

Political Science 1100
U.S. Government and Politics
MWF 10:30-11:20
Spring 2017

Instructor: Damon Cann

Office: 324-D Old Main

Office Hours: 1:30-2:20 MW

E-mail: damon.cann@usu.edu

Classroom: Old Main 225

Supplemental Instruction (SI) Leader: Charlie Moffat

SI Meeting Times: T 8:30-9:20pm in Main 115; Th 8:30-9:20pm in Family Life 206

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the workings of the United States Government. This course will help you understand how government affects you, and how you can affect the government. Our journey begins with a historical look at the creation of our governmental structure. From there, we will examine the institutions and actors in the contemporary political process. Government is increasingly relevant in the daily lives of U.S. citizens, making an understanding of the government vitally important. Moreover, in a democracy, it is our responsibility to participate in a process to generate the best government we can for ourselves.

Texts:

One text is required for this course, *American Government: Power and Purpose* Core 13th Edition with 2014 Election Update by Lowi, Ginsberg, Shepsle, and Ansolabehere. For those looking to purchase on-line, use ISBN13: 9780393264180

Students will also be responsible for keeping up with the daily news. I recommend keeping up with two free online sources, <http://www.cnn.com> and <http://realeclearpolitics.com>. We will begin some of our class sessions with a discussion of current events and current events questions may appear on the exams.

Course Requirements:

Grades will be assigned based on the following criteria:

Assignments:	20%
Exams (4 exams @ 20% each):	80%

The dates of the exams are contained in the schedule section below and will only be moved in the event of an event that results in the closure of the university. Don't plan to miss exams. If you miss one exam, you may make it up (less a 5% penalty) by taking it

immediately following the last exam (back-to-back). If you miss more than one exam, you will **automatically fail the class**. Note that there are no make-ups available for the final exam—If you know you cannot be there, you should drop this class now.

Assignments must be handed in physically in class. Late assignments get $\frac{1}{2}$ credit. Assignments turned in later than 1 week after the due date will not be accepted and will get no credit. Email submission of assignments is not allowed.

Some of the grading in this class will be completed by graduate or undergraduate TAs. If you feel your grade is unfair or inappropriate on any assignment, you may submit the grade to me for reconsideration. For any grade appeal, you must draft a written appeal explaining the reasons you feel the grade you were assigned was inappropriate and bring it to my office in person to discuss it. I will consider your appeal and re-grade the material myself. However, you should be advised that your grade may go up or down as a result of my review and the results of my review will be final.

Course Policies

Attendance: My perspective is that you, as university students, have matured to a level where you can take responsibility for yourselves. As such, I will not make attendance a required component of the course. That being said, experience has shown that students who attend class regularly generally outperform their peers by a large margin. I rarely have a student who misses more than 2 classes who gets an A, not because I penalize the student, but because it is very difficult to make-up for the missed class time. I will not police your attendance, but it is clearly in the interest of students who aspire to be successful to attend every day.

Grade Changes: Grade changes will only be made at the end of the semester in the event of a factual error. There is a great deal of importance that rides on your final grade for this course (law school, grad school, scholarships, staying off/ getting off academic probation, etc.). Since there is so much riding on your grades, I promise to be careful and precise in grading and calculating. In return, however, I ask you to take your responsibilities for completing quality academic work seriously as well. At the end of every semester after final grades have been issued, I am inevitably asked, "Is there anything I can do to raise my grade?" Once final grades are in, barring a factual error in grading or calculation, the answer will be no.

Serious Hardship: If you encounter a serious hardship during the course of the semester, you may petition for a withdrawal from the course. Note, however, that if you complete a piece of work in the class (e.g. an exam or a paper) you are warranting that your condition is such that you are capable of completing the assignment. Once you have completed an assignment, it will be scored as it has been completed. If you are in a situation of severe hardship, please talk to me so we can discuss your options before deadlines and exams pass. You may not re-take an exam or re-submit a paper simply because you find you did poorly; you must notify me of your situation *before* you submit the work.

Academic Honesty: Students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic honesty. All academic work must meet university standards for academic honesty. Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. Examples of inappropriate activities include, but are not limited to: unauthorized assistance from other persons, copying, using unauthorized materials for exams and homeworks, and plagiarism.

Tape Recording: The tape recording of lectures is not permitted. Occasionally I will make exceptions to this policy for a student with specific needs.

Classroom Civility: Occasionally students demonstrate discourtesy to other students and to instructors by disrupting classes unnecessarily. Common disruptions that irritate other students (and me!) include talking to friends, text messaging, leaving phones on (and even answering them!), bringing infants/children to class, reading newspapers, internet surfing, packing belongings prior to the end of lecture, and late arrivals to class. Don't sit there and wonder if everyone else notices your discourteous act--they notice, and I notice. Discourtesy and disruptions will not be tolerated. If you cannot adhere to these basic standards of civility, you should drop this course. Students who violate this policy will receive one firm warning, and will be dismissed from class if they cause any further problem.

Students with Disabilities: If you have a physical, mental, emotional, learning or other disability that requires accommodation, please contact the Disability Resource Center within the first week of class. Disability Services will document the disability and I will work with them and you to make appropriate arrangements based on your needs. All information regarding these matters will be kept confidential. Requests for special considerations relating to attendance, pedagogy, or exams, etc. must be approved by the instructor.

Withdrawals and Incompletes: Students are required to complete all courses for which they are registered by the end of the semester. In some cases, a student may be unable to complete all of the coursework because of extenuating circumstances, but not due to poor performance or to retain financial aid. The term 'extenuating' circumstances includes: (1) incapacitating illness which prevents a student from attending classes for a minimum period of two weeks, (2) a death in the immediate family, (3) financial responsibilities requiring a student to alter a work schedule to secure employment, (4) change in work schedule as required by an employer, or (5) other emergencies deemed appropriate by the instructor. Note that I cannot think of many other reasons to give an "I" than the 4 listed above.

Syllabus and Course Changes: The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. The most likely changes will be to the dates on the course schedule. This syllabus is not a contract and is subject to change at the sole discretion of the instructor as announced in class.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading	
Jan	9	Introduction	
	11	Five Principles of Politics	
	13	Five Principles of Politics	
	16	Human Rights Day--No Class	
	18	Constitution	LGSA Ch. 2 (first 20 pp)
	20	Constitution	LGSA Ch. 2 (remainder)
	23	Constitution	
	25	Federalism	LGSA Ch. 3 Federalism Section
	27	Federalism	
	30	Separation of Powers	LGSA Ch. 3 Separation of Powers Section
Feb	1	Public Opinion (Culture)	LGSA Ch. 10
	3	Public Opinion (Ideology)	
	6	Catch-up/Review	
	8	Test 1	
	10	Congress	LGSA Ch. 6 on Electoral Systems 1 st 30 pp
	13	Congress	LGSA Ch. 6 remainder
	15	Congress	
	17	President	LGSA Ch. 7 1 st 25 pp
	20	Presidents Day--No Class	
	21	(M Schedule) President	LGSA Ch. 7 remainder
Mar	22	President	LGSA Ch. 8 1 st 20 pp
	24	Executive Br.	LGSA Ch. 8 remainder
	27	Catch-up/Review	
	1	Test 2	
	3	Courts	LGSA Ch. 9 first 25 pp
	13	Courts	LGSA Ch. 9 remainder
	15	Courts	
	17	Courts	
	20	Civil Liberties	LGSA Ch. 4 1 st 20pp
	22	Civil Liberties	LGSA Ch. 4 remainder
April	24	Civil Rights	LGSA Ch. 5 1st 2pp
	27	Civil Rights	LGSA Ch. 5 remainder
	29	Media	LGSA Ch. 14
	31	Media	
	3	Catch-up/Review	
	5	Test 3	
	7	No Class—MPSA Conference	
	10	Elections	LGSA Ch. 11 1 st 20 pp
	12	Elections	LGSA Ch. 11 next 20pp
	14	Elections	LGSA Ch. 11 remainder
	17	Elections	
	19	Parties	LGSA Ch. 12 1 st 25pp
	21	Parties	LGSA Ch. 12 remainder
	24	Parties	

	Date	Topic	Reading
April	26	Interest Groups	LGSA Ch. 13
	28	Interest Groups	
	30	Catch-up/Review	
May	3	Final Exam, 11:30am-1:20pm	