

**SYLLABUS**  
**American Government**  
Political Science 1  
Fall 2006  
OnLine

Instructor: George Yount

Office Hours: Contact me via e-mail. I will be unavailable on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays

You are about to begin a course of study that requires that you have the ability to work independently, manage your time, like to read and that you comprehend what you read. You must be a self starter. If you took this course because you feel that you can work at your own pace, that is only partly true. There will be assignments, discussions, and exams that must be completed by a certain time period. Because there is not an oral lecture as you would have on campus, you must do the learning by yourself. I will certainly provide direction and guidance, and, of course, I will answer your questions, but you must learn on your own. In addition, you must have some practical knowledge of computers.

**Course Objectives:**

Introduction to the principles and problems of the American political system on the national, state, and local levels. Course includes a discussion of the Constitution, political parties, the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the government. Other topics include political behavior, voting patterns, interest group interaction, decision and conflict roles within the system.

**Course Requirements:**

Two one-hour exams given during your regular class periods. The semester exams will each be worth eighty (80) points; the final exam will be worth 160 points. Exams will cover all material presented in the textbook, in written lecture, and from the PowerPoint presentations which cover each chapter. **You are responsible for all of the assigned material in the textbook.** The first two exams are each worth 80 points; the final exam is worth 160 points. Total points available from the exams are 320 points. **There will be other assignments and discussion which you must complete. You must take the exams on the date and during the time allowed. I will allow a 48-hour period during which you can take the exam. You will be allowed one hour for each exam and two hours for the final exam. Once you begin the exam, you must complete it during that hour. You cannot stop and return to it at a later time. You will see one multiple choice or true-false question at a time.** After the time allowed for you to study a chapter, you will be given an objective exam with twenty questions. These will be available for you over a designated 48-hour period. You will be given 40 minutes for each of these chapter exams. Once you begin the exam, you must complete it.

**Text:**

**Required:** Thomas E. Patterson, We the People, Sixth edition, McGraw Hill

**Assignments:** Because online learning is without benefit of oral lecture, I will give assignments which will be graded. You will have a 48-hour period during which to complete the assignment. You must complete each assignment to the best of your ability. These assignments will be offered under the “**Assignments**” folder.

**Discussions:** I will offer at different times for discussion. Your participation will be graded. My expectation for you is that you will give at least one thoughtful response to the discussion question and one thoughtful response to a fellow student who has responded to the discussion. The grade will be based upon your thoughtfulness, consideration for others who have presented their views, and your effort. The Discussion topics will be available by clicking on “**Discussion Board**”. Each discussion topic will be available for one week.

**Lectures:** I will present brief written lectures on each chapter. Along with those lectures, I will have a PowerPoint presentation for each chapter. You may want to print out the **PowerPoint presentation** into three images per page. This allows for you to write notes from the written lecture next to the image addressed by the written lecture. The lectures and PowerPoint presentations will be available for one week. Then they will be taken away. See the Syllabus for the week during which a chapter will be covered. You will find the lectures and PowerPoint presentations by clicking on “**Course Documents**”.

**Exams:** There will be two exams during the semester and a final exam. Questions will be multiple-choice or true-false. There will be 80 questions on each semester exam and 160 questions on the final. You will receive them one question at a time. You will complete one question and then move on to the next. You will have one hour for the exams given during the semester and two hours for the final.

You may take the exam at any time during a designated 48-hour period. I realize that many of you take an online course for the sake of convenience. This is the reason that I allow you to take the exam during a 48-hour period. Once you begin the exam though, you must complete it during an hour or during two hours for the final. You cannot leave an exam and come back to it at a later time. Once you begin, the clock starts ticking on your time for taking and completing the exam.

You will be given one question at a time. Once you have answered that question, and moved to the next question, you will not be able to go back to previous question. This is to prevent a student from printing out an entire exam and giving it to a friend.

**Announcements:** I will inform you of the dates and times when exams, assignments, discussions are available. **Please check Announcements on a daily basis or on a very regular basis.**

**Grades:** Your grades will be found in the gradebook here on Blackboard.

**Grading:**

Of all points available, grades will be as follows:

90% to 100%	A
80% to 89.99%	B
70% to 79.99%	C
60% to 69.99%	D
00% to 59.99%	F

**Instructor's Policies:**

*Attendance:* While you work independently and there is no classroom attendance, I urge you to do all assignments, participate fully in each discussion, take the exams when scheduled and read the text thoroughly. Everything that you do that is presented to me will be graded, except, of course, your questions to me.

**Schedule for the Course:**

<u>Date</u> (Week of:)	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>
August 28	American Democracy	Chapter 1
September 4	<b>LABOR DAY</b> Constitutional Democracy	Chapter 2
September 11	Federalism	Chapter 3
September 18	Interest Groups Political Parties	Chapter 9 Chapter 8
September 25	<b>FIRST EXAMINATION</b> <b>September 25-26 (One Hour)</b> <b>80 Questions</b> <b>Chapters 1, 2, 3, 8 and 9</b>	
October 2	Public Opinion Political Participation and Voting	Chapter 6 Chapter 7

October 9	The News Media Money and Politics	Chapter 10 Lecture
October 16	Congress	Chapter 11
October 23	<b>SECOND EXAM October 23-24</b> <b>80 questions; One Hour</b> <b>Chapters 6,7, Money, 10, 11</b>	
	The Presidency	Chapter 12
October 30	The Presidency	Chapter 12
November 6	The Judiciary	Chapter 14
November 13	Civil Liberties	Chapter 4
November 20	Civil Liberties	Chapter 4
November 24	<b>Happy Thanksgiving Holiday!</b>	
November 27	Civil Rights	Chapter 5
December 4	Civil Rights	Chapter 5
<b>December 13</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b> <b>Covers the entire semester</b> <b>160 questions; multiple-choice</b> <b>Two Hours</b>	