COURSE SYLLABUS

Political Science 101:

Introduction to American Government

CRN: 49098
Semester: Fall 2013
Class Meets: Tuesday and Thursday, 3:40 to 4:55 PM
Room: HSS 207
Instructor: Dr. Hemant Sharma, B.A. Cornell University, Ph.D. University of Tennessee
Office: 1013 McClung Tower
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30 to 11:00 AM
Office Phone: 865-974-2261
Email: hsharma@utk.edu

Course description: Over 200 years ago, a patchwork group of individuals found themselves together in a ‘New World’ here on the continent of North America. Driven by notions of freedom, equality, and liberty (radical concepts in those days), these individuals would literally fight for the right to generate their own government. Together, they created the most elaborate and most unique system of governance in the history of human civilization. This course will tell the story of how that government came into existence, and will explore what its infrastructure means for you as a student at the University of Tennessee and as a resident of the United States of America.

University/College/Departmental curricular requirements met: This course is a prerequisite to the Political Science major. It also can be used toward the Divisional Distribution (Social Science) requirement of the College of Arts and Sciences curriculum.

Program level learning objectives that the course supports: Students will gain basic knowledge of, understanding of, and the ability to apply, political science principles.

Central learning objectives that the course supports: Students will gain basic knowledge of, and understanding of, the constitutional bases of the American political system; the three branches of government; federalism; individual rights and liberties; and the different modes of political participation.


Required instructional technology: None.
Student assessment and evaluation methods:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Element</th>
<th>Contribution to final grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class attendance and participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final examination</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Attendance and participation: Regular attendance is expected. Please email the instructor if extenuating circumstances will mandate prolonged absence. No set formula is used to reduce a student’s grade simply based on number of absences, but obviously, class participation is impossible if a student is not present. Participation grades will be based on a student’s effort to engage in discussion over the issues presented. Public speaking is an essential component of many jobs today, and thus students will be rewarded for making an effort to verbalize facts, legal issues, and rationales associated with the legal issues and the court cases that we will confront. Quality of participation will be taken in account, in addition to quantity.

Examinations: The format for the exams will include a medley of multiple choice questions, short answer questions, and hypothetical scenarios that will require the student to apply principles of American Government to a set of facts. Under special circumstances, make-up exams will be offered. If such circumstances arise, please contact the instructor as far in advance as is feasible.

Grading scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 – 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A -</td>
<td>90 – 92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B +</td>
<td>87 – 89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 – 86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B -</td>
<td>80 – 82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C +</td>
<td>77 – 79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73 – 76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C -</td>
<td>70 – 72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D +</td>
<td>67 – 69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63 – 66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D -</td>
<td>60 – 62%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Less than 60%</td>
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Topics and Assigned Readings

Week 1: Current Events and American Government; Chapter 1

Week 2: The Founding and The Constitution; Chapter 3 and Chapter 4

Weeks 3-5: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights; Chapters 5 and Chapter 6

Week 6: The Judicial Branch; Chapter 10

Week 7: The Presidency; Chapter 8

Week 8: The Bureaucracy; Chapter 9

Week 9: Interest Groups; Chapter 13

Week 10: Political Parties; Chapter 12

Week 11: Campaigns and Elections; Chapter 14

Week 12: Media and Politics; Chapter 15

Week 13: State and Local Politics; Chapter 16

Week 14: Foreign Policy Issues; Chapter 19

Additional Information:

Key Dates
Exam 1: Thursday September 26th
Exam 2: Tuesday October 29th
Final Exam: Tuesday, December 10th: 2:45 PM

Academic Integrity
All rules concerning academic honesty as set out in the current edition of Hilltopics will be enforced. Particular attention should be paid to the section on plagiarism. Students are reminded of their obligation to abide by the UTK Honor Code: “An essential feature of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. As a student of the university, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity.”

Disabilities that Constrain Learning
Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 865-974-6087 in 2227 Dunford
Hall to document their eligibility for services. ODS will work with students and faculty to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

The Student’s Role in Improving Teaching and Learning through Course Assessment
At UT, it is our collective responsibility to improve the state of teaching and learning. During the semester, you may be requested to assess aspects of this course either during class or at the completion of the class. You are encouraged to respond to these various forms of assessment as a means of continuing to improve the quality of the UT learning experience.

University Civility Statement
Civility is genuine respect and regard for others: politeness, consideration, tact, good manners, graciousness, cordiality, affability, amiability and courteousness. Civility enhances academic freedom and integrity, and is a prerequisite to the free exchange of ideas and knowledge in the learning community. Our community consists of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and campus visitors. Community members affect each other’s well-being and have a shared interest in creating and sustaining an environment where all community members and their points of view are valued and respected. Affirming the value of each member of the university community, the campus asks that all its members adhere to the principles of civility and community adopted by the campus: http://civility.utk.edu/.

Communication of Announcements
Announcements will be sent via e-mail to students’ official UTK e-mail addresses and/or posted on Blackboard. Students are responsible for monitoring their UTK e-mail account and the course Blackboard site.

Alteration of this Syllabus
The instructor reserves the right to revise, alter and/or amend this syllabus, as necessary. Students will be notified by email and/or Blackboard of any such revisions, alterations and/or amendments.

Key Resources For Students
- Political Science Department Website: http://web.utk.edu/~polisci/
- Academic Planning: http://www.utk.edu/advising
- Arts and Sciences Advising Services: http://artsci.utk.edu/advising/
- Student Success Center: http://studentsuccess.utk.edu
- Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs: http://catalog.utk.edu
- Hilltopics: http://dos.utk.edu
- Course Timetable: https://bannerssb.utk.edu/kbanpr/bwckschd.p_disp_dyn_sched
- Library: http://www.lib.utk.edu
- Career Services: http://career.utk.edu