12 Reading to be Assigned
11/22	Bureaucracy	Text: 13
11/29-12/3	Judiciary	Text: 14 Reader: 12
12/6-12/10	Civil Liberties Review	Text: 4 Reader: 20
12/17 (1030am-1230pm)	Final Exam	