

POLS 1010: AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Section: 1

CRN: 45194

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

3 Credit Hours

Fall 2014

MWF 1:00pm

114 Fletcher Hall

INSTRUCTOR

Evan Gross, MPA

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342 EMCS

423-425-4466

Office hours: By appointment

DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES

UTC catalog description: The foundations, institutions, processes and policies of American national government with attention to the Constitution and such topics as elections, political and civil rights and liberties, federalism, public policy, public opinion, political culture, interest groups, and the role of citizens in governance.

Political Science 1010 fulfills one of the general education requirements in the category of Behavioral and Social Sciences. The course has three objectives:

1. Ensure comprehension of the key principles of the American political system.
2. Familiarize students with the structure and workings of the American political system.
3. Analyze the powers of the modern Presidency, the Congress, and the federal judiciary.

Lecture, readings, discussion, and assignments will give students the opportunity to achieve these learning objectives. The course is organized in five parts:

1. Introduction, the Constitution, & Congress
2. The Presidency & the Federal Judiciary
3. Civil Liberties & Civil Rights
4. Domestic Policy & Public Opinion
5. Public Policy Discussion

EXPECTATIONS

Class preparation Students are expected to be well prepared for each class session by completing and thinking critically about readings and assignments.

Class participation The course will be beneficial only if students participate in class discussions and exercises. As the instructor desires all students to benefit from the course, full participation is expected of all students. Students' participation is expected to be of a quality that will contribute to other students' learning. A participation grade will be assessed for the entire semester.

Attendance Accomplishing the learning objectives of the course will require listening to lectures and participating in class discussions and exercises. Much of the course content will only be covered during class lectures and discussions. Students are not required to attend all class sessions. However, absent students are responsible for making arrangements to obtain missed lecture notes, handouts, announcements, etc., from other students. Ten (10) bonus points will be awarded to those students with perfect attendance (or zero unexcused absences). Five (5) bonus points will be awarded to those students with only one (1) unexcused absence.

Academic integrity Careful adherence to standards of academic integrity is expected of all students. Standards of academic integrity will be discussed in class, but students are ultimately responsible for ensuring that they understand and follow these standards. To this end, students are encouraged to consult the student handbook's discussion of the UTC honor system. To protect the academic integrity of this university and this course, the instructor takes plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty very seriously and seeks the most severe sanctions available in response to instances of academic dishonesty.

Make-up policy Make-up exams will only be given to students presenting valid and authenticated reasons for missing an exam. In addition, notification of an absence on an examination day must be communicated to the instructor either via email (evan-gross@utc.edu) or telephone (423-425-4466) prior to the exam.

TEXTBOOKS

The required text for this course is:

We The People, Full, 9th Edition. Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, & Tolbert

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Four (4) exams will be given during the semester. Each examination can feature multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and/or essay questions. Exams will cover assigned readings, lectures, and class discussions. (100 points each)

There will be a comprehensive final examination. This examination will cover material from the entire semester. (100 points)

For the five class meetings in Section 5 (11/12, 11/14, 11/17, 11/19, & 11/21), you will be divided into small groups to discuss public policy issues. There will be no exam for this section. However, you will receive 20 points for each of the three class meetings for attendance and participation. Small groups will be randomly selected. You are expected to be informed and prepared to discuss all of the topics for the specific class meeting.

Students will be given a short written assignment twice during the term. This assignment will be completed by the student and submitted via UTC Learn (Blackboard) at the specified date and time. The assignment topic will be discussed and determined by the instructor and students present in class. The assignment is as follows:

Please submit a short (single-spaced) reflective essay in response to the assigned topic. The assignments will be worth 100 points each. Please be prepared to think critically about the topic. While a specific page length is not required, most students typically take 1-2 pages to answer the question.

How will your grade be computed? Students can receive a maximum of 850 points in this course.

Exam 1	=	100 points
Exam 2	=	100 points
Exam 3	=	100 points
Exam 4	=	100 points
Section 5 Participation	=	100 points
Final Exam	=	100 points
Participation	=	50 points
Section Assignments	=	200 points
A (90-100 %)	=	765-850 points
B (80-89 %)	=	680-764 points
C (70-79 %)	=	595-679 points
D (60-69 %)	=	510-594 points
F (< 59%)	=	< 510 points

UTC LEARN (BLACKBOARD)

Students are responsible for submitting assignments, accessing any additional readings, and receiving email on Blackboard. Blackboard may be accessed at <http://www.utc.edu/learn>. Late assignments will only be accepted at the discretion of the instructor in the event of documented emergencies that would have prevented submission of the assignment before the due date. In almost all cases, students will need to notify the instructor of such emergencies before the due date.

Schedule

Section 1

9-8	Introduction
9-10	Ch.2 The Constitution
9-12	Ch.2 cont.
9-15	Ch.2 cont., Ch.12 Congress
9-17	Ch.12 cont.
9-19	Ch.12 cont.
9-22	Exam #1

Section 2

9-24	Ch.13 The Presidency
9-26	Ch.13 cont.
9-29	Ch.13 cont., Ch.15 The Federal Courts
10-1	Ch.15 cont.
10-3	Ch.15 cont.
10-6	Exam #2

Section 3

10-8	Ch.4 Civil Liberties
10-10	Ch.4 cont.
10-13	Ch.4 cont., Ch.5 Civil Rights
10-15	Ch.5 cont.
10-17	Ch.5 cont.
10-20	No Class (Fall Break)
10-22	Exam #3

Section 4

10-24	Ch.16 Government and the Economy
10-27	Ch.16 cont.
10-29	Ch.16 cont. Ch.17 Social Policy
10-31	Ch.17 cont.
11-3	Ch.17 cont., Ch.6 Public Opinion
11-5	Ch.6 cont.
11-7	Ch.6 cont.
11-10	Exam #4

Section 5

11-12	Policy Discussion #1
11-14	Policy Discussion #2
11-17	Policy Discussion #3
11-19	Policy Discussion #4
11-21	Policy Discussion #5
11-24	Housekeeping Day
11-26	No Class (Travel Day)
11-28	No Class (Thanksgiving)
12-5	Final Exam

Student Services

If you are a student with a disability (physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) and think you might need special assistance or special accommodations in this class or any other class, contact the Disability Resource Center at 425-4006 or 102 Frist Hall.
<http://www.utc.edu/Administration/DisabilityResourceCenter/>

If you find that personal problems, career indecision, study and time management difficulties, etc. are adversely affecting your successful progress at UTC, please contact the Counseling and Career Planning Center at 425-4438 or 338 University Center.
<http://www.utc.edu/Administration/CounselingAndCareerPlanning/>

Honor Code Pledge

I pledge that I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid on any test or assignment. I understand that plagiarism constitutes a serious instance of unauthorized aid. I further pledge that I exert every effort to insure that the Honor Code is upheld by others and the I will actively support the establishment and continuance of a campus-wide climate of honor and integrity.

Disclaimer

While this syllabus is the intended outline for the course, it is possible that certain aspects (course schedule, etc.) might change during the semester. I will post any changes to this course via the UTC Learn announcements feature; however, it is ultimately up to the student to stay informed of these modifications.