POLS 2051 - AMERICAN GOVERNMENT ON-LINE
Summer 2012

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Office: 230 Stubbs 578-2534
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COURSE OBJECTIVE:
This course will introduce students to the principles, institutions and processes of the American political system. This knowledge will provide a foundation enabling students to better understand and critically evaluate our form of government. Specifically, this course is designed to familiarize students with political behavior and its relationship to the executive, legislative, and judicial functions of government. Students also will be introduced to the hierarchy responsible for administering welfare, regulatory, foreign, economic, and fiscal policies.

GENERAL EDUCATION OBJECTIVES:
This course also fulfills three hours of the social science general education requirement. As such, it aims to address in a sustained way the different levels of association, from friends and family, to economy and polity, even to civilizations of global significance; The patterns by which societies organize how people relate not only to each other but to the world around them, ranging from relations to their physical environment to relations to the divine. Students completing the course will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Students can elect to purchase a printed copy at the bookstore of the O’Connor and Sabato text which will have an access code to the required supplement – Mypoliscilab. Students may also purchase the electronic version of the text which will also include access to Mypoliscilab. If you purchase a used copy of the book you will need to purchase an access code separately to Mypoliscilab. If you choose to buy the book electronically with no hard copy, the least expensive option is to buy directly from www.mypoliscilab.com.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENT: Mypoliscilab. The access code to Mypoliscilab comes with NEW textbooks. Students purchasing used texts will have to purchase the Mypoliscilab separately. This can be done directly from www.mypoliscilab.com. See the instructions under “Accessing your Mypoliscilab” on your Moodle course page.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Students must read the textbook, complete the on-line multimedia assignments, and take three exams. The third exam is NOT cumulative. The reading assignments come from the chapters of the textbook. All of the multimedia assignments are found on Mypoliscilab. You must read the chapters, take the Moodle chapter quizzes, complete the multimedia assignment and take the multimedia quizzes by the dates noted on the syllabus. After reading each chapter and completing the multimedia assignments, you will then take the chapter quiz and/or multimedia quiz IN Moodle by the dates noted on the syllabus. Mypoliscilab also has a number of helpful study aids that I would recommend, including flashcards and additional video and interactive assignments.

Quizzes on the chapters and on the multimedia assignments will be equal to 30 points. The syllabus quiz, and each chapter quiz is worth 1 point and each multimedia assignment is worth 1 point. Students can complete the assignments at their own pace. However, chapter quizzes and on-line multimedia assignments MUST BE COMPLETED by 5:00 pm on the dates listed on the syllabus. For example, the Chapter 6 Civil Rights quiz is due by 5:00 pm June 14. Because students may encounter technical difficulties that require assistance, I urge you to begin the assignments SOONER RATHER THAN LATER. You can take the quiz as often as you like to improve your grade UP TO the time listed on the syllabus.

In addition, three exams of equal weight (50 points each) will be administered. The final examination will not be cumulative. Students will have a 23 hour and 55 minutes window to take the exam as noted on the syllabus below. For example, the first exam’s window begins at 12:00am on June 18 and continues to 11:55pm June 18. The exam will consist of 50 questions and students will have only one attempt and only 30 minutes to take the exam during the test window. This means that you may select any 30-minute window between 12:00am June 18 and
11:55pm June 18 to take your exam. Please be extremely careful when taking the exams – **you will not be allowed any additional chances.** You will need to listen to the Power Point lectures which will prepare you for the exam. While reading the chapters, the chapter quizzes, and the multimedia assignments will also help prepare you for the exams, the majority of the material on the test will come DIRECTLY from the Power Point lectures. While you may use your notes and textbook, you have only 30 minutes. **IF YOU DO NOT STUDY IN ADVANCE** it will be impossible for you to do well. It will not be feasible to look up each of the questions in the text or your notes in the time constraint set. However, students who study hard prior to the exam do well. Makeup exams will not be given unless the instructor is notified **in advance** and agrees the absence is a university excused absence according to PS-22. Makeup examinations are all essay comprised of 20 identifications and 10 short answer essay questions and no notes or text or other ancillary study aids are allowed. Students will be required to come to my office to take their make-up examination. Your final grade is computed from the SUM of the three tests and the on-line assignments as follows:

162-180 = A  
144-161 = B  
126-143 = C  
108-125 = D  
Below 107 = F

Should you have questions or issues, contacting me by email is best ([pohayn@lsu.edu](mailto:pohayn@lsu.edu)) but my office phone is 578-2534 and I am happy to set appointment times that are convenient for you.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong> – read the syllabus – Moodle Syllabus Quiz Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>The Political Landscape – Moodle Chapter 1 Quiz Due</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>The Political Landscape - <strong>Moodle 1.6 Multimedia Quiz Due</strong> - Visual Literacy: Who are Liberals and Conservatives? What’s the Difference? - Assess the role of political ideology in shaping American politics</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>The Constitution - <strong>Moodle Chapter 2 Quiz Due</strong></td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>The Constitution - <strong>Moodle 2.4 Multimedia Quiz Due</strong> Chapter 2 - Comparative: Comparing Constitutions - Analyze the underlying principles of the U.S. Constitution</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Federalism Moodle Chapter 3 Quiz Due</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>The Judiciary – <strong>Moodle Chapter 10 Quiz Due</strong></td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>The Judiciary – <strong>Moodle 10.5 Multimedia Quiz Due</strong> - Simulation: You Are a Clerk to Supreme Court Justice Judith Gray - Evaluate the Supreme Court’s process for accepting, hearing, and deciding cases.</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Civil Liberties – <strong>Moodle Chapter 5 Quiz Due</strong></td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Civil Liberties – <strong>Moodle 5.3 Multi—Media Quiz Due</strong> Chapter 5 - Simulation: You Are a Police - Outline the First Amendment guarantees of and limitations on freedom of speech, press, assembly, and petition.</td>
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Civil Rights – Moodle Chapter 6 Quiz Due

EXTRA CREDIT (1 POINT): Civil Rights Moodle 6.3 Multimedia Quiz Due
Chapter 6 - Comparative: Comparing Civil Rights - Analyze the civil rights movement and the effects of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

FIRST EXAMINATION The exam time will be 30 minutes. You may elect to take the exam any time from 12:00am June 18 through 11:55pm June 18. You will have only one attempt.

Public Opinion - Moodle Chapter 11 Quiz Due

EXTRA CREDIT (1 POINT): Public Opinion - Moodle 11.2 Multimedia Quiz Due
Chapter 11 - Simulation: You Are a Polling Consultant - Describe the methods for conducting and analyzing different types of public opinion polls.

Political Parties – Moodle Chapter 12 Quiz Due

EXTRA CREDIT (1 POINT): Political Parties - Moodle 12.3 Multimedia Quiz Due
Chapter 12 Simulation: You Are a Campaign Manager - Identify the functions performed by American political parties

Elections and Voting – Moodle Chapter 13 Quiz Due

EXTRA CREDIT (1 POINT): Elections and Voting - Moodle 13.5 Multimedia Quiz Due
Chapter 13 Visual Literacy: Voting Turnout - Identify six factors that affect voter turnout – Moodle quiz due

Campaign Process – Moodle Chapter 14 Quiz Due

News Media – Moodle Chapter 15 Quiz Due

EXTRA CREDIT (1 POINT): News Media – Moodle 15.2 Multimedia Quiz Due
Chapter 13 Visual Literacy: Use of the Media by the American Public - Characterize four major trends in the news media today.

Interest Groups – Moodle Chapter 16 Quiz Due

EXTRA CREDIT (1 POINT): Interest Groups - Moodle 16.3 Multimedia Quiz Due - Simulation – You Are a Lobbyist - Identify several strategies and tactics used by organized interests

July

SECOND EXAMINATION The exam time will be 30 minutes. You may elect to take the exam any time from 12:00am July 2 through 11:55pm July 2. You will have only one attempt.

Independence Holiday

Congress Moodle Chapter 7 Quiz Due

Congress - Moodle 7.2 Multimedia Quiz Due - Chapter 7 Visual Literacy: Why is it so Hard to Defeat an Incumbent – Characterize the demographic attributes of members of Congress, and identify factors that affect their chances for reelection
President Moodle Chapter 8 Quiz Due

EXTRA CREDIT (1 POINT): President – Moodle 8.2 Multimedia Quiz Due Chapter 8 - mypoliscilab multimedia 8.2 – Simulation: Presidential Leadership - Identify and describe the constitutional powers of the president

The Executive Branch – Moodle Chapter 9 Quiz Due

The Executive Branch – Mood 9.3 Multimedia Quiz Due - Simulation: You Are the Head of FEMA - Determine how the bureaucracy makes policy.

Domestic Policy – Moodle Chapter 17 Quiz Due

Domestic Policy - Moodle 17.2 Multimedia Quiz Due Chapter 17 Comparative: Comparing Health Systems - Describe the evolution of health policy in the United States

Economic Policy Moodle Chapter 18 Quiz Due

Economic Policy Moodle 18.3 Multi-Media Quiz Due Chapter 18 - Simulation: Making Economic Policy - Analyze the effect of the Federal Reserve System on monetary policy

Foreign & Military Policy Moodle Chapter 19 Quiz Due

EXTRA CREDIT (1 POINT): Foreign Policy - Moodle 19.4 Multimedia Quiz Due Visual Literacy: Evaluating Defense Spending - Identify four contemporary foreign and defense policy challenges confronting the United States

Complete ANONYMOUS course evaluation

THIRD EXAMINATION The exam time will be 30 minutes. You may elect to take the exam any time from 12:00am July 23 through 11:55pm July 23. You will have only one attempt.