

Political Science 101 - Instructor: Ms. Elaine Willey - Winter 2001
Monday and Wednesday 7:30-9:18 pm Denney Hall, Room 265
e-mail: willey.21@osu.edu office: Derby Hall 2012
office hours: drop-in hours Monday & Wednesday 5:30-6:30 pm and by appointment
class website: <http://psweb.sbs.ohio-state.edu/gradslewilley/101home.html>
office phone: (614) 292-9492

Political Science 101 **An Introduction to American Government**

Course objectives: Political Science 101 is an introductory course in American government. In this course, we will focus on the American founding, American political institutions, and American political behavior. We will discuss how the American system has evolved over the course of our history and how we expect it to change in the future. We will also spend a portion of each class period debating current issues facing American government. Students will be expected to learn integral information about the American political system as well as improve critical thinking and writing skills.

Required texts:

- DiClerico, Robert and Allan Hammock. (2001). *Points of View: Readings in American Government and Politics*. Eighth Edition. Boston: McGraw -Hill.
- O'Connor, Karen and Larry Sabato. (2000). *American Government: Continuity and Change*. Alternate 2000 Edition. New York: Longman.
Available at all campus bookstores and many on-line booksellers.
- Class Website - The class website will have helpful information about the course schedule, assignments, supplementary materials including writing handouts, and helpful links.
The text also has a website linked from the course homepage.

Recommended reading~:

- To keep up with current events in the class, I suggest that you read a daily newspaper (such as the *New York Times* or *Washington Post*) or on-line news service (*New York Times* <http://www.nyt.com>, *Washington Post* <http://www.washingtonpost.com>)
- Textbook CD ROM - the CD that accompanies the text has some very helpful supplementary materials including self quizzes for each chapter of the book. If you do not have access to a computer with a CD ROM drive, please let the instructor know so that we can make other arrangements.

Student Responsibilities

Exam 1 - January 29	20%
Exam 2- February 19	20%
Written assignment 1 - February 23	15%
Written assignment 2- March 9	15%
Final Exam - as scheduled by the Registrar	20%
Participation and quizzes --	10%
Extra Credit - see below	5%max

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Procedures for turning in assignments : Assignments may be turned in at the beginning of **class on or before the day they are due**. They may also be dropped off in my mailbox in Derby Hall, Room 2136. If you prefer, you can e-mail assignments to me in either WordPerfect, Word, or as a .pdf file -

sending a computer virus with your assignment, however, will not bode well for your grade!

Attendance: Attendance in lectures and active participation in class is expected of all students. The text is intended to supplement the lectures, but your understanding of both the text and lectures is essential for performing well on the course exams. Course notes for purchase are strongly discouraged! There may be occasional quizzes in class and you are expected to be an active participant in class discussion.

Make-up Exams and Late Papers: Make-up exams will not be given except with the prior approval of the instructor or in the case of documented and extreme unforeseen circumstances. Late papers will not receive full credit, no exceptions. Note the due dates on the course schedule. Remember: poor planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part. I strongly recommend planning ahead!

Class Schedule : The course meets on Mondays and Wednesdays. You are expected to have completed the reading on the day that it is indicated on the schedule and be prepared to discuss the material in class. Many people find it helpful to read the chapter(s) before class and skim them again after having heard the lecture for the day.

Part I-The American Founding

Week 1 -January 3,2001 - Course Overview

Week2-January 8- The Political Landscape

Read: O'Connor and Sabato, Chapter 1

Read: DiClerico and Hariunock, Chapter 1

Debate: How Democratic is America?

January 10- The Constitution

Read: O'Connor and Sabato, Chapter 2

Take home quiz on Chapters 1-2

Week3-January 15- King Holiday - No Class

January 17- Federalism, State and Local Politics

Read: O'Connor and Sabato, Chapters **3 and 4** Read: DiClerico and Hammock,

Chapter **3**

*****Take home quiz due in class***

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Debate: Unfunded Mandates

Week4-January 22-- Civil Liberties

Read: O'Connor and Sabato, Chapter 5

Read: DiClerico and Hammock, Chapter 15

Debate: Free Speech - Mandatory Student Fees

January 24- Civil Rights

Read: O'Connor and Sabato, Chapter 6

Read: DiClerico and Hammock, Chapter 16

Debate: Affirmative Action

Week5-January 29-- Exam I (Chapters 1-6)

Part II - American Political Institutions

January 31-- Congress

Read: O'Connor and Sabato, Chapter 7

Week6-February 5-- Congress continued

Read: DiClerico and Hammock, Chapter 10

Debate: Representation

February 7-- The Presidency

Read: O'Connor and Sabato, Chapter 8

Read: DiClerico and Hammock, Chapter 12

Debate: Divided Government

Week 7-February 12 -- The Bureaucracy

Read: O'Connor and Sabato, Chapter 9

Read: DiClerico and Hammock, Chapter 13

Debate: Government Waste

February 14 -- The Judiciary

Read: O'Connor and Sabato, Chapter 10

Read: DiClerico and Hammock, Chapter 14

Debate: Crime and the Courts

****Topic for Written Assignment 1 due via e-mail**

Week 8

February 19 -- Exam II (Chapters 7 -10)

Part III- American Political Behavior

February 21 -Public Opinion

Read: O'Connor and Sabato, Chapter 11

Read: DiClerico and Hammock, Chapter 4

Debate: CyberDemocracy

*****Friday, February 23- Paper 1 due by 5:00pm (Derby 2136)**

Week9-February 26-- Political Parties and Interest Groups

Read: O'Connor and Sabato, Chapters 12 and 16

Read: DiClerico and Hammock, Chapter 8

Debate: The Role of Third Parties in American Elections

February 28 - Voting and Elections

Read: O'Connor and Sabato, Chapter 13

Read: DiClerico and Hammock, Chapter 5

Debate: Why do Americans fail to turn out?

****Topic for Written Assignment 2 due via e-mail**

Week 10-March 5-- The Campaign Process

Read: O'Connor and Sabato, Chapter 14

Read: DiClerico and Hammock, Chapter 7

Debate: How should campaigns be financed?

March 7- The News Media

Read: O'Connor and Sabato, Chapter 15

Read: DiClerico and Hammock, Chapter 6

Debate: Have campaigns gone too negative?

*****Friday - March 9- Paper 2 Due by 5:00 pm (Derby 2136)**

Final Exam - The final exam will cover Chapters 11 - 16 of the main text and will be held at the time and day *scheduled by the Registrar's office*. The time of the final will be announced several times in class. If you do not know when the final is by week 9 of the quarter, see the instructor immediately. If you are a graduating senior, please let the instructor know as soon as possible to make arrangements.

Extra Credit - Up to 5% in extra credit may be earned in two ways.

1. There may be **an opportunity during the** quarter for you to sign up to participate in **an extra** credit experiment through the political science department. Sign ups will occur in class. Experiment participants will receive 2 percentage points added to their final grade.

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2. You will be given the opportunity at various times during the quarter, to write extra credit response papers on current political affairs. Details about these assignments will be provided in class.

Academic Honesty: All of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation) will be tolerated. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the university committee on academic misconduct and handled according to university policy.

Disability: Students with disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the **instructor, and** seeking available assistance, in a timely manner. Course materials are available in alternative formats upon request. For such materials please contact Mr. Wayne DeYoung, 2140 Derby Hall, 154 North Oval Mall, 292-2880.