

University of Wisconsin-Green Bay
Political Science
PSC 101: American Government and Politics
Fall 2010
Tuesday/Thursday: 11:00a.m.-12:20 p.m.

Three (3) credit hours

Room: MAC 210

Professor: Dr. Sara Rinfret

Professor's Office: Mary Ann Cofrin Hall (MAC) B Wing, Office 321

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday: 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.; Wednesday: 1:00-2:00 p.m. or by appointment
(*Email is the most reliable way to contact me)

Teaching Assistants:

Mr. Matt Hoffman: hoffm19@uwgb.edu (students from A-Feldmann)

Mr. Jeff Cook: cookj05@uwgb.edu (students from Fessenbecker-Latus)

Mr. Pat Hogan: hogamp19@uwgb.edu (students from Lawrence-Riddle)

Ms. Gabriela Parra: parrg09@uwgb.edu (students from Roe-Zellner)

Course Prerequisites: College standing

General Education: This course fulfills one of the general education designations

Course Description: The American national government is an enormously complex organization. It has developed over the years into a multifaceted and multidimensional body. This course will evaluate the basics of the American system of government. We will begin by learning how the American system emerged from the American Revolution. We will spend a considerable amount of time on the institutional aspects of American government. Finally, we will discuss how the American national government wields power in the United States and how groups and individuals respond and relate to the power of government.

Expectations for Student Learning: This course is designed as an introductory course in American politics that is suitable for students across all majors. The course objective is to critically think about and understand the premises of American government institutions and political processes that are the frameworks for the United States.

Specific expectations for student learning:

- 1) Demonstrate the basic arguments of traditional and modern thinkers in American government
- 2) Assess the historical and contemporary context of American political institutions
- 3) Critically evaluate the different perspectives about American government and take a position based upon varying lines of argumentation

Course Organization

This course will use various methods such as examinations, class discussions, web assignments, global summit activities, and written assignments to become better acquainted with American government. Students are expected to follow the weekly course schedule. The readings will be used for weekly discussions, assignments, and exams. In order that we maximize mutual learning experience, you are required to complete the assigned readings according to the weekly schedule.

Required Reading Materials:

1. Ginsburg, Benjamin, Lowi, Theodore, and Margaret Weir. 2009. We the People: An Introduction to American Politics, Shorter 7th ed. New York: W.W. Norton Company
2. Silverman, Jay, Hughes, Elaine, and Diana Wienbroer. 2010. Rules of Thumb: A Guide for Writers. New York, NY: McGraw Hill.

Books may be purchased from the University Bookstore. Cheaper versions might be available on amazon.com Make sure that you purchase the 7th, shorter edition!

Another suggestion is to use the Cofrin Library's inter-library loan system if you cannot afford course materials

Lap Top Computers and Cell Phones: **NOT ALLOWED** unless you have a medical excuse.

- *Cell Phones:* If students are caught texting during class, you will be asked to leave and will receive zero points for the day (participation). If cell phone use is a constant occurrence, this will damage your overall grade. If you cannot live without your cell phone, then do not take this class.
- *Laptops:* Students should be able to take notes without laptops, and studies have shown that taking your own notes, with a pen and paper increases your likelihood to do well in the classroom.

Using D2L:

This semester each student is enrolled in D2L for this course. On D2L students can find additional copies of the course syllabus, web assignments, grades, dropbox for assignments, tests, and class announcements.

Teaching Assistants: This course has five teaching assistants (listed above). Questions about the course content should be directed to the professor first, but if you would like tutoring for assignments (web, exams, global summit, etc), please contact your designated (see list above) teaching assistants for support. Your TA corresponds with your last name.

Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes:

Online Tests: There are three examinations in this course, drawn from lecture, web assignments, readings, guest speakers, and films. The text format is multiple choice questions (50-80 questions). Exam 1 and 2 = 100 points apiece and Exam 3 = 150 points possible. Students are **required** to take each exam on D2L. The exams are listed under "quizzes" on our class D2L site. Prior to the Exam 1, detailed instructions will be given. These exams are individually taken and closed book with a set time limit (Exam 1, Exam 2, and Exam 3 = 65 minute time limit). Each exam has a window in which students can login and complete. Once you begin the exam, you must complete within the set time limit, and make sure that you click "save" and "submit" upon completion. Please follow the course schedule for exam windows to successfully complete. Exam scores are not released until each student has completed. Listed are some best practices to successfully complete the exams.

- ✓ **A study guide is provided before each exam. Please do not email the professor or teaching assistants for the study guide if you missed class (excused or unexcused). Simply, you miss class; you do not receive the study guide.**
- ✓ **Make-up exams are not an option unless the student provides written documentation from a doctor 72 hours prior to the exam (i.e. you have a set window to take each exam – plenty of flexibility!)**
- ✓ **Best Practices for Exams**
 - **Make sure that you are sitting in a quiet area where you will not be disturbed (i.e. school library or silent study area)**
 - **Strong Internet cable connection (wireless is not always reliable)**
 - **Computer has full power (keep plugged in)**
 - **Hit "save" periodically while taking the exam**
 - **Click "save" and "submit" upon completion**
 - **Exams are closed book and on your own! In order to take the exam, students need to sign off on the honor code via D2L**

- **Follow the course schedule to ensure that you complete the exam on time**
- Please Note: Cheating can be detected by D2L software and will result in a 0 for the test

Web Assignments (100 points possible): As the course schedule notes, there are *two* designated days that the class is **REQUIRED** to complete a D2L web assignment. The assignments and instructions are found under the “drop box” on D2L and each is worth 50 points apiece (2 x 50 = 100 points possible). Students are required to type their answers in the provided text box or attach a *word document* for submission (attachment is usually easier). These assignments are due by 11p.m. on the scheduled date. Please note: samples of what an “A” looks like are listed on the course content page.

How will you be graded on web assignments?

Answer the question in 4-10 sentences, **citing (use your writing manual)** the textbook and the simulation for support. **An automatic 15 point deduction is taken if there are grammatical errors and you do not answer the question(s). I remind students of due dates in-class. Therefore, late assignments will not be accepted. Do not ask.**

Laramie Project Assignment (50 points possible): Civil Rights are an ongoing issue in American government. We will watch the Laramie Project over two class periods in this course. If you miss one of the viewing days, it will be extremely difficult to complete this assignment. Students are required to complete a “reaction assignment” to determine if the issues discussed in the movie are a contemporary civil rights issue. In this assignment you will use research of your own, course readings on Civil Rights, and take what we have learned about in-class to address five questions. More details to follow.

Note: This assignment is worth 50 points of your final grade and due October 5th. **Late assignments will not be accepted.**

Global Citizenship Summit: Defining Global Sustainability (200 points possible): This semester, you will have the opportunity to participate in an exciting event--a model UN Summit where you will represent a member of a country delegation negotiating a resolution on global sustainability. This is politics in action, and should be a LOT more fun than studying for a test!

Students from 2 classes (American Government and Global Politics) will work together to develop a resolution on Global Sustainability.

- ✓ Students will be required to participate in a **pre-Summit** event on Monday, **October 18 (5:00-7:00 PM, University Union, Phoenix Rooms)**. At this pre-Summit, students will be given their group assignments, including their country and detailed instructions for their Summit participation and poster presentation.
- ✓ On Monday, **November 15 (5:00-7:00 PM, University Union, Phoenix Rooms)**, the actual **Global Summit** will take place. Between the pre-Summit and the Global Summit students need to work together to create their country’s resolution, poster and identify potential allies. Each country’s sustainability resolution is due **by Wednesday, November 10th (7PM), on Global Summit D2L—NOT the PSC 101 D2L.**
 - The posters should include information regarding the assigned country, its environmental policy priorities, and students’ recommendation for their country’s sustainability resolution. At the Global Summit, students will present posters and engage in negotiations with other members of the “global community.” Countries will need to form alliances and produce a collective resolution sponsored by at least 6 different countries (but the goal is to produce a winning resolution supported by as many countries as possible). At the end of the Summit, the entire “global community” will determine which one will become the final resolution on global sustainability. Several awards will be presented to authors of winning resolution, delegations amassing the most financial resources, and most creative and active delegations.
- ✓ After the Summit, each student will write a 3 page reflection paper and fill out self and group evaluations due by **10:30 a.m. November 23 (before class meeting time), on our regular class D2L (Drop box).**

- ✓ The Summit is worth **200 points of your final grade**. The Summit grade is based on participation (on Global Summit D2L and in person), the poster, self- and group evaluations, and a 3 page reflection paper.
- ✓ Students are required to plan accordingly to attend the pre-Summit and the Global Summit (that is, getting off work!). *Please note that a few class sessions will be devoted entirely to the Summit preparations (see course schedule) in order to compensate for the time spent participating in the Summits.*
- ✓ Also, groups will sign contracts at the pre-summit and can utilize the “firing” option (details to follow).
- ✓ *Should participating in this event represent insurmountable difficulties, please see me for an alternate assignment. My hope, however, is that nearly everyone can take part in this fun event. **More instructions to follow as semester progresses.***

Extra Credit: Since it is campaign season, students that volunteer at the polls or work on a campaign can receive up to 10 extra credit points added to their final grade. Students wanting extra credit must write a 1 page paper about their experiences and verification of participation.

OR

Students during the first week of class can sign up to follow a national candidate running for U.S. Senate or the House of Representatives (choice is yours, but only 1 student per candidate to avoid overlap). You need to use the 3 L’s to analyze the stages of this person’s campaign from September-November (i.e. actively read about this candidate weekly). After the election, write a 4-5 page (double spaced, with at least 4 scholarly references, cite in the text and include a reference page) paper using the 3L’s to determine why this candidate was successful or unsuccessful. If you select this option, a student can receive up to 30 extra credit points for their final grade. You must sign up the 2nd day of class for your candidate to follow.

Please see TA Matt for a list of candidates running for election this fall or use this website:

http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/fast_facts/elections/candidates_2010.php

Either opportunity is due by **Tuesday, November 9, 2010** – turn in a hard copy to class.

Students can only select one option.

Participation (100 points possible): According to UW-Green Bay official policies, “students are expected to attend class. In the event of illness or death of a family member, the Dean of Students Office will assist with notification of instructors. The instructor **may drop** students who do not attend classes during the first week of the semester unless they notify the instructor in advance of the reason for nonattendance and indicate intentions to complete the class. **The instructor, prior to the drop deadline, may also drop students who attend classes the first week but not thereafter.**” Each student is expected to attend each class session and participate in classroom discussions and assignments. Questioning, probing, making judgments, wondering about “what ifs” – these are all part of a healthy learning process. To participate effectively you should read the scheduled assignment BEFORE coming to class. The 100 points possible for participation include:

- ✓ In-class assignments: Throughout the semester the class will work on in-classroom (small group) assignments that pertain to the week’s topic area. These activities should be fun and a way for students to apply the textbook to real world scenarios. In addition, if student participation drops, I might pass around an attendance sheet. In either case, “in-class activities” or “attendance” is worth 100 points of your total grade.
 - **In previous semesters students participated in 16-20 in-class assignments. In the event that a student misses 50 percent (without a legitimate excuse) of the total in-class assignments for this course, the student(s) will receive 0/100 for participation.**
 - **Also, keep in mind that students should not arrive to class late. Teaching assistants take note of late student arrivals and deduct points from overall participation points.**
 - **These assignments cannot be made up if you miss class. Please do not ask.**

- ✓ Note: If student participation/attendance begins to drop, the instructor reserves the right to add additional points to the course and have in-class pop quizzes. These are unannounced and based on the reading for the day.

Totals Points for the Course:

Exam #1	100 points
Exam #2	100 points
Exam #3 (Final)	150 points
Reaction Paper Assignment	50 points
Web Assignments (2 @ 50 points apiece)	100 points
Participation	100 points
Global Summit	200 points
Total	800 points possible (If no alterations to the syllabus)

A= 92-100

C= 72-78

AB= 89-91

CD= 69-71

B= 82-88

D= 60-68

BC= 79-81

F= 59-Below

Tentative Course Outline and Schedule of Assignments:

(The instructor reserves the right to change elements of the syllabus at her discretion. If changes occur, students will receive a syllabus addendum)

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignments
Week 1: Thursday, September 2	Introduction to the Course: What is Political Science – Fact versus Fiction	The 3 L's Extra Credit Opportunities
Week 2: Tuesday, September 7	Foundations: American Political Culture/Different Types of Democracies	Read: 1-36 Sign up for Extra Credit Opp #2 Due to TA Jeff
Thursday, September 9	The Founding of the Constitution and Key Concepts	Read: 41-77 Due: Web 1: Foundations on D2L by 11p.m. See Sample on Content Page
Week 3: Tuesday, September, 14	Sifting through the Constitution	Read: 41-77
Thursday, September 16	Federalism and Immigration	Read: 81-113
Week 4: Tuesday, September 21	Civil Liberties and Defining the Global Summit/Sustainability	Read: 119-152
Thursday, September 23	Finish Civil Liberties and Begin Civil Rights	Read: 157-201 <i>Study Guide for Exam 1</i>

Week 5: Tuesday, September 28	Civil Rights and the Laramie Project	Read: 157-201 <i>Laramie Project Assignment</i> <i>Sign up begins for Global Summit Countries</i>
Thursday, September 30	Civil Rights and the Laramie Project	Read: 157-201
Week 6: Tuesday, October 5	Discussion about first D2L exam – procedures and best practices	Read: None Due: Reaction Assignment due on D2L by 10:30a.m. (before class) *Bring study guides to class*
Thursday, October 7	Exam 1: Covers Pages 3-201, no class – complete online	Exam “Opens” Tuesday, October 5 @ 12:30p.m. and closes Thursday, October 7th @ 12:30p.m.
Week 7: Tuesday, October 12	Public Opinion and Media	Read: 205-276 <i>Future Phoenix Day</i>
Thursday, October 14	Public Opinion and Media: Priming, Agenda Setting, and Framing	Read: 205-276 <i>Discussion about Pre-Summit – What to Expect</i>
Week 8: Monday, October 18:	Pre-Summit – 5-7p.m. University Union, Phoenix Rooms	
Tuesday, October 19	Political Participation and Voting/Discussion about Summit	Read: 283-314 “Global Summit D2L Page”
Thursday, October 21	Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections	Read: 283-314 and 319-412
Week 9 Tuesday, October 26	Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections	Read: 319-412 Due: Web 2: Political Parties on D2L by 11p.m. <i>Receive Study Guide for Test 2</i>
Thursday, October 28	Groups and Interests and Discussion about Exam 2	Read: 417-448
Week 10: Tuesday, November 2	DON'T FORGET TO VOTE! EXAM 2: Covers pages 205-448 – No class, complete online	Exam “Opens” Thursday, October 28 @ 12:30p.m. and closes Thursday, November 2nd @ 12:30p.m.
Thursday, November 4	Global Summit Work Day – Mandatory for all Students	Bring materials for global summit to class! “Writing a Resolution”
Week 11: Tuesday, November 9	Global Summit Work Day – Mandatory for all Students	Resolutions Due by 7p.m. on Global Summit D2L, Wednesday “Resolutions and Press Releases” Extra Credit Due @ the beginning of class
Thursday, November 11	Global Summit Work Day – Mandatory for all Students	Bring materials for global summit to class! “Negotiations Begin and Completing Posters”
Week 12: Monday, November 15	Global Summit: 5-7p.m. University	

	Union Phoenix Rooms	
Tuesday, November 16	Summit Awards and Begin Congress	Read: 455-499
Thursday, November 18	Congress	Read: 455-499
Week 13: Tuesday, November 23	Begin the President	Read: 503-584 Due: 3 page Global Summit Reflection papers and evaluations on our class' D2L drop box by 10:30a.m. – submit under you country Alternative assignment handed into me at the beginning of class!
Thursday, November 25	NO CLASS	Happy Thanksgiving!
Week 14: Tuesday, November 30	The President and Begin the Bureaucracy	Read: 503-584
Thursday, December 2	Finish Bureaucracy and Begin the Courts	Read: 560-624
Week 15: Tuesday, December 7 Thursday, December 9 Finals Week: December 14-18 *We do not meet for class this week	Finish the Courts and Discussion about the Final Exam Wrapping up the Course Final Exam: See Instructions to the Right	Read: 560-624, <i>Receive final study guide</i> "Final Exam Opens Monday, December 13 @ 5a.m. and closes on Tuesday, December 14 @ 12:30p.m. **You have two hours to complete this exam** Our set exam time is December 14, 10:30-12:30p.m.

Classroom Policies

- **Extra Credit:** See policy listed above
- **Make-up Exams:** See policy listed under “exams”
- **Classroom Etiquette:** Students are expected to observe proper etiquette in class. Disruptions, such as talking to a classmate must be avoided. I expect all students to maintain a high level of professionalism in their classroom conduct with me, and with their fellow students. This means **coming to class on time**, being respectful during class discussions, and in all communications with me and others.
 - Rude behavior will not be tolerated. Any student who acts in an inappropriate manner will be asked to leave the class. Second offenders will have a meeting with the department chair and a complaint filed with the Office of Student Life.
- **E-mail Etiquette:** E-mail is a wonderful tool for you to contact me with questions, but it does not replace office hours. If you have involved questions about course material, you should come see me during office hours or during an alternate appointment. Office hours are the best opportunity to get your questions answered. Plus, you can get to know your professors.
 - **And, please DO NOT email the professor OR teaching assistants asking if you “missed anything” due to student failure to attend class** (ask a classmate).
- **Incompletes or Withdrawals “W” for the Course:** If for some reason the course is not working out for you please adhere to University policies for the last day to drop a class. If you need an incomplete for the course, you **MUST** come to my office hours or set up a meeting with me four weeks from the end of class in order to make this request. A written medical excuse or documentation will be needed for the professor to grant such a request.
- **Late Assignments:** Students are expected to submit all work on the date specified in the course calendar and be present for examinations. Any exceptions to this must be approved by the instructor 72 hours before the date in question. Students must complete all assignments to receive a grade for the course.
- **Miss a Lecture:** Lectures will not be repeated, and lecture notes will not be provided by the instructor. Ask a friend for their notes.

- **Plagiarism:** All work submitted must be your own; no duplicate work (work completed for another class) will not be accepted. Acts of cheating or plagiarism will result in a grade of ZERO (0) for the assignment. To avoid acts of plagiarism, cite each reference or source you use and give proper credit for the ideas, opinions, and findings of others. When you are using the exact words of others, you must use quotation marks and include the page number where you found the quote in your citation.
- **D2L:** This class is supported by D2L. Please refer to this site regularly for additional readings, announcements, or updates to the schedule.
- **Sensitive Course Materials:** If an instructor believes it is appropriate, the syllabus should communicate to students that some course content may be considered sensitive by some students.” University education aims to expand student understanding and awareness. Thus, it is necessarily involves engagement with a wide range of information, ideas, and creative representations. In the course of college studies, students can expect to encounter—and critically appraise—materials that may differ from and perhaps challenge familiar understandings, ideas, and beliefs. Students are encouraged to discuss these matters with faculty.”
- **Disability Assistance:** Consistent with federal law and the policies of the University of Wisconsin, it is the policy of UW-Green Bay to provide appropriate and necessary accommodations to students with documented physical and learning disabilities. If you anticipate requiring any auxiliary aides or services, you should contact the coordinator of the Disability Services Office, at 465-2849 as soon as possible to discuss your needs and arrange the provision of services.