Syllabus

POLS 101: INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Course Information

Course Number: POLS 101
Section: 04N Tuesday/Thursday 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM
Course Title: Introduction to American Government and Politics

Prerequisites: Demonstrated competency through appropriate assessment or earning a grade of “C” or better in ENGL 025 Introduction to College Writing II or ENGL 093 Introduction to College Writing and ENGL 032 Reading Strategies for College II or ENGL 083 Reading Strategies for College.

SCHOOL: Liberal Arts and Sciences
PROGRAM: Liberal Arts
CREDIT HOURS: 3
CONTACT HOURS: Lecture: 3
DATE OF LAST REVISION: Summer, 2013
EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS REVISION: Summer, 2013

Catalog Description: Studies federalism, theories of the origins and purposes of government and other aspects of the American government including interest groups, political parties, and the electoral process. Emphasis is placed on constitutional backgrounds and the organization and functions of the executive, legislative, and judicial segments of the national government, civil liberties and civil rights, public opinion, media, bureaucracies, and domestic and foreign policy.

MAJOR COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Upon successful completion of this course the student will be expected to:
1. Describe and discuss the foundations and bases of American government and democracy including the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and Federalism.
2. Describe the various aspects of political behavior of individuals and groups including political parties, public opinion, interest groups, media, nominations, campaigns, and elections.
3. Describe the operations of the various governmental institutions including executive, legislative, judicial, and administrative functions.
4. Evaluate recent global developments and their impact on public policy in the areas of domestic and foreign affairs.
5. Analyze American politics and government and in a global context through comparative politics.

COURSE CONTENT: Topical areas of study include: History and theories of government, rise of American democracy, Constitutional structure, public policy, challenges of federalism, media, civil rights, civil liberties, current events, case law, and comparative politics.

HOW TO ACCESS THE IVY TECH COMMUNITY COLLEGE LIBRARY:
The Ivy Tech Library is available to students’ on- and off-campus, offering full text journals and books and other resources essential for course assignments. Go to http://www.ivytech.edu/library/ and choose the link for your campus.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT:**
The College is committed to academic integrity in all its practices. The faculty value intellectual integrity and a high standard of academic conduct. Activities that violate academic integrity undermine the quality and diminish the value of educational achievement. Cheating on papers, tests or other academic works is a violation of College rules. This includes turning in a paper that is overloaded with material which is not the students, even if that material is cited. No student shall engage in behavior that, in the judgment of the instructor of the class, may be construed as cheating. This may include, but is not limited to, plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty such as the acquisition without permission of tests or other academic materials and/or distribution of these materials and other academic work. This includes students who aid and abet as well as those who attempt such behavior. The instructor reserves the right to use the resources of the College to check student work for plagiarism.

**COPYRIGHT STATEMENT:**
Students shall adhere to the laws governing the use of copyrighted materials. They must insure that their activities comply with fair use and in no way infringe on the copyright or other proprietary rights of others and that the materials used and developed at Ivy Tech Community College contain nothing unlawful, unethical, or libelous and do not constitute any violation of any right of privacy.

**ADA STATEMENT:**
Ivy Tech Community College seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with documented disabilities. If you need an accommodation because of a documented disability, please contact the Office of Disability Support Services.

If you will require assistance during an emergency evacuation, notify your instructor immediately. Look for evacuation procedures posted in your classroom.

Sue Gauck is the Bloomington contact for Disability support services. Please call her at (812) 330 – 6046 for assistance or by e-mail at sgauck@ivytech.edu. She is located in room C108.


You can order all of the materials required for this course from the Ivy Tech book store. The web address is http://ivytech.bkstr.com.

**INSTRUCTOR:** I received my MA in Political Science from Indiana State University in December of 2010. My academic areas of interest include comparative politics, human security, and state development with regional emphasis on Africa and the Middle East. My hobbies include making art in the form of greeting cards and altered books as well as listening to music.

**COMMUNICATION:** Contact your instructor via E-mail, at khousley1@ivytech.edu. Contacting me this way, ensures that I can more quickly respond to you.

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHOD:** This course relies heavily on in class participation and as a result, students with attendance problems will find it difficult to succeed. Each week’s assigned reading is pre-posted on Blackboard in the Syllabus. Students will find that periodically throughout the semester, some in class readings will be provided.
Generally, class time will be divided between class discussion and course lecture. Class discussion and participation is a critical part of the class room experience.

**EVALUATION**: Students will be evaluated on their ability to utilize the course vocabulary, contribute to course discussions and complete course assignments.

**GRADES**: Grades can be found on Blackboard’s grade book. Students are responsible for keeping track of their progress throughout the semester.

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100 - 90%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89 - 80%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79 - 70%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69 - 60%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Points Possible: 1000 Points

- Class Participation: 100 Points
- In Class Quizzes: 50 Points
- Two Chances Quizzes: 75 Points
- Ideology Paper and Draft: 150 Points
- Class Attendance: 100 Points
- Midterm Exam: 150 Points
- Final Exam: 150 Points
- Short Paper: 125 Points
- Learning Essay: 50 Points
- GPI: 50 Points

**MAKE-UP POLICY**:

Students must make every effort to turn in assignments on time. In class quizzes must be made up within a week of missing them. Papers must be turned in within a week of the due date to receive a grade no higher than a “B”. After two additional weeks the assignment receives a zero. If circumstances prevent you from completing an exam or the paper on time, the problem must be documented and reflect the gravity of the assignment missed. No assignment may be e-mailed to the instructor without express permission.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Students who fail to attend class regularly impact their potential to succeed. It is better to be late to class then to not arrive at all. As stated previously, this course relies heavily upon class discussion as well as participation, which together account for twenty percent of the score. An individual who is not in class, cannot, by definition, participate. However, failure to attend is not an excuse for failing to turn in any assignments or complete online quizzes. Online quizzes are posted in advance and are therefore not related to attendance.
DROP and WITHDRAW: Students may drop the course until August 30th without penalty. The last date to withdrawal is November 16th.

RIGHT OF REVISION: This college reserves the right to change policies or scheduling as necessary. Students will be informed promptly of any and all changes. In addition, changes may be made to the syllabus; however, students will be informed immediately should those changes occur.

COURSE CALENDAR:

Session 1: Introduction and Syllabus, GPI
Session 2: Chapter 1 Democratic Republic
Session 3: Chapter 2 The Constitution, Federalist Papers 51 and 10, Nigeria’s Stability: Constitutional Reform and Beyond
Session 4: Chapter 3 Federalism, Learning Essay on the Constitution, In-Class Quiz
Session 5: Chapter 10 The Congress, Chapter 8 Political Parties
Session 6: Chapter 11 The President, Online Quiz, Ideology Draft Due
Session 7: Chapter 12 The Bureaucracy, Review Session
Session 8: Midterm Exam,
Session 9: Chapter 13 The Courts, Majority Opinion – Roe v. Wade
Session 10: Chapter 4 Civil Liberties, Online Quiz
Session 11: Chapter 5 Civil Rights, Ideology Paper Due
Session 12: Chapter 7 Interest Groups, Chapter 9 Campaigns, Elections, and the Media, In-Class Quiz
Session 13: Chapter 14 Domestic and Economic Policy, Short Paper on Elections and Domestic Policy
Session 14: Chapter 15 Foreign Policy, Online Quiz
Session 15: Chapter 6 Public Opinion and Political Socialization, Review Session, GPI
Session 16: Final Exam