

PLSC 113 / Fall 2013
618 Pray Harrold
MW 9:30-10:45am

Dr. Sidlow
601C Pray Harrold
Hours: MW 8:30:a-9:20a
& 2-3:20p and by Appt.
Ph: 487-3113
Email:
esidlow@emich.edu

This honors course will examine American political institutions and processes at the national level. We will discuss the context of American politics and look at how individuals and groups participate in the political system. We will also examine the behavior of political actors in government institutions and explore the making of public policy.

You will be responsible for doing the assigned reading. However, that material will not necessarily be the focus of our sessions together. Frankly, my goal is to have more fun in class than simply talking about the text. (I know that you can read, there's little point in my treading over the same ground that you have covered on your own.) We will consider contextual and behavioral aspects of the topics outlined below. To that end, a number of movies and video clips will be viewed and discussed, and we will look for patterns of behavior that will allow us a better understanding of American politics.

There will four exams and two papers during the semester. There will also be a class participation component incorporated in your grade. More specific information about the exams and papers will be forthcoming. Each of the 6 written assignments will be worth 30 points and there will be a ten point participation score, for a total of 180 points. Finally, there will be opportunities for "extra credit" during the semester. These will be announced in class, and cannot be made up. The best way to be aware of these opportunities is coming to class and paying attention.

The grading scale follows:

167-180=A
162-166=A-
156-161=B+
149-155=B
144-148=B-
139-143=C+
131-138=C
126-130=C-
120-125=D+
113-119=D
108-112=D-
<96=F

11/4 – 12\2	Political Institutions – Ch. 11-14
11/ 27-12/2	Thanksgiving Break
12/4	THIRD EXAM
12/9-12/11	Public Policy – Ch 15-16
December 18, 9-10:30 am	FOURTH EXAM

* Dates are approximate

Addendum (material the university administration wants on the syllabus)

Please be aware of these Fall Semester 2013 dates:

Part of Term 2: 9/4/13 - 10/22/13 (7 1/2 weeks)

- 9/6/13 Last date to add courses via the web (a)
- 9/30/13 Last date to add courses with departmental authorization
- 9/9/13 Last date for 100% tuition refund (individual or total withdraw from term)
- 10/8/13 (b) Last date for individual class withdrawal (with W grades) - no refund
- 9/17/13 Last date for 50% tuition refund (total withdrawal only) with W grades
- 9/30/13 (b) Last date for 25% tuition refund (total withdrawal only) with W grades
- 10/15/13 (b) Last date for total withdrawal from term (with W grades) - no refund
- 9/9/13 Last date to declare pass/fail grading option or select to audit a course
- 10/15/13 Last date to remove pass/fail grading option and receive letter grade

Codes

(a) Initial registration occurring on or after the Part of Term start date will incur a one-time \$135 late registration fee

(b) Date applicable only if student's classes are ALL within the same Part of Term and/or a later starting Part of Term

(**) A written request must be faxed to the Office of Records and Registration at 734.487.6808 before midnight

More University Mandated Information

Completion of this course fulfills a requirement in the Knowledge of the Disciplines/Social Sciences:

In Knowledge of the Disciplines courses, students will

- Acquire introductory knowledge about the discipline.
- Develop questions for inquiry that reflect an understanding of the discipline(s) in which they are asked.
- Learn how knowledge is developed and disseminated in particular disciplines.

In 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.
- Understand the relation between qualitative and quantitative research.

These objectives will be addressed through our examination of the historical and constitutional context of American government, the evolving nature of civil liberties and civil rights, the mobilization of political participation by interest groups and political parties, the behavior of individuals in the political arena, the measurement of public opinion, the role of the media, the power and procedures of national governmental institutions and agencies, and an assessment of the processes by which domestic and foreign policy is made.

Note this statement from the university administration:

Academic dishonesty, including all forms of cheating, falsification, and/or plagiarism, will not be tolerated in this course. Penalties for an act of academic dishonesty may range from receiving a failing grade for a particular assignment to receiving a failing grade for the entire course. Students also may be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Services for discipline that can result in either a suspension or permanent dismissal. The Student Conduct Code details definitions of what constitutes academic dishonesty, but if you are not sure about whether something you are doing would be considered an act of academic dishonesty, consult with the course instructor.

And Finally, Still More University Material

UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER

115 Halle Library

(734)487-0694

<http://www.emich.edu/uwc>

FALL 2013 SYLLABUS TEXT

The University Writing Center (115 Halle Library; 487-0694) offers one-to-one writing consulting for both undergraduate and graduate students. Students can make appointments or drop in between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays. Students should bring a draft of what they're working on and their assignment sheet. The UWC opens for the Fall 2013 semester on Monday, September 9 and will close on Thursday, December 12.

The UWC also offers small group workshops on various topics related to writing (e.g., Organizing Your Writing; Incorporating Evidence; Revising Your Writing; Conquering Commas; Using APA or MLA). Workshops are offered at different times in the UWC. Visit the UWC page (<http://www.emich.edu/uwc>) to see our workshop calendar. To register for a workshop, click the link from the UWC page for the type of workshop you wish to attend.

The UWC also has several satellite sites across campus. These satellites provide writing support to students within the various colleges. For more information about our satellite locations and hours, visit the UWC web site: <http://www.emich.edu/uwc>.

The Academic Projects Center (116 Halle Library) also offers one-to-one writing consulting for students, in addition to consulting on research and technology-related issues. The APC is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. **Mondays through Thursdays for drop-in consultations**. Additional information about the APC can be found at <http://www.emich.edu/apc>. Students visiting the Academic Projects Center or any of the satellites of the University Writing Center should also bring with them a draft of what they're working on and their assignment sheet.