



Course GOVT 2305.001
Course Name American Government
Professor Professor Stephanie Davis
Term Fall 2016
Meetings MWF 8:00am – 8:50am, HH 2.402

Professor's Contact Information

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Office Hours Wednesdays noon – 2:00pm
Other Information Email or visiting office hours is the best way to contact me.

Teaching Assistant	Misty Parker	Linda Carlson
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Office Hours	Thursdays 10:00am – noon	Tuesdays 1:00pm – 3:00pm

General Course Information

Description: This course is designed to allow students to gain a comprehensive understanding of American government, its foundations, and the constitution. Upon completion of this course, students will understand the institutions and processes that are responsible for the formation and execution of public policy. Additionally, students will become familiar with basic social science theories. For instance, political actors are strategic in their pursuit of various personal and policy goals. By the end of the semester, students must be able to apply theoretical perspectives to explain political behavior and processes.

Objectives: By the end of the semester students will:

- Understand how the federal government operates and about the interaction of citizens and the federal government
- Apply political science theories to analyze to past and current political events
- Learn about the scientific process that political science use to better understand politics
- Think critically about past and current political events and articulate analyses in writing
- Gain a knowledge of civic responsibility and the ability to engage effectively in politics

Required Texts & Materials Samuel Kernell, Gary C. Jacobson, Thad Krouser, Lynn Vavreck. 2015. *The Logic of American Politics*. 7th Edition. Washington DC: CQ Press.

Suggested Texts, Readings, & Materials Readings posted on eLearning. (Students are not required to print off electronic material.)

Assignments:

5 Exams (20% each): The exams will be given on the dates noted here in the syllabus. Exams will be closed book, no notes, and in-class. The exams are based on lecture materials AND required readings.

Dates	Topics & Reading Assignments
Aug 22	Introduction
Aug 24	The Logic of American Government Ch. 1, Kernell, et al.
Aug 26 – 31	The Constitution * Articles of Confederation, US Constitution, Federalist 51 Ch. 2, Kernell, et al.
Sept 2 – 9	Federalism Ch. 3, Kernell, et al.
Sept 12	Review of Ch. 1 – 3, Kernell, et al.
Sept 14	Exam 1
Sept 16 – 19	Civil Rights Ch. 4, Kernell, et al.
Sept 21 – 26	Civil Liberties Ch. 5, Kernell, et al.
Sept 28	Review of Ch. 4 – 5, Kernell, et al.
Sept 30	Exam 2
Oct 3 – 7	Congress Ch. 6, Kernell, et al.
Oct 10 – 14	The Presidency Ch. 7, Kernell, et al.
Oct 17 – 19	The Bureaucracy Ch. 8, Kernell, et al.
Oct 21	Review of Ch. 6 – 8, Kernell, et al.
Oct 24	Exam 3
Oct 26 – 28	The Federal Judiciary Ch. 9, Kernell, et al.
Oct 31 – Nov 2	Public Opinion Ch. 10, Kernell, et al.

Nov 4 – 7	Voting, Campaigns, and Elections Ch. 11, Kernell, et al.
Nov 9	Review of Ch. 9 - 11, Kernell, et al.
Nov 11	Exam 4
Nov 14 -18	Political Parties Ch. 12, Kernell, et al.
Nov 28 – 30	Interest Groups Ch. 13, Kernell, et al.
Dec 2	The News Media Ch. 14, Kernell, et al.
Dec 5	Review of Ch. 12 – 14, Kernell, et al.
Dec 7	Exam 5

No Class

- * Labor Day, September 5
- * Fall Break, November 21 - 23
- * Thanksgiving Break, November 24 – 26

Course Policies

Grading (credit) Criteria	A = 94 and above A- = 90-93 B+ = 87-89 B = 84-86 B- = 80-83 C+ = 77-79 C = 74-76 C- = 70-73 D+ = 67-69 D = 64-66 D- = 60-63 F = Below 60	Exam 1 20% Exam 2 20% Exam 3 20% Exam 4 20% Exam 5 20% <hr/> 100%
Make-up Exams	Make-up tests and submission of late exams will not be allowed except under exceptional circumstances. Go to http://provost.utdallas.edu/home/syllabus-policies for additional information regarding policies and procedures.	
Extra Credit	No extra credit	
Class Attendance	There is no grade for class attendance. However, I will take attendance periodically throughout the semester, and attendance will be considered in final grading process.	
Classroom Citizenship	You may use laptops in class to take notes. However, if your use of any electronic devices is disruptive to the rest of the class or to me, you will be asked to leave or to put your device away.	

Comet Creed	<p><i>This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:</i></p> <p>“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”</p>
UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures	<p><i>The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.</i></p> <p>Please go to http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies for these policies.</p>

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.