Course Objectives

This course is designed to provide an introduction to the major features and trends of American Government, with attention given to the systems and processes that enable its model of democratic republicanism to flourish. From familiar concepts such as 'checks and balances,' 'separation of powers,' and federalism, to challenging questions like the intricate relationships between national security, civil rights and civil liberties, there is much to learn from American Government.

Required Materials

Welch; Gruhl; Comer; Rigdon Understanding American Government (12E)

TurningPoint "Clicker" SRS device (register online; instructions below)

Grading

A: 179-200+  B: 159-178  C: 139-158  D: 119-138  F: 000-118

- Three Non-Cumulative Exams: 50pts each
  - Exams will cover lecture material, textbook readings and videos
- Class Participation & Feedback: 50pts
  - 10 5pt unannounced in-class Clicker comprehension quizzes (beginning/end)
  - Quizzes will cover lecture material, textbook readings and videos

Class Attendance

- Class participation is encouraged, expected, and required. As attendance is the sine qua non of participation, absences will be reflected in missed quizzes and poor performance on exams.
- Be a good citizen about arriving on time and staying for the entire class.
- If a valid health or family emergency, or sanctioned University program (TigerBand, LSU Athletics, etc.) requires that you miss class, a quiz, or exam, or that you arrive late or leave early, please consult with the instructor in advance. Please refer all other initial questions to TAs.

How to register your clicker:

1. Login to PAWS
2. Go to Student Services > SRS Keypad Registration
3. Select LSU as your affiliated campus
4. Update your Keypad ID, using the number found on the back of your clicker
Course Outline

Part I: The American Constitutional System

The American People – January 19th & 20th
The Constitution – January 26th & 28th
Federalism – February 2nd & 4th
Civil Liberties – February 9th & 11th
Civil Rights – February 18th

TEST 1 – FEBRUARY 25th

Part II: Institutions of Government

The Judiciary – March 2nd & 4th
Congress – March 9th & 11th
The Presidency – March 16th, 18th, & 23rd
Bureaucracy – March 25th & 30th

TEST 2 – APRIL 1st

Part III: The Political Process

News Media – April 13th & 15th
Interest Groups – April 20th & 22nd
Political Parties – April 27th & 29th
Elections; Money and Politics – May 4th & 6th

Exam 3 – May 13th – 12:30 PM