Introduction to American Politics
POLI 10
MW, 12:00-12:50, Peterson 108
Spring 2007

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Office Hours: Wednesday, 2-4:30 or by appointment

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Course Description
This class is a survey course that introduces students to the political institutions and political behavior of individuals in the United States. The first part of the course goes over basic analytical tools and concepts that will be used to understand domestic politics. Part two analyzes the major political institutions in the U.S. The third part of the course focuses on the political behavior of the public and its response and influence on national policy and institutions.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance and Class Readings

Attendance and readings are mandatory for both lecture and section. All readings for a given date should be done before the beginning of class.

Excuses Policy (extensions, make-up exams, etc.)

Extensions and make-up exams will be allowed on a case-by-case basis. You must have a documented reason (i.e. medical reason, extenuating personal circumstances, etc.) for not being able to take an exam or turn in a graded assignment at the scheduled time. You will need to bring in supporting documentation to be granted a make-up, extension, etc. After you provide this information and evidence, a decision will be made regarding a make-up, extension, etc. Please note that the make-up midterm exam will be held during Week 10 of the quarter.

Grade Appeals

You have one week after I return the exam/paper to appeal the grade. All appeals must be made to your TA. You must submit a typed, double-spaced, statement explaining why you

are requesting a grade appeal and justify it with evidence from your paper, exam, readings and lectures. If you choose to appeal your grade, your TA reserves the right to decrease the existing grade. His/her decision is final.

Tardiness to Exams

It is expected that you will arrive to exams on time. Arriving late to exams is a disruption for your colleagues and increases the probability that exam information has been shared. Students who arrive more than 20 minutes late will not be allowed to sit for the midterm. Exceptions to this policy will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Academic Honesty

Cheating, plagiarism and other violations of academic honesty are serious offenses. Graded assignments are not collaborative efforts in this class. You must work independently on all exams and papers. Please refer to the UCSD policy on integrity of scholarship for further details. If you are caught cheating in this course (this includes plagiarism), you will be awarded a letter grade of an F.

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Required Readings

Kernell, Samuel and Gary Jacobson. **The Logic of American Politics**. CQ Press. 2006.

Kernell, Samuel and Steven S. Smith, editors. **Principles and Practice of American Politics: Classic and Contemporary Readings**. CQ Press. 2006.

Grading

Midterm Exam (40%): The in-class midterm exam is scheduled for May 2, 2007.

Final Exam (45%): The final is scheduled for June 13, 11:30 a.m. - 2:30pm.

Section Grade (15%): Students are expected to attend section on a regular basis, contribute to class discussion and complete all quizzes/assignments that take place in section.

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COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change)
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Part 1: The Nationalization of Politics in the U.S.

Week 1 (4/2/07 -4/4/07)

- Chapter 1, Logic: The Basics

Section reading:

- Chapter 1-1, Principles

Week 2 (4/9/07 - 4/11/07)

- Chapters 2 & 3, Logic: The Constitution and Federalism

Section reading:

- Chapter 2-2, Principles
- Chapter 3-2, Principles

Week 3 (4/16/07-4/18/07)

- Chapters 4 & 5, Logic: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Section reading:

- Chapter 4-1, Principles
- Chapter 5-2, Principles

Part 2: Political Institutions in the U.S.

Week 4 (4/23/07- 4/25/07)

- Chapters 6 & 7, Logic: Congress and the Presidency

Section reading:

- Chapter 6-2, Principles
- Chapter 7-2, Principles

Week 5 (4/30/07-5/2/07)

- Chapters 8 & 9, Logic: The Bureaucracy and the Judiciary

Section reading:

- Chapter 8-2, Principles
- Chapter 9-5, Principles

MIDTERM 5/2/07

Part 3: The Public's Influence and Response to National Policies

Week 6 (5/7/07-5/9/07)

- Chapter 14, Logic: The News Media

Section reading:

- Chapter 14-1, Principles
- Chapter 14-2, Principles

Week 7 (5/14/07 -5/16/07)

- Chapter 10, Logic: Public Opinion

Section reading:

- Chapter 10-1, Principles
- Chapter 10-4, Principles

Week 8 (5/21/07-5/23/07)

- Chapter 11, Logic: Voting, Campaigns and Elections

Section reading:

- Chapter 11-1, Principles
- Chapter 11-2, Principles

5/28/07—No Lecture, Memorial Day

Week 9 (5/30/07)

- Chapter 13, Logic: Interest Groups

Section reading:

- Chapter 13-2, Principles
- Chapter 13-3, Principles

Week 10 (6/4/07-6/6/07)

- Chapter 12, Logic: Political Parties

Section reading:

- Chapter 12-1, Principles
- Chapter 12-2, Principles