POLITICAL SCIENCE 1100: INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN POLITICS
Online Course ~ Spring Semester 2014

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Office: 2031 Derby Hall
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 11:30-1:30pm
In person by appointment

Class Hours & Location: Whenever/wherever you want them to be. That’s the great thing about an online course!

Course Description:
Welcome to Introduction to American Politics! This course is an introduction to the institutions, processes, and influences of American government, politics, and political behavior. It is roughly broken into two sections. The first part of the course will focus on political elites, discussing the history and theories of American democracy, as well as its political institutions (Congress, Executive, and Judiciary). In the second half of the course, we will shift gears and focus on mass political behavior and interests. This is a team-based course as it was designed and taught by a team – Professor Jan Box-Steffensmeier, Vanessa Bouche, Matthew Hitt, Emily Lynch, and Lauren Ratliff. You will hear lectures from a variety of instructors, but I will be leading this course for the spring. If you have any questions during the semester, please do not hesitate to contact me.

This course satisfies the Social Sciences, Organizations & Polities GEC requirement. In this course, you will learn about the systematic study of human behavior and cognition; of the structure of human societies, cultures, and institutions; and of the processes by which individuals, groups, and societies interact, communicate, and use human, natural, and economic resources. These goals and the expected learning outcomes will be achieved through lectures, debates, discussions, assignments, and exams throughout the semester.

Social Science Expected Learning Outcomes
1. Students understand the theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they are applied to the studies of individuals, groups, organizations, and societies.
2. Students understand the behavior of individuals, differences and similarities in the contexts of human existence (e.g., psychological, social, cultural, economic, geographic, and political), and the processes by which groups, organizations, and societies function.
3. Students develop abilities to comprehend and assess individual and social values, and recognize their importance in social problem solving and policy making.
Organizations and Polities Expected Learning Outcomes
1. Students understand the theories and methods of social scientific inquiry as they are applied to the study of organizations and polities.
2. Students understand the formation and durability of political, economic, and social organizing principles and their differences and similarities across contexts.
3. Students develop abilities to comprehend and assess the nature and values of organizations and polities and their importance in social problem solving and policymaking.

COURSE LOGISTICS

There are a number of things you need to do in order to get yourself set up for this course and they correspond with the two online interfaces for the class, CARMEN and www.americansgoverning.com.

1. The first interface is this CARMEN site. On the CARMEN site under "Content" you will find the course syllabus, full lectures with Powerpoints, and separate corresponding Powerpoints on which you can take lecture notes. Weekly “topic videos” will be posted on the CARMEN course homepage, and you will also use CARMEN to complete your weekly quizzes on the readings. Simply click on "Quizzes" in the upper left corner of the CARMEN site to access your quizzes each week. This is also where the Midterm and Final will be taken. You will upload your extra credit assignment to the “Dropbox” section on CARMEN. It is important to check the CARMEN site daily because I will post important information and reminders in the “News” section on the CARMEN course homepage.

2. The second online interface is www.americansgoverning.com. This is where you will access the online textbook, view/read all the supplementary material for the course (see below), and where you will complete the supplementary quizzes. The Americans Governing materials are required for this course.

Go to www.americansgoverning.com, click on “Student Signup,” and follow all the prompts. There are further instructions available on Carmen. The course textbook, Central Ideas, is available through the Americans Governing website. You have two purchase options through Americans Governing:
   a. Central Ideas e-textbook ($50)
   b. Central Ideas e-textbook + hard copy textbook ($80)

Course Textbook (at OSU bookstore):

Optional Textbook (for extra credit purposes):

*I have also put the Central Ideas textbook on two hour reserve at Thompson Library.
You should complete these course logistics (signing up for Americans Governing and obtaining the textbook) before the first week of class.

Course Requirements:

1. *Carefully read this syllabus and take the syllabus quiz.* The syllabus contains important information about the course, so it is imperative you read through it before the quarter begins. After you carefully review the syllabus, you must take the syllabus quiz on Carmen during the first week of class. You have until Saturday, January 11 at 10pm to complete this quiz. The syllabus quiz is worth ten points and is weighted slightly less than a weekly Carmen quiz. **Note:** You must complete two quizzes on CARMEN by the end of the first week of class – the syllabus quiz and the first reading quiz. The syllabus quiz grade cannot be dropped (see below for more information).

2. *Do the reading and listen to lectures:* To start off the week, you should read the assigned chapter(s) for that week. As previously addressed, the e-textbook is located directly on the Americans Governing website. You should also listen to the full lectures for that week and use the corresponding Powerpoints to facilitate note taking on these lectures (both the midterm and final exams will cover material in the Powerpoint lectures). For maximum effectiveness, you should also take notes as you do the readings and listen to the lectures.

   I will also post a “topic video” each Sunday on that week’s readings. Each topic video is a short 5-10 minute lecture that introduces the material for that week by highlighting many of the main points about the week’s topic. The topic video is meant to supplement the full lecture by presenting important concepts in a short animated video to help you understand the material. The link to the topic lecture video will appear on the CARMEN course homepage as a “News” item. **Note:** The weekly quizzes and exams will cover material in these short videos.

3. *Take quizzes on the reading:* After you’ve completed reading the chapter(s) for the week and watching the full lecture and topic video, you should login to the CARMEN site and take the quiz on that week’s material. The quizzes contain 10 multiple choice questions and are worth 10 points each. **Quizzes for weekly modules are available only during the week that module is assigned. Quizzes are available starting at 7am Sunday and become unavailable at 10pm Saturday.** For example, you must take the first week’s quiz on the Constitution anytime between Sunday, January 5 at 7am and Saturday, January 11 at 10pm. After that time, the quiz will be unavailable and you will receive a 0. Also, the quizzes are timed, and you have 15 minutes to complete them. After 15 minutes from the time you start, the quiz will no longer be available to you. That means you should read the book carefully before taking the quiz and you should NOT use your book while taking the quiz. In addition, you should NOT wait until the last minute to take the quiz.

   I will drop the TWO lowest quiz grades of the semester (not including the Syllabus Quiz). Because of this, *I do not extend deadlines or make exceptions when something goes wrong with the computer at the last minute. I also do not allow make-up quizzes for any reason other than death in the family or a serious medical condition requiring a doctor’s note.*
Therefore, plan for contingencies and do not wait until the last minute. These Carmen quizzes and the americansgoverning.com quizzes together are worth 55% of your overall grade in the class. Quiz answers will be available on CARMEN for 1 week after the quiz closes for you to study from.

4. **Watch/read supplementary materials:** Every week, there is supplementary material that you must view/read by logging into [www.americansgoverning.com](http://www.americansgoverning.com). The assigned material is located within the required chapters in *Central Ideas*. Pay close attention to the material as you view or read it because you are required to take a quiz on this material.

5. **Take quizzes on supplementary material:** The supplementary material is located within each of the *Central Ideas* chapters (you should refer to the “Course Schedule” at the end of the syllabus for the list of required quizzes). After viewing or reading the supplementary material at [www.americansgoverning.com](http://www.americansgoverning.com), you must take a multiple-choice quiz on the website that corresponds with that material, which is located directly beside the material. Unlike the quizzes on CARMEN, there is no time limit on these quizzes. You can take as long as you want or need. There is also no mandatory time period within which you have to complete these quizzes. In other words, you do not need to complete these quizzes the week that module is assigned; however, I **strongly** encourage that you watch/read the material and take the quizzes while you are reading the chapters during the week it is assigned in order to keep up and get most out of the class. Do not wait until the last few weeks of the course to complete these quizzes because it will take you a very long time, and some of these questions will appear on your midterm and final exams.

**You must complete ALL Americans Governing assignments by Friday, April 18 at 10pm. Any quizzes you complete past this deadline will NOT count towards your grade (I can view the date and times each quiz is completed) and I do not make exceptions to this rule, so do not go past this deadline.** These quizzes are worth 46% of your overall quiz grade.

Regarding the Americans Governing quizzes, you need to know which answer you want to select prior to making any selection. **You only get one click. Once you click on an answer, the system automatically determines that is your final answer and this answer is automatically saved.** You don't have the luxury of clicking through different answers before deciding on one.

Below is a screenshot of what an Americans Governing quiz looks like. You are responsible for the multiple choice questions that will appear beside the material. An example of a quiz is presented below:
What Is the Purpose of Government?

The following video is part of the "People on the Street" series, a collection of interviews held on city sidewalks, at college campuses, and in small towns. This question elicits an array of thoughtful responses on the purpose of government.

Only the questions that appear in the right-hand side of the screen are required. You can find the quiz on the Americans Governing chapter for the week through the navigation menu within the chapter (see the open book icon in the top left corner of the screen). The page with the quiz is italicized in the navigation, presented below.
There are also poll questions and study questions on Americans Governing. *Poll questions and “get the gist” study questions are not part of your quiz grade, and are not for credit.* The “get the gist” study questions are for your own practice as you study for the quizzes and exams. If you find yourself struggling with any of the course material, I strongly encourage you to complete these.

6. *Pearson Essay Prompts:* You are required to complete two short essays that demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of core class concepts in a more creative, open-ended format. These essays will be completed on-line and links to them will be posted on Carmen. The essays will be available at 7am on the Sunday before it is due. The essays will be graded according to: Development of ideas: 50%, Organization: 10%, Conventions: 10%, Voice: 10%, and Focus and Coherence: 20%. They are due Saturday, February 15 and Saturday, March 1 at 10pm and will be made available at the beginning of the week.

7. *Take midterm and final exams:* You must complete the midterm exam on **Friday, February 28** between 7am and 10pm. The final exam must be taken on **Friday, April 25** between 7am and 10pm, which is the third day of examination period. If you have any scheduling conflicts for the midterm or final exam, you must let me know by the end of the first week of class.

Both the midterm and final exams will mostly cover material in the textbook, but on each of the exams there will be 10 questions that cover material in the full lectures and topic videos, and 5 questions from the Americans Governing supplementary material quizzes. They both consist of 55 multiple choice questions (very similar to the types of questions on the weekly Carmen quizzes), and you will have 75 minutes to complete them. The midterm will cover Weeks 1-8. The final exam will cover Weeks 9-15 (i.e., the final is not comprehensive). **DO NOT** wait until the last minute to complete the midterm and final exams because, just like the quizzes, things can go wrong with the computer and I will not make exceptions based on technical problems that occur at the last minute.

8. *Election Extra Credit:* Pick a chapter of *The American Elections in 2012* book by Janet Box-Steffensmeier and Steven Schier and write a two-page (double-spaced) summary of the chapter. These extra credit papers are due **Monday, April 21**. Two chapters (with two separate summaries) can be selected for extra credit. This is enough extra credit to raise your grade by **5 points** (2.5 points for each chapter and paper).

9. *Americans Governing Pre-Test:* You must complete the pre-test, the very first page of americansgoverning.com, by Saturday, January 11, at 10 p.m. You will be graded only on completion for this item.

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<th>Grading:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes:</td>
<td>55%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pearson Essays:</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm:</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final:</td>
<td>20%</td>
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**Grading Scale:**

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<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<td>93-100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>87-89</td>
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<td>83-86</td>
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**Academic Honesty:**

I expect all of the work you do in this course to be your own. No dishonest practices on the examinations or in the course will be acceptable, and any suspected cases of dishonesty will be reported to the university committee on academic misconduct and handled according to university policy. The quizzes and exams are to be taken during the allotted time period without the aid of books, notes, or other students. Do not attempt to copy the test to take it or distribute it to anyone. The statistics feature on Carmen will monitor and report how you take the quizzes and exams, and I will compare IP addresses, grades, and timing for each assignment. For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct.

**Disability:**

If you need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, you should contact me to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. At the appointment we can discuss the course format, anticipate your needs, and explore potential accommodations. I rely on the Office for Disability Services for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. If you have not previously contacted the Office for Disability Services, I encourage you to do so. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901.”

**Important Deadlines**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment:</th>
<th>Due dates:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Carmen Weekly Quizzes</td>
<td>Sunday at 7am – Saturday at 10pm each week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>Friday, February 28 (7am-10pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Americans Governing Quizzes</td>
<td>All AG assignments must be completed by Friday, April 18 at 10pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pearson Essay Prompts (2)</td>
<td>2/15 at 10pm; 3/1 at 10pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Election Extra Credit</td>
<td>Monday, April 21 at 10pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Friday, April 25 (7am-10pm)</td>
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PS1100: Spring 2014 Course Schedule

Week 1/Jan 5-11: Constitution
Readings: Central Ideas, Chapter 1
Carmen Quizzes: Must take Syllabus and Carmen reading quiz by 10pm on Saturday, Jan 11
Americans Governing (AG) Quiz: Pre-Test and Ch.1: Purpose of Government

Week 2/Jan 12-18: Federalism
Readings: Central Ideas, Chapter 2
Carmen Quizzes: Take Carmen reading quiz by 10pm on Saturday, 1/18
Americans Governing (AG) Quiz: Ch.2: Visions of Federalism

Week 3/Jan 19-25: Congress
Readings: Central Ideas, Chapter 3
Carmen Quiz: Must take quiz by 10pm on Saturday, Jan 25
AG quiz: Ch.3: United We Stand

Week 4/ Jan 26-Feb 1: Political Parties
Readings: Central Ideas, Chapter 4
Carmen Quiz: Must take quiz by 10pm on Saturday, Feb 1
AG quiz: Ch. 4: 2012 Party Platforms

Week 5/Feb 2-8: Interest Groups
Readings: Central Ideas, Chapter 5
Carmen Quiz: Must take quiz by 10pm on Saturday, Feb 8
AG quiz: Ch. 5: Evil Lobbyists

Week 6/Feb 9-15: Presidency
Readings: Central Ideas, Chapter 6
Carmen Quiz: Must take quiz by 10pm on Saturday, Feb 15
AG Quiz: Ch. 6: LBJ’s First Days
Pearson Essay #1: The Constitution, Presidency, and Congress
Week 7/Feb 16-22: Judiciary
Readings: Central Ideas, Chapter 7
Carmen Quiz: Must take quiz by 10pm on Saturday, Feb 22
AG Quiz: Ch. 7: The First Cowgirl

Week 8/Feb 23-Mar 1: Bureaucracy
Readings: Central Ideas, Chapter 14
Carmen Quiz: Must take quiz by 10pm on Saturday, March 1
AG Quiz: Ch. 14: Carol Weissert: Bureaucracy
Pearson Essay #2: The Federal Bureaucracy

MIDTERM: Must take midterm on Friday, February 28th between 7am and 10pm. The midterm will cover material through Week 8.

Week 9/Mar 2 – Mar 8: Voting and Political Participation
Readings: Central Ideas, Chapter 8
Carmen Quiz: Must take quiz by 10pm on Saturday, March 8
AG Quiz: Ch. 8: Getting Out the Vote in Toledo

Week 10/SPRING BREAK, March 10-14. University closed. No readings or assignments. Work on your extra credit, your Americans Governing quizzzes, and have a relaxing break!

Week 11/Mar 16 – 22: Elections and Campaigns
Readings: Central Ideas, Chapter 9
Carmen Quiz: Must take quiz by 10pm on Saturday, March 22
AG Quiz: Ch. 9: Elizabeth the Elector

Week 12/Mar 23-Mar 29: Civil Liberties
Readings: Central Ideas, Chapter 10
Carmen Quiz: Must take quiz by 10pm on Saturday, March 29
AG Quiz: Ch.10: You Have the Right
Week 13/Mar 30-April 5: Civil Rights
Readings: Central Ideas, Chapter 11
Carmen Quiz: Must take quiz by 10pm on Saturday, April 5
AG Quiz: Ch.11: Suffrage: The Amendment

Week 14/April 6 - 12: Public Opinion
Readings: Central Ideas, Chapter 12
Carmen Quiz: Must take quiz by 10pm on Saturday, April 12
AG Quizzes: Ch. 12: How is Congress doing?

Week 15/Apr 13 - 19: Media
Readings: Central Ideas, Chapter 13
Carmen Quiz: Must take quiz by 10pm on Saturday, Apr 19
AG Quizzes: Ch. 13: On the ground in Haiti

COMPLETE ALL AG QUIZZES by 10pm on Friday, April 18, NO EXCEPTIONS.

FINAL EXAM: TAKE IT BETWEEN 7am-10pm on Friday, April 25. NO EXCEPTIONS.