

American Government 112 Winter, 2016

[American Government -21951 - PLSC 112 -](#)

Class 9:30 am - 10:45 am TR Pray-Harrold Hall 421

Social Science courses, students will:

- Acquire an understanding of social science methods and of how they are used to engage in the systematic study of society and culture.
- Understand and compare formal and informal social and political structures, organizations, and institutions.
- Explore and understand power relationships and the impact of social change on different groups and on society in general.
- Develop an appreciation of different interpretations of contemporary issues, institutions, or structures.
- Use social science methods and content to interpret and analyze data and reports in the media and to make informed decisions regarding local, national, and international issues.
- Use basic social scientific research techniques to examine and present information in a clear and concise manner.

Professor: Adrian J. Lottie, Ph.D.

Office Hours: T-Th 9-9:30a,12:15-2p, 4:45-5p

And by appointment

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Text: Edward Sidlow and Beth Henschen. 2014. *Govt 7*, Boston. Cengage.

ISBN-13:978-1-285-87402-9 **usually available at local bookstores and a variety of online sources.**

Course Objectives

- A. This course is designed to provide the student with a basic knowledge and understanding of American political institutions, public processes and public policies. These institutions, processes and policies involve some of the most important values of human existence. These values include how society allocates its resources, who gets taxed, who gets the opportunity to advance economically, and, who gets an education, who goes to war, the protection of our environment, the protection of our safety, etc... Additionally, this course attempts to strengthen the students' analytical skills, to broaden student

perspectives on contemporary society, and to foster the development of **responsible behaviors, consistent with that expected of educated adults in our society**. To achieve these objectives, the course integrates lectures, discussions, current events, and course materials with student and faculty experiences. In addition, often **“themes”** or **“subtopics”** will be used to **“tease out”** the important and relevant concepts contained in chapters.

Requirements

- A. Three examinations (objective items) **equally weighted, participation**, including attendance and discussions **will be considered**. A **20 point penalty on any exam** for **incorrectly filling out** scantron forms or any other testing materials or forms e.g., **incorrectly or not filling out name, CRN, etc. failing to darken corresponding scantron circles etc.** Number two pencils are required for all exams.
- B. **All exams MUST be taken at the scheduled time. All exams are in class unless otherwise specified.**
- C. **Make-up exams are not permitted: if you miss an exam it will be counted as a zero. You are given generous amounts of time to complete the exams so there is no exception to this rule except for ADA/EMU disabled students. Exceptions are rare and must be supported by written documentation acceptable to the professor at his discretion.**
Scale: **90-100=A, 88-89=A-, 86-87=B+, 80-85=B, 78-79=B-, 76-77=C+, 70-75=C, 68-69=C-, 65-67=D+ 62-64= D, 60-61=D- 0-59=F**
- E. **Attendance and participation will be considered. This is partly considered your contribution to the educational process and partly a reflection of compliance with course objectives item A. It is also important to remember that discussions during class include items that will be placed on the exams and that are NOT in the textbook and NOT necessarily in my presentation notes. Students are responsible for obtaining any missed information due to their absence from class.**
- F. **Students should keep in touch with current events/news affecting society and politics, often these will be discussed in class and included in exams. Some sources to assist with this include electronic: TV: PBS, CNN, BBC, CBC, ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX NEWS, CNBC, MSNBC, CSPAN I,II, III. INTERNET SITES + BLOGS. RADIO: ANY NEWS RELATED STATIONS, PBS: EMU, WSU, U OF M. NEWSPAPERS: NY TIMES, WALL STREET JOURNAL, WASHINGTON POST. MAGAZINES: HARPER’S, TIME, US NEWS, BUSINESS WEEK, FORBES, FORTUNE, FAST COMPANY, HUFFINGTON POST, TO SOME EXTENT SOCIAL NETWORKS.**

Class Policies

Academic Dishonesty cheating, plagiarism, etc., will not be tolerated and will be disciplined according to university policy and may be referred to the EMU Judicial Board. At the very least it will result in an F for the particular offending assignment/exam.

Examinations will cover **classroom discussions, current events discussed in class and assigned materials including the textbook.** Students are encouraged to utilize office hours to assist them in understanding the materials, in the development of study skills, and in adapting the course materials to their individualized learning styles. Further, students should keep this syllabus in a permanent, easy- to-locate place and refer to it **EVERY DAY.**

Work Ethic

This Class will require a great deal of work: at least 2 hours per day 4 days per week just to keep abreast of the reading. In addition, exam preparation will require an additional 10 -15 hours of preparation prior to the exams. We also have tutors usually, but there is no substitute for elbow grease. If you study only 2-3 hours for my exams you will most likely do poorly. If you fail to read the assigned readings prior to the lectures/discussions you will most likely do poorly. If you fail to come to class on a regular basis, you most likely will do poorly. If you do the assigned readings prior to lectures/discussions, attend class regularly, and participate in the discussions you most likely will do well.

Tentative Discussion and Reading Schedule

- January 6: classes begin
- January 12: last day to add a class on line (after that until March 7 requires department permission)
- January 15: deadline to submit proposals to be included in the April 1 [Undergraduate Symposium](#)
- January 18: MLK Holiday (campus events; no classes)
- February 22-28: winter break (no classes)
- March 23: last day to withdraw from a class with a "W" grade
- March 25-27: spring recess (university closed)
- April 19: last day of classes
- April 21-26: final exams
- April 24: commencement v

Tentative Discussion and Reading Schedule

Week 1 Chapter 1 America in the Twenty First Century

Week 2 Chapter 2 The Constitution.

Week 3 Chapter 3 Federalism

Week 4 Chapter 4 Civil Liberties

Week 5 Chapter 5 Civil Rights

Week 6 Examination # 1.

Week 6 Chapter 6 Interest Groups

Week 7 Chapter 6 continued, Chapter 7 Parties,

Week 8 Winter Recess

Week 9 Chapter 8 Politics: Public Opinion and Voting

Chapter 9 Campaigns and Elections

Week 10 Chapter 10 Politics and the Media

Week 11 Examination # 2

Week 11 Chapter 11 Congress

Week 12 Chapter 12 The Presidency

Week 13 Chapter 13 The Bureaucracy

Week 14 Chapter 14 The Judiciary

Week 15 Chapter 15, 16 Domestic and Foreign Policy

Final Examination in class April 26, 2016 7:30- 9:00am 421 Pray-Harrold.