PS 101-010 – Introduction to American Government

Summer 2002
Class Times: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM Monday through Friday
Class Location: Classroom Building Room 208
Instructor – David Prince
Office – 1602 Patterson Office Tower
Phone 257-4436
Email – dwprin0@uky.edu
Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Objective:

The objective of this course is to provide you with a broad overview of the American political system. An understanding of American political institutions and political actors will hopefully allow you to critically examine political events and thus be better consumers of political events and politics. Additionally, this course will provide some introduction to some important works in political science in order to provide students with an interest in the discipline a foundation for future study.

Office Hours:

My office is located in 1602 in the Patterson Office Tower. My office hours for the summer are by appointment. If you come by and can not find me in my office look in the Political Science Computer Lab as I will likely be there. Feel free to make an appointment at any time to discuss any aspect of the course. Also feel free to e-mail me with any questions or concerns you may have. E-mail is probably the most efficient means of communication as I check my e-mail compulsively.

Course Web Site:

I have created a course web site at http://ecourses.uky.edu. You need to enroll in the course at the web site as soon as possible. This will be my means of communication with you. Any announcements for the course will be posted at the web site. Additionally, you will be able to assess your grades online at the web site as well as my lecture notes for the course. I suggest you check the site often as you never know when I may offer hints for the exams or quizzes.

In order to register for the course go to http://ecourses.uky.edu. At this point a screen will appear asking you to login or register. If you have previously registered at blackboard just enter your user name and password. If you have not previously registered you will need to create an account. Once you have logged in to the web site you can click on the tab for courses. This will bring up the course catalogue. You can do a course search for using (PS101-005-402) which will take you directly to the course or you can click on Arts and Science and the Political Science at which point you should see the course listed among various political science courses. Click on enroll to complete the
process. Be careful not to enroll in the class more than once. If you have any problems please e-mail me.

Required Text:

There are two required books for the course which are available at the campus bookstore as well as Kennedy’s. The Patterson book is a traditional textbook for the course and the second is a reader to supplement the course text. The reader serves two objectives. First, it provides exposure to original documents such as the Federalist Papers and Supreme Court Cases. Second, it provides exposure to some important works by Political Scientists. This is especially beneficial to those that may choose to pursue a degree in Political Science. In addition to the required text you are responsible for any handouts distributed throughout the course. These will generally be provided through the course web site.


Evaluation:

Your grade for the course will be based on two midterms and a final exam, a series of quizzes and a short essay. Grades will be weighed as indicated below and based on the traditional grade scale.

**Grade Weights:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>15%</td>
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**Grade Scale:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100 - 89.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>89.4 - 79.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>79.4 - 69.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>69.4 - 59.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59.4 and Below</td>
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Exams

There will be two midterms and a final exam. The midterms are scheduled for MAY 15 and MAY 28 with the final scheduled for June 4. The two midterms will be worth 20% each toward the final grade and the final will be worth 25% of the course grade. The exams may consist of a variety of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. Additionally, the final exam will be partly comprehensive (20%). However, the majority of the exam will consist of the new material (80%).

Quizzes

During the course I will give approximately 6 to 10 unannounced quizzes worth 20% of your grade for the course. The number of quizzes will be adjusted up or down based upon the preparation of the class for participation in class discussion. If I feel that students are coming to class unprepared I will give more quizzes. If students are prepared for class then expect less quizzes. Quizzes may be administered at the beginning or end of class and should take approximately 10 minutes to complete. They may be on the readings assigned for class that day or on previous readings and class discussions. The purpose of the quizzes is to encourage reading the material and to reward students who come to class on a regular basis. Since quizzes may be given at the beginning of class it is critical that you are on time for class as you may miss a quiz if you are late. Likewise if you leave class early you may risk missing a quiz as well. Do not expect to receive an exemption from a quiz if you are late for class or choose to leave early.

Essay

A short essay worth 15 percent of your final grade of approximately 3 to 5 typed pages in length is required as part of the course. For the essay select an article from a newspaper, magazine, or journal that is related to the material covered in the course. In order to receive credit for the essay you must include a copy of your article with your essay. In your essay summarize the article briefly, discuss how the article relates to the material in the course and critique the article being sure to address any bias present, aspects not covered and so on. Additionally, the essay should include your opinion and evaluation of the article. Do you agree with the author’s findings and why you agree or disagree? If you have any questions concerning the essays feel free to see me. Essays are due on May 31, 2002.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is not required as part of the course. However, attendance is critical to perform at the highest level in the course as the lectures will cover material not included in the readings that will be included on the exams. Additionally, 20 percent of your grade is derived from quizzes thus making class attendance highly beneficial. Attendance will also be used as a factor in determining borderline grades for the course.

Makeup Exams:
No makeup exams will be given without a documented excuse such as a university-sponsored event, a doctor’s excuse for an illness or a death in the family. All requests for a makeup should be made in advance whenever possible. Makeup exams may consist entirely of essay questions and may consist of material from the entire course. No makeup quizzes will be given. Quiz grades will be determined based on the quizzes taken when a valid documented excuse is received.

**Cheating and Plagiarism:**

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and are dealt with harshly by the University and me. For information on definitions of cheating and plagiarism, see the University document at http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/part2.html, section 6.3.1 and section 6.3.2. For the actions that will be taken against any student who violates these rules, see sections 6.4.1 through 6.4.11.

**Escape Clause:**

I reserve the right to make any changes to the syllabus as necessary. In some cases we may find it necessary to spend more time on a certain section depending on class interest. Any changes in the syllabus will be reflected in the online version of the syllabus and therefore you should check frequently with the course web site.
Course Schedule

May 7 – Introduction to Course

May 8 - Foundations of American Government
Read Chapter 1 Patterson
1.1. John Locke, from Two Treatises of Government
1.2. Alexis de Tocqueville, from Democracy in America

May 9 – Constitution
The Articles of Confederation
Read Chapter 2 Patterson
2.1. James Madison, from Federalist, Nos. 47, 48, and 51

May 10 - Federalism
Read Chapter 3 Patterson
3.2. Samuel H. Beer, from "Federalism, Nationalism, and Democracy in America," American Political Science Review

May 13 - Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
Read Chapters 4 and 5 Patterson
John Stuart Mill, from On Liberty
Harry A. Blackmun, from Roe v. Wade, U.S. Supreme Court

May 14 - Public Opinion
Read Chapter 6 Patterson
Catch Up Day and Review for Exam

May 15 – Exam 1

May 16 - Political Participation and Elections
Read Chapters 7 and 8 Patterson
8.1. V. O. Key, Jr., from The Responsible Electorate: Rationality in Presidential Voting, 1936-1960
8.2. Walter Dean Burnham, from Critical Elections and the Mainsprings of American Politics

May 17 - Political Parties
Read Chapter 9 Patterson

May 20 - Interest Groups
Read Chapter 10 Patterson
6.1. James Madison, from Federalist, No. 10

May 21 - News Media
Read Chapter 11 Patterson
9.1 Michael Parenti, from Inventing Reality: The Politics of the Mass Media

May 22 - Congress
Read Chapter 12 and 13 Patterson
10.1. David R. Mayhew, from Congress: The Electoral Connection
10.2. Richard F. Fenno, Jr., from Home Style: House Members in Their Districts
10.3. Roger H. Davidson and Walter J. Oleszek, from Congress and Its Members, 6th ed.

May 23 - The Presidency
Read Chapters 14 and 15 Patterson
11.1. Clinton Rossiter, from The American Presidency

May 24 – No Class

May 27 – No Class – Memorial Day

May 28 – Exam 2

May 29 - The Bureaucracy
Read Chapter 16 Patterson
12.2. James Q. Wilson, from Bureaucracy: What Government Agencies Do and Why They Do It
May 30 - The Federal Judiciary

Read Chapter 17 Patterson
13.2. Laurence H. Tribe, from God Save This Honorable Court: How the Choice of Supreme Court Justices Shapes Our History

May 31 - Social Welfare Policy and State and Local Policy
Read Chapter 19 and 21 Patterson
14.2. Haynes Johnson and David S. Broder, from The System: The American Way of Politics at the Breaking Point
Essay Due

June 3 – Catchup day and final exam review

June 4 – Final Exam