

## POLITICAL SCIENCE 1301: AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Instructor: Eric A Booth  
Section 001: Monday & Wednesday 6:00-7:20 p.m.  
Section 005: Monday & Wednesday 7:30-8:50 p.m.

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### BOOKS/MATERIALS:

1. Dye, Thomas R. *Politics in America*. 6th edition. Prentice Hall 2005. 00 ISBN 0-13-191739-0.
2. Additional Course Materials, Readings, and Syllabi will be available on my webpage or in handouts (as announced in class).

### EXPECTATIONS:

1. Students are expected to attend each class.
2. Attendance will be taken by means of periodic quizzes and will factor into the participation grade. If you are not in class, you cannot participate.
3. Absences
  - a. If you miss an exam, you should contact the instructor **on that same day** in order to quickly make up you missed exam. Written documentation is always required. I reserve the right to not permit you to make up an exam.
  - b. If a class is missed or if a student anticipates missing a class, the instructor should be notified promptly (before that class, or that same class day).
4. Lectures are intended to supplement and broaden material in the book and on the webpage. The student has the responsibility to keep up on the readings in order to be successful on test and quizzes. Participation is required for the class, and therefore you are advised to keep up with the material.
5. Disruptions will not be tolerated. If you infringe on the class's ability to learn or my ability to teach, I will ask you to leave. Some specific examples of this problem include: cell phones, arriving late to class or leaving early, sleeping, talking, reading a newspaper or doing homework for other classes, ect.. If you need to class early, let me know before class.
- 6 Cheating, plagiarism, and academic dishonesty are never permitted and will always be subject to disciplinary action. The Student Handbook states that:
  - "1.Cheating: Dishonesty on examinations and quizzes or on written assignments, illegal possession of examinations, the use of unauthorized notes during an examination or quiz, obtaining information during an examination from the examination paper or otherwise from another student, assisting others to cheat, alteration of grade records, illegal entry to or unauthorized presence in an office are instances of cheating." "....Complete honesty is required of students in the presentation of any and all phases of course work as their own. This applies to quizzes of whatever length as well as to final examinations, daily reports, lab work, and term papers. "
  - "2.Plagiarism: Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgment, is plagiarism; therefore, any student who fails to give credit for quotations or essentially identical expression of material taken from books, encyclopedias, magazines, and other reference works, or from the themes, reports, or other writings of a fellow student, is guilty of plagiarism."
7. Any student needing special considerations or because of a disabling condition, requires special arrangements in order to meet these course requirements as defined by the instructor should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. No requirement exists that accommodations be made prior to the completion of the approved University process of obtaining verification from Disabled Student Services.

8. Student should check the official University Academic Calendar to keep up on dates for withdrawal from classes, final exam dates, and class payment schedules.

**GRADING:**

- 10% Participation/Attendance Quizzes
- 20% Final Exam (Cumulative)
- 20% Exam 1
- 20% Exam 2
- 20% Exam 3

A=90-100% B=80-89% C=70-79% D=60-69% E=0-59%

**UPON COMPLETION OF THIS COURSE STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO:**

1. Explain the law-making processes of U.S. Congress (Exam 1)
2. Explain the institutional components of the US Constitution (Exam 1)
3. Explain the division of government of power under Federalism (Exam 1)
4. Describe the functions and rights of participants in U.S. policymaking (Exam 2)
5. Describe the institutional components of each branch of government (Exam 2)
6. Explain the differences and origins of personal rights and liberties (Exam 3)
7. Outline ways that citizens can exercise control over the government and its actors (Exam 3)
8. Explain and Contrast the differences between interest groups, political parties, and political action committees (Exam 3)
9. Describe the social and economic milieu of Texas politics (Exam 4)
10. Compare and Contrast Texas government institutions (Exam 4)
11. Explain the institutional framework of the Texas Constitution (Exam 4)

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

| <b>Date</b>                                 | <b>Topic/Readings</b>         |
|---|-------------------------------|
| August 29, Monday                           | Syllabus/Introduction         |
| August 31, Wednesday                        | Introduction/Chapter 1        |
| September 5, Monday                         | NO CLASS/Labor Day            |
| September 7, Wednesday                      | Chapter 1/Chapter 2           |
| September 12, Monday                        | Chapter 3                     |
| September 14, Wednesday                     | Chapter 3 Cont...             |
| September 19, Monday                        | Chapter 4                     |
| September 21, Wednesday                     | <b>Exam One</b>               |
| September 26, Monday                        | Chapter 5                     |
| September 28, Wednesday                     | Chapter 6                     |
| October 3, Monday                           | Chapter 7                     |
| October 5, Wednesday                        | Chapter 8                     |
| October 10, Monday                          | Chapter 9                     |
| October 12, Wednesday                       | <b>Exam Two</b>               |
| October 17, Monday                          | Chapter 10                    |
| October 19, Wednesday                       | Chapter 11                    |
| October 24, Monday                          | Chapter 12                    |
| October 26, Wednesday                       | Chapter 13                    |
| October 31, Monday                          | <b>Exam Three</b>             |
| November 2, Wednesday                       | Chapter 14                    |
| November 7, Monday                          | Chapter 15                    |
| November 9, Wednesday                       | Chapter 16                    |
| November 14, Monday                         | Chapter 16 Cont...            |
| November 16, Wednesday                      | Chapter 17                    |
| November 21, Monday                         | Chapter 17 Cont.../Chapter 18 |
| November 23, Wednesday                      | NO CLASS/Thanksgiving Holiday |
| November 28, Monday                         | Chapter 18                    |
| November 30, Wednesday                      | Chapter 19-20-21              |
| December 5, Monday                          | Chapter 22-23                 |
| December 7, Wednesday (last day of classes) | Chapter 24-25                 |

