

PLS 100
INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN POLITICS
Section 1
Tuesday, 10:20-11:10
314 Berkey Hall

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Office Hours: Thursdays 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

BRIEF OVERVIEW

This is a first course in American politics. The primary goal of the course is to provide a general understanding of how American government works (and occasionally fails to work). The course also seeks to give a sense of how political scientists organize and think about American politics.

ASSIGNMENTS

There will be 14 section meetings throughout the semester with one assignment due at each meeting (except the first meeting). There will be nine quizzes and four sets of review questions for a total of 13 assignments. Each assignment is worth ten points for a total of 130 possible points for assignments. The remaining 20 points will be participation points for a total of 150 points for section meetings. There will not be a quiz the first week of section meetings. There will be a quiz every week unless it is the last section meeting before an exam. These quizzes will also be used to determine attendance for each section meeting. If a student does not turn in a quiz, they will not be given attendance credit for that day. Students must remain in class for the entire class time to receive credit for their quiz that day. No make-up quizzes will be given. If a student is absent and therefore does not turn in a section assignment (either quiz or review question set), their total obtainable value for section assignments will drop by 10 points per instance and those points will be switched to their total obtainable points for participation instead. This applies to only the first three absences for the class. Each quiz is worth ten points and will consist of five questions worth two points each (multiple choice or true/false) followed by a section for students to ask questions of the instructor. Quiz questions along with the correct answers will be posted on D2L.

The last section meeting before each exam will be review. Each student should bring three original questions they wish to discuss in the section meeting for that day. Review questions must be turned in at the beginning of the class and only paper copies (either neatly hand-written or typed) will be accepted for credit. Each set of review questions will be worth ten points.

Points:

9 quizzes * 10 points each = 90 points

4 review question sets * 10 points each = 40 points

Section participation points = 20 points

Total= 150 points

SCHEDULE

September 8

Introduction and Organization

September 15

Quiz #1 (Covering chapters 1-3)

September 22 (Note: We WILL meet this day for section but no lecture)

Quiz #2 (Covering chapter 4)

September 29 (Exam 1 this week)

Review Questions #1 (Covering chapters 1-6. *note: no quiz on chapters 5-6, only review)

October 6

Quiz #3 (Covering chapter 7)

October 13

Quiz #4 (Covering chapters 8-9)

October 20

Quiz #5 (Covering chapter 10-11)

October 27 (Exam 2 this week)

Review Questions #2 (Covering chapters 7-12. *note: no quiz on chapter 12, only review)

November 3

Quiz #6 (Covering chapter 13)

November 10

Quiz #7 (Covering chapters 14-15)

November 17 (Exam 3 this week)

Review Questions #3 (Covering chapters 13-16. *note: no quiz on chapter 16, only review)

November 24

Quiz #8 (Covering chapter 17 part 1)

December 1

Quiz #9 (Covering chapter 17 part 2)

December 8 (Exam 4 this week)

Review Questions #4 (Covering chapters 17-18. *note: no quiz on chapter 18, only review)