

Oxford College of Emory University
Pol. Sc. 100 National Politics in the United States

Syllabus

310 Seney
Tu, Th 11:30-12:45
Spring 2002
Prerequisite: Pols 101

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202 Language
Phone: 784-8444
Hours: M, W 9:30-10:30
M, T, Th 1-2
and by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the most important concepts of American politics and government and to develop their ability to communicate knowledge of this subject matter through both written and spoken English. The course focus is on American political institutions and policies. In addition, students will be encouraged to critically analyze both American history and current events in light of the basic principles upon which the American political culture and national government are based.

TEXTS:

Burns, et al.: *GOVERNMENT BY THE PEOPLE*, Basic Version, 2001-2002 Ed. (Prentice Hall)
Tocqueville: *DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA* (HarperCollins)
Padover/Landynski: *THE LIVING U.S. CONSTITUTION*, 3rd Revised Ed. (Meridian)
New York Times (daily)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Three announced tests will be given during the course of the semester. These tests will be given during regular class periods and will count for a total of 50% of the student's final grade. Any unexcused absence from a test will result in a grade of zero for that test. The scheduled dates for these tests are **February 12, March 21, and April 16**. A comprehensive final examination will be given at the time established by Oxford College. The final examination is scheduled for **2:00-5:00 p.m. on May 3**. The final exam will count for 30% of the student's final grade. In addition, there will be not fewer than five unannounced quizzes given during the course of the semester. The average on these quiz grades will count for 10% of the student's final grade. These quizzes may be given on any scheduled class day. The remaining 10% of the student's final grade will be based upon the quality of that student's participation in class discussion. All examinations and quizzes are cumulative. The requirements listed above are comprehensive and inclusive -- no "extra credit" will be allowed.

MAKE-UP WORK:

An unexcused absence from any quiz, test or examination will result in the grade of zero for that quiz, test or examination.

ATTENDANCE:

Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis. Students are also expected to arrive for class on time. Students who are not in class are unable to participate in discussion and take quizzes and may lose points on the participation grade. In addition, a student who miss more than three classes will lose the benefit of the doubt in the calculation of his or her final grade.

HONOR CODE:

It is assumed that all students are aware of the Honor Code. The Honor Code is always in force! Read it and be familiar with it. When in doubt, ask first. (See pages 94-97 of the *Catalog* of Oxford College)

ASSIGNMENTS:

A tentative outline of the class schedule for the entire semester is attached. Unless otherwise notified in class (or noted on the outline), students should complete the reading assignments for each chapter by the first day scheduled for discussion of the topic on the outline. For the purposes of quizzes, students are expected to have completed all readings by the first day they are due.

GRADES:

Oxford College's Optional Plus-Minus Grading Scale (as described on page 83 of the *Catalog* of Oxford College) will be used in determining grades for this class.

**THE COURSE SYLLABUS PROVIDES A GENERAL PLAN FOR THE COURSE;
DEVIATIONS MAY BE NECESSARY.**

Outline of the Class Schedule

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| Jan. 17: | Introduction |
| Jan. 22: | Burns, Ch. 1 |
| Jan. 24: | No class meeting. Read assignments for next week. |
| Jan. 29: | "The Declaration of Independence" (Burns, A1-A2) |
| Feb. 1, 5: (Burns, A2-A8); Padover, pp. 1-53) | Burns, Ch. 2; "The Constitution;" <i>Federalist</i> Nos. 10, 51 & 78 |
| Feb. 7: | Burns, Ch. 3; Padover, pp. 71-90, 94-107, 155-157 |
| Feb. 12: | TEST I |
| Feb. 14, 19: | Tocqueville, pp. xiii-xiv, 9-71, 87-98, 171-173, 231-315, 429-436, 503-565, 600-603; Burns, Ch. 4 & 5 |
| Feb. 21: | Burns, Ch. 6 |
| Feb. 26: | Burns, Ch. 7 |
| Feb. 28: | Burns, Ch. 8 |
| Mar. 5: | Burns, Ch. 9 (Burns, Ch. 10, suggested) |
| Mar. 7, 19: | Burns, Ch. 11; Padover, pp. 124-129 (for Test III) |
| Mar. 12, 14: | Spring Break. NO CLASS |
| Mar. 21: | TEST II |
| Mar. 26, 28: | Burns, Ch. 12; Padover, pp. 157-162 |
| Apr. 2: | Burns, Ch. 13; Padover, pp. 108-124 |
| Apr. 4, 9: | Burns, Ch. 14; Padover, pp. 53-70 |
| Apr. 11: | Burns, Ch. 15; Padover, pp. 129-136 |
| Apr. 16: | TEST III |
| Apr. 18: | Burns, Ch. 16; Padover, pp. 331-380 |
| Apr. 23: | Burns, Ch. 17; Padover, pp. 382-385, 409-425 |
| Apr. 25: | Burns, Ch. 18; Padover, pp. 276-330 |
| Apr. 30: | Burns, Ch. 19 & Conclusions |
| May 3: | FINAL EXAMINATION (2:00-5:00 p.m.) |