

**EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT  
PLSC 112-SYLLABUS**

**Fall, 2018**

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Office hours: 11:00 to 12:30 p.m., Monday & Wednesday & by appointment.  
Class time: 12:30 to 1:45 a.m., Monday & Wednesday  
Location: Room 419, Pray-Harrold

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Political Science 112 provides a thorough grounding in American government. It also provides a strong introduction to the discipline of political science. In this course, you will gain exposure to how knowledge is generated in the social sciences through the lens of one content area, that of American government. Through material covered in the course, you will gain practice in asking important questions about the political world and answering them using the methods practiced in this social science discipline. You will take a clearly defined sense of how to be an informed participant in the American political system from this class. You will learn about electoral politics, the politics of the American mass media, the politics of policy making and get a clear picture of the underpinnings of American democracy. Moreover, students will learn about the role and practices of interest/advocacy groups in American politics. This will allow you to join or support groups intelligently and to act as informed consumers of political information.

**REQUIRED READING**

**Govt10**, Edward Sidlow & Beth Henschen, Cengage Learning, 2018. (ISBN: 978-1-337-40529-4)

**EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

There will be three exams and one paper. Exams will cover both reading and lecture material and are not cumulative. The exams will consist of multiple choice and true or false questions. Exams must be taken at the regularly scheduled time unless another time has been previously approved by the instructor or in the case of a documented emergency. Each exam will constitute 25% of your grade; the paper will constitute the remaining 25%.

## **SCHEDULE OF TOPICS**

9/5 to 10/7/18	<u>The Foundations of our American System &amp; Our Liberties &amp; Rights</u>	Chapters 1 to 5
10/8/18	<b><u>First Exam</u></b>	
10/8/ to 11/11/18	<u>The Politics of Democracy</u>	Chapters 6 to 10
11/12/18	<b><u>Second Exam</u></b>	
11/12 to 12/11/18	<u>Institutions</u>	Chapters 11 to 14
12/3/18	<b><u>Paper Due</u></b>	
12/12/18 (11:30 a.m.)	<b><u>Final Exam</u></b>	

## **WRITING ASSIGNMENT**

Your views should be supported by at least three outside sources which are correctly cited in the text of your paper and listed in an attached bibliography. If, for example, you cited Claude Hopkins in your paper, the proper citation at the end of the quote would be: (Hopkins, 398). Hopkins being the author of the article and 389 being the page number where the quote may be found. In the bibliography Hopkins would then again be listed in alphabetical order as follows:

Hopkins, Claude. "Scientific Advertising." 14 June 1998: p.345. On-line. Internet. 2 Nov. 1999. Available WWW: <http://www.newsart.com/m/65.htm>.

It is important to cite the original source of the quoted person or reference and not just where it was found on the Internet, assuming that was where it was found. Almost all Internet information was derived from another source and that source, not the Internet, is what has to be cited. You **may not** use the Internet as a citation, though it may be used to find a citation. All papers must be student originals. The use of citing sources which were not researched by the student is improper and constitutes plagiarism as does the failure to properly give credit to someone else's quote or work.

The paper is due on or before **December 3, 2018**. Your paper should be double spaced. A title page is optional. Do not submit the paper in a folder or plastic cover, merely staple it together. No late papers will be accepted! For specific details of the paper refer to the writing assignment under "files" on this courses homepage.

## **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

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. In addition, you may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards for discipline that can result in either a suspension or permanent dismissal. The Student Conduct Code contains detailed definitions of what constitutes academic dishonesty but if you are not sure about whether something you are doing would be considered academic dishonesty, consult with the course instructor. You may access the Code online at: [www.emich.edu/student\\_conduct/](http://www.emich.edu/student_conduct/).