Introduction to American Government (Fall 2013)

Political Science 2051(1)
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Tues, Thurs 9 - 10:20
155 Coates
Office Hrs: Monday 9 - 11
Tuesday 10:30-11:30; by appointment

INTRODUCTION:

This course is designed to give you an overview of American government. We will discuss how the American system of government came to be and the forces that shaped its development. In addition, the basic structure of our governing system and the avenues for participation will be addressed. Examples of public policy are woven throughout the course.

GENERAL EDUCATION OBJECTIVES:

This course also aims to educate students about and instill a life-long desire to understand our political and social system. Specifically the students will be able to demonstrate mastery of factual knowledge of the subject matter; understand the levels of association, from friends and family, to economy and polity. LSU graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

The textbook for the course is AM GOV 2013-2014 by Losco and Baker. This textbook has Learnsmart, an internet application associated with it.

LearnSmart is an adaptive learning tool that maximizes productivity and identifies the most important learning objectives for each student to master at a given point in time. LearnSmart also knows when students are likely to forget specific information and brings that content back so students can advance the knowledge from their short-term to their long-term memory. Data-driven reports, found in the Reports tab under LearnSmart reports, highlight the concepts with which individual students are — or the entire class is — struggling. The tool is proven to improve academic performance, including higher retention rates and better grades.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students should read the chapter under discussion prior to the class so that they can participate in class discussion and asked informed questions. There are four exams over the course of the semester. Each exam is worth 100 points and consists of 50 multiple choice questions. The exams are not cumulative in nature. If you miss an exam due to illness, a death in the family, or an emergency, you may take a makeup exam on a date to be determined in consultation with the professor.
The lectures are intended to prepare you for the exam. Class begins at 9:00 a.m. Students should come to class prepared and be attentive and responsive during the lecture with cell phones off. Students are expected to attend regularly, punctually and for the duration of the class.

The online tutorial LearnSmart will be used to help you prepare for exams. Each chapter in the textbook has a LearnSmart tutorial. The tutorials for each of the chapters will be available on the following dates.

Chapters One – Four: August 27 – September 17th
Chapters Five – Eight: September 17th – October 10th
Chapters Nine – Twelve: October 10th – November 5th
Chapters Thirteen – Sixteen: November 5th – December 10th

Each LearnSmart tutorial consists of review questions from the chapter. The number of questions in each tutorial varies by chapter. The time needed to complete each tutorial ranges on average from 20 – 40 minutes. If you have read the chapters and come to class, the tutorials will take less time to complete because you will be familiar with the terms and concepts.

Each tutorial is assigned a point total based on the amount of time and number of terms and concepts covered. The point totals range from 4 to 8. Altogether, the tutorials total 100 points.

Grading Scale
450-500 A
400-449 B
350-399 C
300-349 D
0-299 F

Students are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct which can be located at http://appl003.lsu.edu/slas/dos.nsf/$Content/Code+of+Conduct?OpenDocument. Violators will be referred immediately to the Dean of Students. During exams, all electronic devices must be turned off and put away. Failure to abide by this rule is considered cheating.

August 27th: Review Syllabus; Course Connect/Learn Smart Introduction
August 29th: Chapter 1
September 3rd: Chapter 2
September 5th: Chapter 3
September 10th: Chapter 3; Chapter 4
September 12th: Chapter 4
September 17th: EXAM ONE
September 19th: Chapter 5
September 24th: Chapter 5; Chapter 6
September 26th: Chapter 6
October 1st: Chapter 7
October 3rd: Chapter 7
October 8th: Chapter 8
October 10th: EXAM TWO
October 15th: Chapter 9
October 17th: Chapter 9; Chapter 10
October 22nd: Chapter 10
October 24th: Chapter 11
October 29th: Chapter 11
October 31st: Chapter 12
November 5th: EXAM THREE
November 7th: FALL HOLIDAY
November 12th: Chapter 13
November 14th: Chapter 14
November 19th: Chapter 15
November 21st: Chapter 15
November 26th: Chapter 16
November 28th: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
December 3rd: Chapter 16
December 5th: Special Topic
December 10th: EXAM FOUR (3-5)
CONNECT STUDENT QUICK TIPS
Get a quick, easy start with McGraw-Hill Connect using the valuable tips below. Learn how to register, complete assignments, access resources, and contact McGraw-Hill’s Customer Experience team for assistance.

GETTING STARTED

TIP: To get started in Connect, you will need the following:

- Your instructor’s Connect Web Address

Sample of Connect Web Address:
http://connect.mcgraw-hill.com/class/zample_b_davis_fall_2013_1

- Connect Access Code

- Or a Credit Card to Buy Online

TIP: A "Start Free Trial" registration option allows you to register in Connect without purchasing an access code and receive full access (typically for three weeks) before being required to get one. This option is helpful for those awaiting financial aid or a textbook in the bookstore, those who may drop the class and those who try the Connect Plus eBook before they buy.

TIP: If using the free trial, be sure to get full access to Connect before the trial period expires to avoid any delays in completing your coursework. If your trial period does expire, your work will be saved. Just login with the username and password you used to create your Connect account and choose to “purchase full Connect access here.”

REGISTRATION AND SIGN IN

1. Go to the Connect Web Address provided by your instructor.

2. Click on “Register Now.”

3. Enter your email address (this will become your Connect username). As a best practice, you may want to register with your school/institution email address.

TIP: If you already have a McGraw-Hill account, you will be asked for your password and will not be required to create a new account.

4. Enter a registration code or choose “Buy Online” to purchase access online.

5. Follow the on-screen directions.

TIP: Please choose your Security Question and Answer carefully. We will ask you for this information if you forget your password. We recommend that you provide a secondary email address should you forget your Security Question and Answer.

6. When registration is complete, click on “Go to Connect Now.”

7. You are now ready to use Connect.
TROUBLE LOGGING IN?

- Verify that you are using the same email address you used during registration (not the secondary email address if you provided one).
- If you have forgotten your password, click on the "forgot password" link at your Instructor’s Connect Web Address.
- Once logged into Connect, you can update your account information (e.g., email address, password, and security question/answer) by clicking on the "my account" link located at the top-right corner.

HOME (ASSIGNMENTS)

TIP: If you are unable to begin an assignment, check that:
- The assignment is available (start and due dates).
- That you have not exceeded the maximum number of attempts.
- That you have not achieved a score of 100% in a previous attempt in an assignment where your instructor has enabled you to build on your work.
- If your assignment contains questions that require manual grading, you will not be able to begin your next attempt until your instructor has graded your questions in the previous attempt.

TIP: Be sure to read the instructions that appear when you open an assignment:
- Your instructor may set assignment percentage deductions and limitations for utilizing help resources and/or multiple assignment attempts.
- Your instructor may provide specific instructions for you to follow as you complete your assignment.

TIP: Based on the assignment policy settings established by your Instructor, you may encounter the following limitations when working on your assignment(s):
- Inability to Print Assignment.
- Timed assignments – once you begin a "timed assignment," the timer will not stop if you exit the assignment.

TIP: "save & exit" vs. "submit" button
- If you are unable to complete your assignment in one sitting, utilize the "save & exit" button to save your work and complete it at a later time.
- Once you have completed your assignment, utilize the "submit" button in order for your assignment to be graded and sent to your instructor.
- Note that your instructor may deduct points for late submittal of an assignment.
LIBRARY

**TIP:** The *Library* section of your Connect account provides shortcuts to various resources.

- If you purchased Connect Plus, you will see an “eBook” link, which can also be accessed from the section information widget of the *Home* tab (by clicking on the textbook title/cover) or from the *Library* tab.

- “Recorded Lectures” can be accessed from the home or library tabs if your instructor is using *Tegrity Campus* to capture lectures. You may also access recorded lectures when taking an assignment by clicking on the projector icon in the navigation bar.

- Many McGraw-Hill textbooks offer additional study resources such as narrated slides and self-quizzes, which are accessible through the “*student resources*” link in the *Library* tab.

REPORTS

**TIP:** Once you submit your assignment, you can view your available results in the *Reports* tab.

- If you see a dash (-) as your score, your instructor has either delayed or restricted your ability to see the assignment feedback.

- Your instructor has the ability to limit the amount of information (e.g., questions, answers, scores) you can view for each submitted assignment.

NEED MORE HELP?

**TIP:** Be sure to run a computer check to ensure that your computer meets Connect’s system requirements: [http://mcgrawhillconnect.com/connect/troubleshoot.do](http://mcgrawhillconnect.com/connect/troubleshoot.do)

**TIP:** When working inside of Connect, be aware that contextual help is available by clicking the “help” link in the top right corner within your account.

CONTACT US ONLINE:

Visit us at: [www.mcgrawhillconnect.com/support](http://www.mcgrawhillconnect.com/support)

Browse our support materials including tutorial videos and our searchable Connect knowledge base. If you cannot find an answer to your question, click “Contact Us” to send an email.

GIVE US A CALL:

1-800-331-5094

Our live support is available:

Mon-Thurs: 8am – 11pm CT

Friday: 8am – 6pm CT

Sunday: 6pm – 11pm CT