

COURSE: Political Science 131 Hybrid Course (50 percent On-Line)
Instructor: Dr. Anthony D. Perry
Office: A-237
Office Hours: T,TH 8:55-9:40, 11-12:30, 2-230, W 12:30-5
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TEXT/REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- Schmidt, Steffen, Mack C. Shelley, and Barbara A. Bardes 2013. *American Government and Politics Today 2012-2013 Brief Edition*, Wadsworth CENGAGE Learning..
- Readings, and other assignments on the course web-site (<http://henryford.ucompass.com>)
- Notebook and writing implement for class period.

ABOUT THE COURSE:

The course is designed to give the student a better understanding of the concepts used in and the practice and politics of the American governmental system. It will be taught for the purpose of developing civic literacy, fostering a greater understanding and hopefully appreciation of the American political system, creating a necessary base for passive and active participation in the American political system, as well as for continued study in the field of political science. Although titled Introduction to Political Science a greater emphasis at times will be placed on the politics and the role such politics plays upon the institutions of government, the American people, and the globally society. If the semester is a productive one, the student will have a firm grasp of concepts and terms, and a strong understanding of the political forces in the American society as a whole.

MAJOR CORE COURSE OBJECTIVES (MEASURABLE)

Upon successful completion of Political Science 131, students should be able to:

1. Identify and explain the Institutions of U.S. Government and the Constitutional Framework: The Legislative, the Executive, and the Judicial Branches of Government
2. Describe the Public Policy Process. Describe how policy is developed and implemented.
3. Explore Civil Rights and Civil Liberties from a historical perspective and analyze how Civil Rights and Civil Liberties impact American society today.
4. Describe how American Democracy is based on Citizen Participation and the Electoral Process.
5. Discuss extra-constitutional institutions and their impact on American society.

EVALUATION OF STUDENTS:

Students will be graded based on the following:

1. **Chapter Reading Quizzes (5):** Five online quizzes pertaining to readings. The deadline for each exam is listed on the class schedule (page 2). (**Each quiz is worth 50 points / 150 total towards overall grade**). The lowest two (2) quizzes will be dropped. Students who take all the quizzes and get an average score of 90% or above on all 5 quizzes will receive 50 extra credit points.
2. **In-Class Exams (2):** Two (2) in class exams will cover readings, lectures, and discussions. (**200 points each /400 points total towards overall grade.**)
3. **Online Assignment #1** (*Who's your representative is worth 50 points*).
4. **Online Assignment #2** (1 page- 150 words maximum outline of key talking points for issue. At least 3 references. **50 points**)
5. **Online Assignment #3 Issue Champion Essay** (A 300-500 Word Persuasive Essay worth **100 points**).
6. **Assignment #4 Championing Strategic Plan:** (A 250-500 word strategic plan for promoting issue worth **50 Points**).
7. **Assignment #5 Civic Action Activities:** Project, Learning, Writing or Political engagement activities. Students can either take part in Civic Action Activities that surround their Issue Promotion and/or they can participate in a number of other political action activities unrelated to their issue topic. (Students are to report on their Civic Action Activities by answering questions in Assignment #5 -- see description below page 3-4). (**100 points can be obtained towards overall grade**). See Options for Points for Civic Action Activities
8. **Discussion Board Posting** respond to instructor's questions and respond to at least one fellow students' post and; **100 points towards overall grade**) (No credit for late submissions).
9. **Class attendance** (50 Points for on-time perfect attendance -Students will be **deducted 25 points** for each absence; two late arrivals counts as one absence).

Students are required to check their ucompass email accounts and announcement page regularly.

GRADING SCALE 1000-900 Points A, 899-800 Points B, 799-700 Points C, 699-600 Points D, 599 and Below E

Lecture and Discussion Topics, Chapter And Reading Assignments and Exams.

| Week | DATES | TOPIC | Readings | Deadlines Dates |
|---|----------------|---|--|-------------------------|
| 1 | August 23-31 | Introduction | Course Syllabus, Plato Reading on-ucompass | |
| 2 | Sept 3-7 | Power, Politics, Perception American Political Culture Constitutional Democracy | Chapters 1 and 2 | Assignment #1 |
| 3 | Sept 10-14 | Domestic Public Policy | Chapter 13 | |
| 4 | Sept 17-21 | Public Policy and Foreign Policy | Chapter 14 | |
| 5 | Sept 24-28 | Foreign Policy | | |
| 6 | Oct 1-5 | Federalism: Government Structure | Chapter 3 | Assignment #2 |
| 7 | Oct 8-12 | Civil Liberties | Chapter 4 | |
| 8 | Oct 15-19 | The United States Judicial System | Chapter 12 | |
| 9 | Oct 22-26 | Civil Rights Campaigns, Elections and Voting Behavior | Chapter 5 | Exam #1 In-class |
| 10 | Oct 29 - Nov 2 | Public Opinion, Political Socialization and the Media (Press) | Chapter 6 | Assignment #3 |
| 11 | Nov 5-9 | Political Parties and Interest Groups | Chapter 7 | Assignment # 4 |
| 12 | Nov 12-16 | Campaigns, Elections, and Voting Behavior | Chapter 8 | |
| 13 | Nov 19-21 | The United States Congress | Chapter 9 | Assignment #5 |
| Thanksgiving Thursday November 22, 2012 No Class | | | | |
| 14 | Nov 26 - 30 | The Presidency and the Executive Branch | Chapter 10 and 11 | |
| 15 | Dec 3-7 | Last Week of Class | | Exam #2 In-class |

KEY DATES:

About online quizzes: students will be able to reset their quizzes 2 times. Not completing a quiz by the deadline will result in a zero for any given quiz. The lowest two quizzes will be dropped.

ALL ONLINE QUIZZES MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE 11 p.m. on the deadline dates listed below

Sept 17 Quiz #1 covering Chapters 1-2
 Oct 8 Quiz #2 covering Chapters 13-14
 Oct 29 Quiz #3 covering Chapters 3-4, 12
 Nov 12 Quiz #4 covering Chapters 5--7
 Dec 3 Quiz #5 covering Chapters 9-11

In-Class Exams (class meeting day and time)
 Exam #1 October 22-26
 Exam #2 December 3-7

Assignment Schedule Due Dates (All Assignment Deadlines are at 11 pm on Mondays)

| | |
|---------|---------------|
| Sept 10 | Assignment #1 |
| Oct 1 | Assignment #2 |
| Oct 29 | Assignment #3 |
| Nov 5 | Assignment #4 |
| Nov 19 | Assignment #5 |

Discussion Board Postings (All Responses Deadlines are at 11 pm on Mondays)

Discussion #1: September 3, 2012

Discussion #2: September 10, 2012

Discussion #3: September 17, 2012

Discussion #4: October 29, 2012

Discussion #5: November 12, 2012

SPECIFIC CLASS POLICIES:

- Students are responsible for information presented in syllabus, readings, videos, lectures, discussions, and posted on ucompass.
- Student should be ready to participate and to take notes. If student does not come prepared for class, is disruptive or sleeping, the instructor will ask the student to leave, mark the student absent and request that the student meet with instructor prior to the next meeting of class.
- Students can receive a "Drop" [Dr] if requested prior to final examination.
- All HFCC Policies including Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism will apply for this course.
- Students who plagiarize or are caught cheating will receive an "E" for the course.
- Students must turn off phones and pagers in class. If phone rings in class you will be asked to leave and this will be counted as an absence. All electronic devices are prohibited in class.
- Tape recording is only allowed with prior approval of Dr. Perry.
- Group study is encouraged in this course.
- Student disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. When Dr. Perry is speaking please refrain from talking with others. Additionally, when students are asking questions, please do not disrupt either the question or the answer. Students disrupting class are subject to being removed from class. If you are asked to leave the class for disruptive behavior this will count as an unexcused absence. If you are excused from class for disruptive behavior, then you must meet with Dr. Perry before returning to class. Please contact Dr. Perry as soon as possible to setup a meeting.
- All assignments must be submitted using **formal College English**. Assignments including online discussion posts that do not conform to rules of formal college English will be marked down accordingly. Formal college English includes formal rules of capitalization and other punctuation as well as rules of sentence structure and language usage. Assignment Worksheets #1-5 will be marked down according to these formal college English rules.
- Students can drop this class without Instructors permission anytime before
- Students who are registered and do not attend the first two weeks of class, nor contact Dr. Perry will not be allowed into class. The Never Attended Class will be recorded on their record. If these students do not drop the class, they will receive a Dr grade at the end of the semester with an Never Attended Flag.
- **Add/Drop Period.** The Add/Drop period runs from the first day of the semester, August 23 through August 30. During this time, students can add or drop without financial penalties. The division policy is that all overloads (enrollment beyond 30) during this time require approval.
- **Deadline for Student-Initiated Drops.** November 9 is the last day that students can drop a class without the instructor's permission by completing a form at the Registration Office.

Options for Points Civic Action Activities Assignment #5:

Civic Action and Political Participation Activities. A central aspect of any course in American Government is methods and practices for being a participating and knowledgeable citizen. Students can obtain their political participation points with a variety of different activities. A report of each activity must be submitted online in assignment #5.

Students must turn in form (final page of syllabus) to Dr. Perry no later than class day during week of September 17, 2012. The form lists the student's choice(s) for meeting this course requirement. Each of the civic action activities has a basic report requirement which will be an analysis of their activity(ies). Instructions for each report are listed in Supplemental Readings and Documents folder on the Moodle Rooms course site.

Students who participated in more than one activity should place all of their activity reports in assignment #5. Please place each activity report together.

A. October 12, 2012 is the Michigan Student Political Issues Convention. The Convention will be held at Henry Ford Community College Friday October 12, 2012 from 9:30 – 1:30 p.m. Students are expected to participate in this convention and can obtain points towards Political engagement activities for participating beyond the minimum. Basic Participation at the Convention includes attendance at all the activities for the convention. Students who do not attend the Michigan Students Political Issues Convention will lose 25 points of the class attendance extra 50.

A partial list of additional participatory activities includes #1-7 (please note that a limited number of students will be needed for each activity, therefore preference will be given to those who signup first. Signup forms for each of the activities will be available the week of September 17, 2012).

1. Registration Table (Working the registration table for participants from HFCC and other colleges and universities) (50 Points Max)
2. Issue Workshop Presentation (100 Points Maximum)
3. Voting Caucus Facilitator and Reporter (50 Points Maximum)
4. Ushers/Host (Seating students and showing students to workshop and caucus session rooms) (50 Points Maximum)
5. Poster Board Presentation (develop a poster presentation on an issue of concern for the convention) (50 Points Maximum)
6. Information, voter registration and other tables at the convention (50 Points Maximum)
7. Pre-Conference Support (prior to conference various times) (50 Points Maximum)

B. Campaign -- work on a specific candidates campaign for elective office.

National, State, and Local Offices are available for November 2012 Election

Points for activities: 50 point for the first 5 hours followed by a 10 point per hour for a maximum of 100 points.

C. Political Party Meeting/ Political Organization Meeting (such as interest group) students are to attend meeting, observe and participate in organizational, campaign and issue activities.

Points for activities: 50 point for the first 5 hours followed by a 10 point per hour for a maximum of 100 points.

D. Voter Registration, register American citizens to vote. Students can perform activities on campus or in the community. Students are encouraged to work with others in developing a strategic plan for effectively registering voters.

Points for activities: 10 point for the first 5 voter registrations followed by a 2 point per registration for a maximum of 100 points.

F. Other Point Options:

- Sign-on letters in support of an issue of general concern. 1 point per signature up to **50 points**. (Write-up of experiences and literature used to convince potential signatories). Must have plan for what will use sign-on letter and responses interested in getting. **See instructor for approval of petition**
- Writing of a unique editorials on the importance of issue of concern 10 point each unique editorial up-to **50 points**, and 50 points if letter is published in paper.
- Web-pages/sites promoting concern.(Max 100 Points)

- Powerpoint presentation/Video to promote issue and promote on web or other place. (Max 100 points with presentation at Convention)
- Develop a web-site/blog surrounding an issue/concern championed during the course. (100 Points Max)
- Letters to elected officials about issue/concern championing. (50 Points max)
- Book Report. Ask Dr. Perry about acceptable sources. (100 points max)

Student Agreement FORM for Civic Action Assignment, (#5) is due to Dr. Perry no later class day during week of September 29, 2011.

Each option below has a maximum points, if a student performs the task as outline in syllabus. Please circle the activity/activities and list the number of points you expect to obtain from activity. 100 points are required in Civic Action Activities and 100 additional points will be accepted as extra credit.

Student's Name: _____ Email: _____

Student's Signature: _____ Class Day(s) and Time: _____

City of Residence: _____

- **November 11th Convention: Host/Registration/Other support level activity.** # of Points to acquire (max 50): _____

- **November 11th Convention: Poster Board Presentation.** # of Points to acquire (max 50): _____

- **November 11th Issue Workshop Presentation.** # of Points to acquire (max 100) _____

- **Issue Web-site/Blog/Video Development.** # of Points to acquire (max 100+): _____

- **Campaigns work on a specific persons campaign for elective office.** # of Points to acquire (max 100): _____

Name of Candidate: _____

Office being sought (include district if applicable): _____

Candidate's Political Party (If a partisan race, else list nonpartisan): _____

- **Political Party Meeting/ Political Organization Meeting (such as interest group) students are to attend meeting, observer and participate in organizational, campaign and issue activities.**

of Points to acquire (max 100): _____

Name of Party/Political Organization: _____

City of Meeting Location: _____

- **Voter Registration, register American citizens to vote. Students can perform activities on campus or in the community. Students are encouraged to work with others in developing a strategic plan for effectively registering voters.**

of Points to acquire (max 100): _____

Individual Registration: _____

Work in Group to Register: _____

- **Other Point Options:**

- Sign-on letters in support of the issue of general concern. 1 point per signature up to 50 points. (Write-up of experiences and literature used to convince potential signators)

of Points to acquire (max 100): _____

- Writing of unique editorials on the importance of issue of concern 1 point each unique editorial up-to 5 points. And 5 points if letter is published in paper/journal.

of Points to acquire (max 100): _____

- Work in a group or on your own and develop a strategy and plan for the Agenda Setting Project -- included in this would be a specific design for developing and getting an issue(s) to be addressed by the political elite, the mass media, and the general public. How would you go about the strategy if you had 200 other students and an entire semester. Presentation and or write-up of strategy and outcomes -- compare results to expected results and analyze outcome as success or failure. If there is a failure is it in theory or implementation of strategy.

of Points to acquire (max 100): _____

- Try to affect the Political Agenda with one issue that you feel very strongly about. Project where you attempt to affect the Political Agenda --develop a strategy and try to carry out portions of it. What type of strategy would you take if you had 200 other students. Give a Presentation and or paper on strategy used and outcome.

of Points to acquire (max 100): _____

- Book Report: Book Title and Author and # of Points to acquire (max 100): _____

I have an idea of my own that I feel will fulfill the project/paper requirement. I will meet Dr. Perry to discuss further before the deadline. The ideas entails: _____

of Points to acquire: _____