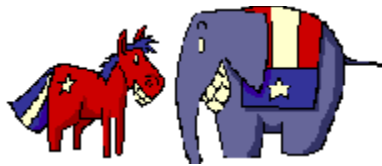


NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY || DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
**POLS 100: INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND
POLITICS**



**FALL 2017
SECTION 1
DUSABLE HALL MW 9:30-10:45AM**

INSTRUCTOR: James Godowic

Jgodowic1@niu.edu

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 11-12, Wednesday 11-2 or by appointment DU 476

General Education Learning Objectives: This course examines the institutions and operations of American national government and politics. We examine how people compete to influence government. This course also describes and analyzes how groups and individuals try to get government to do what they want and sets the stage for other courses you may take on American political institutions and behaviors.

Book: Barbara Bardes, Mack Shelley, Steffen Schmidt. American Government and Politics Today: The Essentials, 2017-2018 Edition. Cengage with MindTap Online Resources

Assignments: There will be 3 exams, 2 midterms and 1 final. Additionally, there will be one 4-page paper concerning an area of American government of your interest. There will also be assigned online activities that will be graded.

The grade breakdown is as follows:

Exam 1 – 20%

Exam 2 – 20%

Final Exam – 30%

Paper – 20%

Online Assignments – 10%

- ☺ For the paper, you can pick a topic of your choosing concerning American government. ***Instructor approval is required for your topic*** It can be a matter of public policy, or a focus on political parties or institutions; you could advocate for changing the voting system, legalizing marijuana, or profiling a candidate running for office in an upcoming election. All papers must be double-spaced with Times New Roman 12-point font, and must be at least 4 pages but no more than 5. The pages must be numbered. A first draft will be due **October 18th**, which will be 5% of the grade, and the remaining 15% will be from the final paper due **December 4th**.
- ☺ The online activities will be through the Cengage Mindtap application. You will be notified when they have been posted and will have a week to complete them. In total they will count for 10% of your grade.

Disclaimer: Class schedules and assignments are all subject to change. Regular attendance in class will assure that students will have all the needed information to successfully complete the course.

Classroom Etiquette: Students are expected to be in class on time at 9:30 AM. All cell phones, laptops and tablets should be in silent mood for the duration of the class so as to not disturb the learning environment. And it should go without saying that students are expected to pay attention for the duration of the session; no one should be sleeping, eating meals, or texting on their phones. It is important that you attend all class sessions, both for the information presented and to engage with the material, not just read it out of a book.

Absences: If you are sick or otherwise can't make it to a class session, please notify the instructor via email ahead of time.

Statement Concerning Students with Disabilities: Northern Illinois University is committed to providing an accessible educational environment in collaboration with the Disability Resource Center. Any student requiring an academic accommodation due to a disability should let his or her faculty member know as soon as possible. Students who need academic accommodations based on the impact of a disability will be encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center if they have not done so already. The Disability Resource Center is located in the 4th floor of the Health Services Building, and can be reached at 815-753-1303 [v], 815-753-3000 [TTY] or email at drc@niu.edu

Department of Political Science Web Site: Undergraduates are encouraged to consult the Department of Political Science web site on a regular basis. This up-to-date, central source of information will assist students in contacting faculty and staff, reviewing course requirements, exploring graduate study, researching career options, tracking department events, and accessing important details related to undergraduate programs and activities. To reach the site, go to <http://polisci.niu.edu>. For the most up-to-date information on scholarships, internships, and other department news, I encourage you to “like” the department on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/NIU.PoliticalScience>) or follow us on Twitter (@niupols).

Undergraduate Writing Awards: The Department of Political Science will recognize, on an annual basis, outstanding undergraduate papers written in conjunction with 300-400 level political science courses or directed studies. Authors do not have to be political science majors or have a particular class standing. Winners are expected to attend the Department’s spring graduation ceremony, where they will receive a certificate and \$100.00. Papers, which can be submitted by students or faculty, must be supplied in triplicate to a department secretary by the end of March. All copies should have two cover pages – one with the student’s name and one without the student’s name. Only papers written in the previous calendar year can be considered for the award. However, papers completed in the current spring semester are eligible for the following year’s competition even if the student has graduated.

Grading System:

Grades are determined by the following scale:

A (94-100), A- (90-93), B+ (87-89), B (84-86), B- (80-83), C+ (77-79), C (70-76), D (60-69), and F (0-59).

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about grades from the NIU Registration and Records website is available at: <http://www.niu.edu/regrec/grading/gradingfaqs.shtml>

Academic Dishonesty: The maintenance of academic honesty and integrity is of vital concern to the Department of Political Science and the University community. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty shall be subject to both academic and disciplinary sanctions. If we find that you have plagiarized your academic work, you will receive an F on the assignment – no exceptions. If you are caught cheating, falsifying, or otherwise misrepresenting your work twice, you will fail the class. In addition, if we suspect academic dishonesty your name will be turned over to the Chair of the Political Science Department who will make a determination as to further disciplinary action which may include academic probation or expulsion.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, fabrication and falsification, plagiarism, and misrepresentation to avoid academic work. If you are unsure

whether something is considered academic dishonesty, ask. It is much better to be overzealous at the outset and ask many questions to avoid being accused of cheating, plagiarism, and so forth.

Extra Credit: During the semester opportunities for students to earn extra credit may be provided. Any extra credit offered will be made available to all students in the class. Individual extra credit opportunities will not be offered.

Course Schedule: While we will try to adhere to this schedule, some topics may run over into the next week, especially on weeks that contain a day that class does not meet.

I. The American System

Week 1

- The Democratic Republic (Chapter 1)
 - ✓ August 28
 - ✓ August 30

Week 2

- The Constitution (Chapter 2)
 - ✓ September 4—NO CLASS for LABOUR DAY
 - ✓ September 6

Week 3

- Federalism (Chapter 3)
 - ✓ September 11
 - ✓ September 13

II. Civil Rights and Liberties

Week 4

- Civil Liberties (Chapter 4)
 - ✓ September 18—Guest Lecturer
 - ✓ September 20

Week 5

- Civil Rights (Chapter 5)
 - ✓ September 25
 - ✓ September 27

III. People and Politics

Week 6

- Public Opinion and Political Socialization (Chapter 6)
 - ✓ October 2- **Exam 1**
 - ✓ October 4

Week 7

- Interest Groups (Chapter 7)
 - ✓ October 9
 - ✓ October 11

Week 8

- Political Parties (Chapter 8)
 - ✓ October 16
 - ✓ October 18-**First Draft Due**

Week 9

- Campaigns and Elections (Chapter 9)
 - ✓ October 23
 - ✓ October 25

Week 10

- The Media (Chapter 10)
 - ✓ October 30
 - ✓ November 1

IV. The American System

Week 11

- The Congress (Chapter 11)
 - ✓ November 6- **Exam 2**
 - ✓ November 8

Week 12

- The President (Chapter 12)
 - ✓ November 13
 - ✓ November 15

Week 13

- The Bureaucracy (Chapter 13)
 - ✓ November 20
 - ✓ November 22—NO CLASS for THANKSGIVING EVE

Week 14

- The Courts (Chapter 14)
 - ✓ November 27
 - ✓ November 29

V. Public Policy

Week 15

- Foreign Policy (Chapter 16)
 - ✓ December 4- **Final Paper Due**
 - ✓ December 6

Week 16

- Final Exam-December 13th