

Eastern Michigan University
Fall 2013

PLSC 112 (Course ID 10017) - Introduction to American Government
Tuesdays & Thursdays - 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.
Porter 131

Instructor: Carla M. Jankowski
Office: 601 Pray-Harold - Part-time Lecturers' Office
E-mail: c.jankowski@wayne.edu (EMU email TBA)
Department of Political Sciences Phone: 734-487-3113
Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays - 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Required Textbook:

- Janda, Berry, Goldman, Schildkraut, & Hula. 2014. *The Challenge of Democracy: The Essentials (Ninth Edition, w/ Aplia Access Code)*. Cengage Learning.

Required Materials:

- Notepad, pen, highlighter, folder, Scantron Forms, & Blue Books.

Course Description:

An overview of the structure and function of American national government, focusing on how government is designed, how individuals form and act on their political preferences, how these preferences are transmitted to government, and how government acts (and does not act) on what its citizens want. The course also provides a strong introduction to the discipline of political science, as well as a critical exposure to the methods used by social scientists in general and how they create knowledge. PLSC 112 satisfies Social Science in Knowledge of the Disciplines (Area IV).

Course Objectives:

- To provide the student with a basic knowledge and understanding of American political institutions, processes, and policies.
- To show how the American political system evolved and how it is changing in the contemporary world.
- To compare the American political and governmental system with institutions and processes elsewhere.
- To provide tools of critical thinking and analysis to enable the student to make evaluations of and judgments on institutions, processes, and policies.
- To provide knowledge and understanding for responsible citizenship and political participation.

Course Requirements:

Three Unit Examinations = 60% of final grade.

-Material for unit exams will be taken from lectures, films, and the textbook.

-NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN EXCEPT UNDER VERY UNUSUAL AND DOCUMENTED CIRCUMSTANCES.

One Writing Assignments = 40% of final grade.

-Instructor will provide instructions for this asap.

-NO LATE WRITING ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED EXCEPT UNDER VERY UNUSUAL AND DOCUMENTED CIRCUMSTANCES.

Grading:

A	94—100	C	74—76
A-	90—93	C-	70—73
B+	87—89	D+	67—69
B	84—86	D	64—66
B-	80—83	D-	60—63
C+	77—79	Fail	≤59

Tentative (Subject to change at instructor's discretion)

Eastern Michigan University
Fall 2013

Other Policies & An Important Note About Distractions:

Read this syllabus: Understand the policies stated here. If anything is unclear, contact me for clarification. Always bring your syllabus to class in case changes are announced. Check it frequently to be sure you are aware of upcoming assignments and due dates. The syllabus is subject to change. I will announce all changes in class

Attend class: If you miss class it is your responsibility to get notes, find out about any announcements, etc.

Do the readings listed prior to class: The readings are necessary for adequate class participation.

Late arrivals should be avoided: If you are late, enter quietly. If you know that you will have to leave at any point during the lecture, sit near the door and exit quietly.

Do not hold extended discussions with your classmates while I am lecturing.

Eat and drink quietly (and clean up after yourselves).

TEXTING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. IF YOU TEXT, YOU WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE.

TURN OFF CELL PHONES, IPODS, AND ALL OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

DO NOT FACEBOOK OR SURF WEB.

Students with disabilities:

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) views disabilities as an integral part of the rich diversity at Eastern Michigan University. To that end, the DRC works collaboratively with students, faculty, and staff to create an inclusive educational environment for students. The DRC acknowledges that classroom and campus accessibility needs and considerations is expanding as more classes and campus experiences incorporate online and technological components. The DRC is happy to discuss any course or campus barriers that may be preventing access to education and an equitable campus experience for students. For an overview of the accommodation process, please review this short video: <http://vimeo.com/emudrc/speaking-with-professors>. Information about the DRC's resources can be found at <http://www.emich.edu/drc/index.php>, by calling 734.487.2470, or by email at drc@emich.edu.

Academic Integrity (http://www.emich.edu/studentconduct/facultylinks/academic_integrity.php):

Eastern Michigan University values academic honesty & integrity. Each student has a responsibility to understand, accept, & comply with the University's standards of academic conduct as set forth by Section X of the Eastern Michigan University (EMU) Student Conduct Code. Cheating, collusion, misconduct, fabrication, & plagiarism are considered serious offenses. Violations will not be tolerated & may result in penalties up to and including expulsion from the University.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Unauthorized acquisition of tests or alteration of grades (such as the stealing of tests, test keys, or grade books from faculty offices or elsewhere, or the purchasing of tests or grade books);
2. Unauthorized use of notes, books, or other prohibited materials during an examination;
3. Open cheating on an examination (such as copying from another student's paper);
4. Permitting another person to take a test in the student's place or receiving unauthorized assistance with any work for which academic credit is received;
5. Providing unauthorized assistance with any work for which academic credit is received;
6. Revision of graded work in an attempt to receive additional credit fraudulently;
7. Plagiarism (using another person's work without acknowledgment);
8. Any other conduct intended to obtain academic credit fraudulently or dishonestly.

If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing, you will be asked to leave the class and will receive a failing grade on the exam or assignment in question.

Tentative (Subject to change at instructor's discretion)

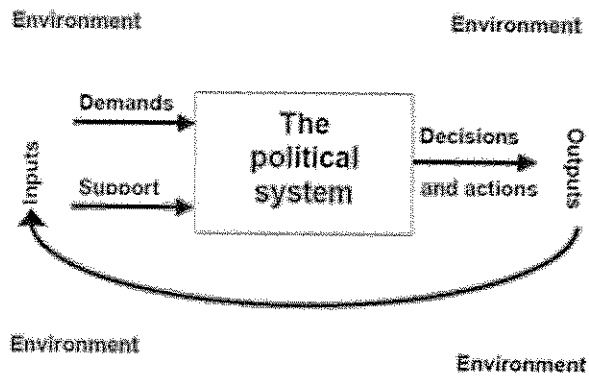
Eastern Michigan University
Fall 2013

Tentative Schedule:
(Important dates are in bold)

Thursday, September 5:	• First Day of Class – Course Overview
Week of Tuesday, September 10:	• Chapter 1 – Dilemmas of Democracy
Week of Tuesday, September 17:	• Chapter 2 – The Constitution
Thursday, September 19:	• Writing Assignment Topic Due
Week of Tuesday, September 24:	• Chapter 3 – Federalism
Week of Tuesday, October 1:	• Chapter 4 – Public Opinion, Political Socialization, & the Media
Thursday, October 3:	• Preliminary Outline and Bibliography Due
Week of Tuesday, October 8:	• Chapter 5 – Participation & Voting
Thursday, October 10:	• Unit Exam I (Chapters 1 – 5)
Week of Tuesday, October 15:	• Chapter 6 – Parties, Campaigns, & Elections
Thursday, October 17:	• Final Outline and Bibliography Due
Week of Tuesday, October 22:	• Chapter 7 – Interest Groups
Week of Tuesday, October 29:	• Chapter 8 – Congress
Week of Tuesday, November 5:	• Chapter 9 – The Presidency
Week of Tuesday, November 12:	• Chapter 10 – The Bureaucracy
Thursday, November 14:	• Unit Exam II (Chapters 6 – 10)
Week of Tuesday, November 19:	• Chapter 11 – The Courts
Week of Tuesday, November 26:	• Chapter 12 – Order and Civil Liberties
Tuesday, November 26:	• Writing Assignments Due
Thursday – Sunday, 11/28 – 12/1:	• Thanksgiving Break – University Closed
Week of Tuesday, December 3:	• Chapter 13 – Equality and Civil Rights
Week of Tuesday December 10:	• Chapter 14 – Public Policy
Thursday, December 12:	• Last Day of Class
Tuesday, December 17:	• Final Exam (Chapters 11 – 14 and Comprehensive Assessment) - 9:00 A.M. to 10:30 A.M.

Tentative (Subject to change at instructor's discretion)

Politisches System nach Easton



Quelle: Easton, David (1965). A Systems Analysis of Political Life, New York u.a., S. 32.

CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Political culture (1) Limited and representative government (2) Federalism (3)
Civil liberties (4) Civil rights (5)

