

PLSC 112 – American Government – Winter 2016

Dr. Edward Sidlow

Holly Groszko – Teaching Assistant

REQUIRED TEXTS: The following book is required reading in this course:

Sidlow, Edward & Henschen, Beth. 2015. GOVT 7

ISBN: 978-1285871110

Book Only – The CourseMate is Not Required



Link (Links to an external site.)

Minimize Video

COURSE DESCRIPTION & PURPOSE:

This course is designed as an introduction to the American political system. We will focus on the Constitution, broad theories of American government, the electoral process, and interest groups as well as the three branches of the federal government and the development of public policy. American government can be viewed as a complex game in which various actors engage in political battles within various arenas in order to determine who gives what to whom and why. Specifically, we will study how governmental structures, the political preferences of individuals/groups, and historical /philosophical forces influence who wins and loses the game of American politics.

As we study American government, certain pivotal questions will be raised: 1) How democratic is the American republic? 2) Why does the government “fail” to act quickly and efficiently when dealing with policy problems? (Is this a bad thing?); and 3) Is major change in the political system possible and/or desirable?

In addition to the book noted above, students are expected to read a daily newspaper and to frequently watch a national news program. The New York Times offers a nice discount program for college and university students; details can be found at nytimes.com/student or by phone, 1-888-nyt-coll (698-2655).

We cannot overstate the importance of knowing the rules and political dynamics of the governmental process. Government influences almost every aspect of life by defining individual rights and liberties, establishing economic regulations, instituting tax and spending programs, conducting foreign policy, and enacting social-welfare programs. In fact, it is difficult to think of an area of life in which the government is not a factor

The course is divided into 5 sections with the coursework is grouped together in each section. Assignments for each section are due at the same time. This serves several purposes, including allowing you to work at your own pace as well as to combine topics into broad categories in order to better understand the "Big Picture" of American government. Please plan your time accordingly so that you aren't rushing to do all of the work on the due date.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

First and foremost, you will need to use a computer with a stable Internet connection...the university has several computer labs and if you are off campus, your local library should have computers to use if your home connection is unstable. Not having an Internet connection available will not be considered a valid excuse for not completing an assignment. In addition, please also remember that having technical problems with an exam late on the day that an exam is due will not leave you with enough time to resolve the issue and regain access to the exam, so it is best to not wait until the last minute to complete assignments, especially exams.

You must check your university e-mail frequently. We recommend that you DO NOT have your emich account e-mail forwarded to the address that you may use regularly, because we have experienced interface problems in the past. We will send you handouts and assignments as well as any necessary updates and comments to your emich account. Not checking your e-mail in time to receive these will not be considered a valid reason for not completing assignments.

The exams will have a mixture of multiple choice, true & false and short answer/essay questions.

We do understand that emergency situations may arise which prevent students from completing assignments on time. These will be dealt with on an individual basis. As a general rule, late assignments will not be accepted. Students may be required to show proof of circumstances preventing the completion of an assignment on time.

We do also strongly recommend reading the text and lecture slides prior to completing the assignments. The textbook is required for this course.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

In addition to completing the required assignments on time, you will be required to answer any and all questions in your own words. Cutting and pasting answers from any source, without proper citation, is a form of plagiarism and will not be accepted. Any assignments that are completed in this way, including exams, will NOT be given any credit and can result in disciplinary action by the university. Furthermore, answers which are simply copied from any source, even with proper citation, will not receive credit. Our goal is to help you learn, rather than have you simply spend money on a textbook to copy from.

Please see the university's policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Judicial Services defines plagiarism as "Plagiarism - deliberate and knowing use of someone else's work or ideas as one's own. Examples of plagiarism are: quoting a source verbatim, or paraphrasing text from a given source, without properly citing the source; turning in a research paper that was written by someone else; or in any other way passing off someone else's work as one's own; or failing to give credit for ideas or materials taken from someone else."

TECHNICAL SUPPORT:

Instructors are completely unable to resolve technical problems. The Canvas system provides a number of ways to find resolution to a technical problem.

Technical Support is available 24 hours a day at 844.326.6322.

Click on the "Help" link at the very top right of the page to access Live Chat, Support Hotline, FAQ, etc.

If you experience any technical problems that prevent you from completing an assignment or exam, you MUST contact tech support and one of us ASAP in order to receive any extension. Tech Support is available 24/7. These issues will be dealt with on an individual basis and no student is guaranteed an extension. Please note that poor planning is never an excuse for not completing an assignment, so it is best to not wait until the last minute to complete assignments, especially exams.

The syllabus page shows a table-oriented view of the course schedule, and the basics of course grading. You can add any other comments, notes, or thoughts you have about the course structure, course policies or anything else.

To add some comments, click the "Edit Syllabus Description" link to the right.

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Syllabus Description:



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Date	Details	
Tue Sep 8, 2015	Discussion - Big Government	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion - Death Penalty	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion - General Welfare	due by 11:59pm
	Discussion - Mapp v. Ohio	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details
	Discussion - Media and the Political Agenda due by 11:59pm
	Discussion - Secession from the Union due by 11:59pm
	Discussion - Voter Turnout due by 11:59pm
	Part I - Chapter 1 Quiz due by 11:59pm
	Part I - Chapter 2 Quiz due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 29, 2016	Part I - Chapter 3 Quiz due by 11:59pm
	Part I Chapter 1 Essay due by 11:59pm
	Part I Chapter 2 Essay due by 11:59pm
	Part I Chapter 3 Essay due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 1, 2016	Part I Exam due by 11:59pm
	Part II - Chapter 4 Quiz due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 12, 2016	Part II - Chapter 5 Quiz due by 11:59pm
	Part II Chapter 4 Essay due by 11:59pm
	Part II Chapter 5 Essay due by 11:59pm
Mon Feb 15, 2016	Part II Exam due by 11:59pm
Sat Mar 5, 2016	Midterm Essay due by 11:59pm
	Part III - Chapter 10 Quiz due by 11:59pm
	Part III - Chapter 6 Quiz due by 11:59pm
	Part III - Chapter 8 Quiz due by 11:59pm
	Part III - Chapter 9 Quiz due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 11, 2016	Part III Chapter 10 Essay due by 11:59pm
	Part III Chapter 6 Essay due by 11:59pm
	Part III Chapter 7 Essay due by 11:59pm
	Part III Chapter 7 Quiz due by 11:59pm
	Part III Chapter 8 Essay due by 11:59pm

Date	Details
	Part III Chapter 9 Essay due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 14, 2016	Part III Exam due by 11:59pm
	Part IV Chapter 11 Essay due by 11:59pm
	Chapter 12 Essay due by 11:59pm
	Part IV - Chapter 11 Quiz due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 1, 2016	Part IV - Chapter 12 Quiz due by 11:59pm
	Part IV - Chapter 13 Quiz due by 11:59pm
	Part IV - Chapter 14 Quiz due by 11:59pm
	Part IV Chapter 13 Essay due by 11:59pm
	Part IV Chapter 14 Essay due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 4, 2016	Part IV Exam due by 11:59pm
	Part V - Chapter 15 Quiz due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 15, 2016	Part V - Chapter 16 Quiz due by 11:59pm
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	Part V Chapter 16 Essay due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 18, 2016	Exam V due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 25, 2016	Final Essay due by 11:59pm
	Discussion - Candidate Centered Campaigning
	Discussion - Going Public
	Discussion - Lobbyists
	Discussion - Popular Vote or Electoral College
	Discussion - Today's News Outlets
	Discussion - Voter ID Requirements
	Part I Discussion - First Political Impressions
	Part I Discussion - Introduce Yourself

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Grade Part I Discussion - Introduce Yourself 20 need grading

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Edit Syllabus Description

January 2016

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Course assignments are not weighted.

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Exam V

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Midterm Essay

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Part III Chapter 7 Quiz

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Part IV Chapter 11 Essay

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ALT+F9 Open the editor's menubar

ALT+F10 Open the editor's toolbar

ESC Close menu or dialog, also gets you back to editor area

TAB/Arrows Navigate left/right through menu/toolbar

ALT+F8 Open this help dialog