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JINAN UNIVERSITY

American Politics & Government

Lecturer: Jorge Hernandez Fujigaki
Time: Monday through Friday (June 18, 2018-July 20, 2018)
Office hours: 2 hours (according to the teaching schedule)
Contact Hours: 60 (50 minutes each)
Credits: 4
Location: Huiquan Building
Office: Huiquan Building 518
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Course Description

This course explores the structure and dynamics of American national government, providing a broad-based introduction to the ideas and institutions that shape politics in the contemporary United States. We will focus our analysis on three major areas: the Constitution and the debates of the founding era, the institutions of modern American government, and the political behavior of the American mass public. We will study the strategies, roles, and limitations of both governmental elites and ordinary citizens, with particular emphasis on how they communicate and interact within the constitutional “rules of the game” to promote (or inhibit?) the achievement of public goods.

Required Text

In this course, we will use two textbooks and a collection of readings, supplemented frequently with additional materials from online reserves. Reserve materials will be available on line, linked through the instructor's website.

Joseph Losco & Ralph Baker, AM GOV 2015-2016 / Edition 4, ISBN-10: 1259284263, Publisher: McGraw-Hill Education, 2014

Internet Resources:

Additional supplementary readings, provided by the instructor or from the internet, will be assigned periodically over the course of the semester.

Course Hours

The course has 25 sessions in total; each class session is 120 minutes in length. The course meets from Monday to Friday.

Grading Scale

The instructor will use the grading system as applied by JNU:

Definition	Letter Grade	Score
Excellent	A	90-100
Good	B	80-89
Satisfactory	C	70-79
Poor	D	60-69
Failed	E	Below 60

Grading Policy

Exam 1(June 25th).....33.3%

Exam 2 (July 9th) 33.3%

Exam 3/Final Exam (July 20th) ... 33.3%

Attendance and class participation *can affect borderline grades*

Attendance is required

Examinations

Students are required to take **THREE EXAMS**. The **four exams each worth 33.3 points**, will be based on the material covered in the lectures and on **the content of the reading assignments**. Study questions for the examinations will be distributed in class prior to the exams. If you answer the study questions, you can use those answers to help you with the exams. Each test may involve a combination of multiple-choice, identifying, and essay questions. The final exam will cover only material from the required chapters that were not included in the other tests. The course will enforce Jinan University standards of academic integrity. You may not carry I-Phones or other electronic devices at the time of the examination.

Participation

Participation is essential to building fundamental understanding of the subject matter. All students are expected to contribute actively to class activities by coming to class prepared. Being prepared means the following:

- Not assuming that participation simply means showing up for class
- be motivated and take responsibility for your own learning.
- Thoroughly reading and studying all material before arriving to class
- paying careful attention to what classmates and teachers have to say
- taking notes during lectures, videos, and discussion
- Actively contributing to class discussions
- being alert and paying attention throughout the entire period
- completing assignments on current topics

Out-of-Class Time:

The general guideline for class preparation has typically been to spend at least two hours outside class preparing for every hour spent in class. Please know that everyone in this class might make an A. I'll be thrilled if that happens, and I will feel immensely successful. Usually, however, given the normal distribution of students, some care more than others and some work harder than others (some are characterized by both qualities). Those who care more and work hard usually get an A. That does not mean that you receive a grade based on your effort.

Attendance

I expect you to attend class regularly and to realize that failure to do so can affect borderline grades. You are expected to be in the classroom ready to work at the appointed hour. Please do not come late to class: this interrupts work already in progress.

Extra Credit Activities-

You may receive extra credit for statements of one or two pages about what you learned from approved lectures or films.

Academic Honesty

Jinan University defines academic misconduct as any act by a student that misrepresents the students' own academic work or that compromises the academic work of another scholastic misconduct includes (but is not limited to) cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, i.e. misrepresenting as one's own work any work done by another; submitting the same paper, or substantially similar papers, to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of the instructors concerned; sabotaging another's work within these general definitions, however, Instructors determine what constitutes academic misconduct in the courses they teach. Students found guilty of academic misconduct in any portion of the academic work face penalties ranging from lowering of their course grade to awarding a grade of E for the entire course.

Classroom Decorum

RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY-It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course, and that the diversity that students bring to a class be viewed as a resource, strength and benefit. Your suggestions about how to improve the effectiveness of this course are encouraged and appreciated.

CELL PHONES- Please turn off your cell phones or turn them to the silent mode. Do not answer a call during class, if an emergency arises please step outside. Do not text message during class. Also, iPhones are great, but keep turned off and in your bag until after class.

Miscellaneous Insights

To Read or not to Read: That is the Question! This is essentially a lecture class. However, required readings are not optional. Lecture notes alone, won't suffice! Students who fail to do the required readings, by the assigned due date, will have great difficulty keep up with the class.

Procrastination: Postponing the readings to the night before a test makes it virtually impossible to put the ideas and events mentioned in the text into their proper historical context—this is largely the purpose of the lectures. While this course will not emphasize memorization of names and dates, some memorization is unavoidable, and it is easier to memorize one thing per day than fifty things in one night

Problems:

If you are feeling overwhelmed, find yourself falling behind, or are having any problems outside of class that are adversely affecting your performance in class, be sure to let me know. Do not wait until the end of this very short semester when it will be too late. I am more than willing to work with you to insure you do well in this class, but I need to know you are having difficulties. Come to see me, leave a message in my voice mail or send an email as soon as a problem arises and we can work something out. If you are struggling academically, I will gladly give you extra help.

“Face-to-Face” Interaction: I strongly urge all of you to come to my office hours even on the flimsiest of pretexts. I don’t think I’m too intimidating and I honestly enjoy getting to know students.

Special Circumstances: If you have a specific physical or learning disability and require accommodations, please let the instructor know early in the semester so that your needs may be appropriately met.

Lecture Schedule

Week	Topics/Chapter	Reading Questions
Week 1: 06/18-06/22	Creation of the New Republic Chapters 1 & 2	What was the attitude of the Colonies toward the British before the Revolution? Why did the Colonies choose to fight? What were the Causes of the Revolution? What was life like after the Revolution? What was the Confederation? Why did it fail? How and why did the state agree on a new form of Government? What is a Constitution? How was it accepted? Can it be changed? What are the rights the people?
Week 2: 06/25-06/29	Of Political Parties Chapter 9 EXAM # 1 (June 25th)	What are Political Parties? How do they come to be? What is it that they want? What are their functions in our Republic? How do they try to achieve these tasks? What is partisan politics? Are Political Parties good for our Republic? What is a gridlock? What is a two-party system? What are the main differences between the Democrats and the Republicans? How has the role of political parties changed in America?
Week 2 06/25-06/29	Of The Election Process & Voting	How do we elect our representatives? What is the role of the party?

	Chapters 6 & 7	<p>How has the process of election evolved? Who votes? Who benefits from the system? What is political apathy? Why do we have a low voters turn out in America? What is political Participation? How can we measure it? Do we need to change our voting system? What is the Electoral College? Why do we elect our Presidents this way? Is this process Democratic? Who wins and who loses?</p>
Week 3: 07/02-07/06	The First Branch: The Legislative Chapter 11	<p>How should laws be made? Who should make laws? How much power should law makers have? How do you check this enormous power? What is a bicameral legislature? What are the rights and duties of the Congress? How is the House different than the Senate? How are laws made in our Republic? How does it really work in practice?</p>
Week 3: 07/02-07/06	The Second Branch: The Executive Chapter 12	<p>Who should enforce the law of the land? How much power should he have? What should his qualifications be? How would we choose such a person? How long should this person be in power? How can we check against the usurpation of power by this office? How is it possible to remove him if he violates his oath? Who should replace him in case of removal, incapacitation, or death? How has this office evolved? What are our present expectations of this office?</p>
Week 4: 07/09-07/13	The Third Branch: The Judiciary Chapter 14 EXAM # 2 (July 9th)	<p>What is the role of the Judiciary? How much power should this branch have? Who should select judges? How should they be selected? How long should they serve? What will their job be? How can we check their power? What if there is disagreement amongst various courts? What is a judicial philosophy? What is Judicial Activism? How does the Supreme Court operate?</p>

		<p>What are the required qualifications of the Justices? Why is being a Justice of the Supreme Court so significant? How has this institution evolved?</p>
<p>Week 4: 07/09-07/13</p>	<p>Of Interest Groups Chapter 8</p>	<p>What are Interest Groups? How do they operate? What is lobbying? Are lobbyists too powerful now? Do they corrupt the system? Are they Good, Bad, or just Ugly? What is the role of Money in our Republic? What is Soft Money? How much influence is too much? What are the limits of contributions by these interest groups?</p>
<p>Week 5: 07/16-07/20</p>	<p>Of Civil Liberties Chapter 4</p>	<p>What are our Civil Liberties? How do they protect us? What does the Constitution say about these liberties? How are they applied in practice? What are the differences between Civil Rights and Civil Liberties? What is the Bill of yRights? Why is it so important? Can these rights be changed? What type of protection did the Constitution provide for the States? What did the ratification of the Bill of Rights mean for the Individuals?</p>
<p>Week 5: 07/16-07/20</p>	<p>Of Civil Rights Chapter 5 EXAM # 3 FINAL EXAM (July 20th)</p>	<p>What are Civil Rights? How do they protect us? What does the Constitution say about these Rights? How are they applied in practice? How does it address equality? What does Equality mean? What does it mean to be a minority? Which Amendments do address these issues? How have Civil Rights' issues changed? What were the past and what are the present challenges of Civil Rights movement?</p>