

POLITICAL SCIENCE 2244E**AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS****2012-2013**

Instructor: Peter A. Ferguson, PhD
Office: SSC Room 4138
Phone: 519-661-2111, Extension 82236
Email: p.ferguson@uwo.ca

Office Hours: WED 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. or by appointment

Lecture: WED 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. UC 142

The purpose of Political Science 2244E is to provide students with an opportunity to study several important features of the American political system. In the first term, we will examine the structure of governance in the United States by exploring the Constitution and the founding idea of the separation of powers. We then turn our attention to the importance of elections with specific attention devoted to Congressional elections and gerrymandering of Congressional districts, as well as presidential elections and the role of the Electoral College. The balance of the semester is spent examining the legislative process. Here we undertake an in-depth exploration of the interactions between Congress and the President with special attention devoted to issues around gridlock, as well as public opinion and the media.

Having examined how laws are made in the first semester, we begin the second semester by exploring how laws are actually carried out by the bureaucracy as well as how such laws may bring the federal government into conflict with state governments. We then turn our attention to role of the judiciary where we examine the influence of the Supreme Court on the American political process with special attention devoted to issues surrounding civil liberties and civil rights. The balance of the semester is spent investigating two issues of critical importance in contemporary American politics. First, we delve into the controversies surrounding the budget by looking at the debates around taming deficit spending as well as addressing the exploding American debt. And second, we turn our attention to foreign policy in the context of the current challenges confronting the United States as well as longer term debates surrounding exceptionalism and declinism. The year concludes with an examination of leadership and the future of politics and policy in the United States.

Required Course Materials

Wilson and DiIulio. *American Government: The Essentials, Thirteenth Edition*.
Turning Point Clicker.
Some form of a computer memory card/stick.

Course Website

Additional material and activities will be posted on the course OWL webpage <http://owl.uwo.ca/>. Students are responsible for checking the site on a weekly basis.

Summary of Marking Scheme

Policy Background Paper	15%
Mid-term Exam	15%
Policy Position Paper	20%
Tutorial Activities	15%
Course Activities	15%
Final Exam	<u>20%</u>
	100%

Course Requirements

The more detailed, formal descriptions and rules for the course requirements will be published on the course web page:

- (1) Policy Background Paper, approximately 8 pages in length, is worth 15% of the final grade. The papers are due in class on **November 7, 2012**. For students participating in the peer review process, revised versions of the paper are due on **November 28, 2012**.
- (2) Midterm examination on **November 21, 2012**, based on lectures, readings, class discussions, tutorials, American political ‘facts’ and online activities. The exam is worth 15% of the final grade. A portion of the midterm exam will take place in tutorials on **Nov 19-23, 2012**.
- (3) Policy Position Paper, approximately 20 pages in length, is worth 20% of the final grade. The papers are due at the beginning of class on **March 6, 2011**. For students participating in the peer review process, revised versions of the paper are due on **March 20, 2012**.
- (4) Tutorial Activities will consist of group assignments as well as individual activities. This is worth 15% of the final grade.
- (5) Course Activities will take place during lecture class time as well as on the course web page. This is worth 15% of the final grade.
- (6) A cumulative two hour final examination (to be held in the regularly scheduled exam period) is worth 20% of the final grade. Please note that students will be debarred from writing the final exam for any of the following reasons: failure to attend at least 50% of the class sessions; failure to attend at least 50% of the tutorial sessions; failure to submit the Policy Background Paper and/or the Policy Position Papers during the timeframe they are accepted for submission (as per “Paper Submission Issues” below).

Course Format

Lectures and course discussions will follow each term's Weekly Schedule. This schedule will be changed at the instructor's discretion. Such changes will be announced in class at least one week in advance. It is the responsibility of the student to read the required material prior to the lecture, contribute to class discussion, complete all course requirements in proper form and submit these on the due dates. As some, but not all, material discussed in class will be drawn from the assigned readings, students are expected to consistently attend classes. Class participation is strongly encouraged. Participation enhances the learning experience.

The most important element of class participation and success in the course is:

READ ALL OF THE MATERIALS BEFORE CLASS.

Paper Submission Issues

The Policy Background Paper and Policy Position Paper must be submitted in both paper and electronic format. The paper copy must be submitted to the instructor at the beginning of class on the date the paper is due. The electronic copy must be submitted to Turnitin which can **only** be accessed through the OWL course page. A paper is not considered as submitted (and hence is considered to be a late paper) until it is received in both formats. Late papers will be assigned a penalty of **25 marks per day**. Papers handed in more than four days late will not be accepted. For the purposes of grading, days begin and end at **midnight**. Other rules and requirements regarding papers will be posted on the course webpage in advance of the due dates.

The instructor will **not** grant extensions unless notified by the appropriate Academic Counselling Office that one is warranted according to University Regulations. For more information, see the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>. If you believe you have legitimate cause for an extension of any kind, please visit your faculty's Academic Counselling Office. All Social Science students should make use of the Social Science Academic Counselling Office, located in Room 3207 in the Social Science Centre (after construction is complete, the office will return to SSC 2105). For more information, please visit <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/>. Please note, discussion group leaders (course TAs) are not empowered to grant extensions. They are also not empowered to change any course requirement (i.e. approve paper topic changes).

Clicker Registration

It is each student's responsibility to register and maintain their Personal Response System/clicker device. We will begin using clicker responses that will count toward your grade in Week 2, so please register your clicker before the second class. The professor will attempt to facilitate your clicker registration but it is up to you to make sure that your device is registered. This can be accomplished online at the following site:

<http://student.turningtechnologies.com/>

Your "Device ID" can be found on the back of your clicker (usually right under the bar code). In the "Other Info" category on the "Student Registration Step 1" page, please enter your Western

student login code (the letters that appear in front of ____@uwo.ca in your email address). At some point, you will be prompted for your professor's registered email address – the address used for this class is:

p.ferguson@uwo.ca

If you experience difficulties with registration, the following tutorial may be useful:

<http://www.turningtechnologies.com/responsesystemsupport/producttraining/onlinetutorials/onlinetutorials/index.cfm?tutorialid=78>

Student use of Clickers

The University has established guideline governing the use of clickers. It is the student's responsibility to properly understand the relevant University policies governing clicker use. In this course, Clickers will be used to compute a portion of the course grade. The latest Clicker policy I am aware of is S.06-201 (see: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2012/pg109.html>).

Recommended Readings

In addition to assigned readings, students are strongly encouraged to follow events in the United States by reading political science journals, news magazines and newspapers. Most major city newspapers are available for free over the internet. Two very good newspapers for following American politics are The New York Times (<http://www.nytimes.com/>) and the Washington Post (<http://www.washingtonpost.com/>). Another website I find particularly useful is Real Clear Politics (<http://www.realclearpolitics.com/>). Additional sites and sources will be posted on OWL.

IMPORTANT NOTICE RE PREREQUISITES/ANTIREQUISITES

Anti-requisite: Political Science 144; Political Science 244

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have **not** taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for appeal. If you are found to be **ineligible** for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. **This decision cannot be appealed.** If you find that you do not have the course requisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will help protect your academic record.

FIRST TERM LECTURES AND READINGS

Students are expected to review the readings **before** class. This lecture outline will change at the discretion of the professor. Additional reading for many of the lecture subjects will be posted on the course OWL site no later than the Friday before class. Students are responsible for checking the site on a regular, ongoing basis.

1. Introduction to the Study of American Government (September 12)

Wilson and DiIulio, Ch.1

2. The Constitution (September 19)

Wilson and DiIulio, Ch. 2 & Appendix A1-A20

3. US Elections (September 26)

Wilson and DiIulio, Ch. 10

4. Congressional Elections and Gerrymandering (October 3)

Wilson and DiIulio, Ch. 10

5. Presidential Elections and The Electoral College (October 10)

Wilson and DiIulio, Ch. 14

6. The Structure of Congress (October 17)

Wilson and DiIulio, Ch. 13

7. The Congress in Action (October 24)

Wilson and DiIulio, Ch. 13

8. The Structure of the Presidency (October 31)

Wilson and DiIulio, Ch. 14

9. The President in Action (November 7)

Wilson and DiIulio, Ch. 14

Term 1 Papers DUE at the beginning of class!

10. Gridlock in the American Legislative Process (November 14)

TBA

11. Mid-term Exam (November 21)

In class on Nov 21 and in tutorials Nov 19-23

12. Public Opinion (November 28)

Wilson and DiIulio, Ch. 7

Term 1 Paper Revisions DUE at the beginning of class!

13. The Media (December 5)

Wilson and DiIulio, Ch. 12

SECOND TERM LECTURES AND READINGS**14. The Bureaucracy** (January 9)

Wilson and DiIulio, Ch. 15

15. The Battles between the States and the Federal Government (January 16)

Wilson and DiIulio, Ch. 3

16. The Structure of the Judiciary (January 23)

Wilson and DiIulio, Ch. 16

17. Civil Liberties (January 30)

Wilson and DiIulio, Chapter 5

18. Civil Rights (February 6)

Wilson and DiIulio, Ch. 6

19. The Judiciary in Action (February 13)

Wilson and DiIulio, Chapter 16

20. Conference Week (February 20)**21. Deficits and Debt** (February 27)**22. Budgetary Battles in the United States** (March 6)
Second Term Essay Papers Due Today**23. American Foreign Policy** (March 13)**24. American Friends and Enemies** (March 20)
Term 1 Paper Revisions DUE at the beginning of class!**25. American Exceptionalism vs the Decline of The US** (March 27)**26. Leadership in the United States** (April 3)**27. Politics and Policy** (April 10)

Course Notes

1. Students are **strongly** advised not to miss class. Some material covered (and tested) will not appear in the readings. During the year, the class will engage in “non-lecture” learning (small group discussion, simulations, etc). Lessons from these exercises will appear on course exams.
2. The act of plagiarism is an academic offence and it is not acceptable in this course. It is the responsibility of the student to understand what is meant by plagiarism and the UWO procedures for addressing acts of plagiarism. A good place to start is with the Scholastic Discipline and Academic Sanctions section in the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy (I believe this is the most recent version but please confirm that for yourself: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>).
3. Written assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late assignments should be submitted personally to the instructor or to your Discussion Group Leader who will note the time and date of receipt. Papers are considered received at the time the later of the electronic or paper copy is received. The Department of Political Science Main Office does not accept papers on behalf of professors. Do not place late essays under a door - they may be misplaced or stolen. In the event that you have received a University sanctioned recommendation for a makeup exam, the dates for those exams are as follows: Midterm makeup – January 11, 2013, Final exam makeup – May 8, 2013. The makeup exams will take place from 10:30am until 12:30pm. You should meet me in my office no later than 10:25am. The questions and format of the makeup exams will differ from the original exams.
4. It is always possible that essays may be lost or stolen, so it is the responsibility of each student to retain a copy of their essays as part of their personal records. If an essay is lost or misplaced, the student must provide a replacement for grading.
5. If you use a computer to prepare your essays, it is your responsibility to ensure that your computer equipment is in proper working order. **“Computer or printer breakdown or problems” will not be accepted as grounds for an extension.** It is the student’s obligation to backup all work in such a way as to prevent problems caused by such breakdowns. To avoid problems, make sure to backup work in more than one location (i.e., some form of memory stick or the University h: drive) on a regular basis while you are working.
6. **If you are having problems with the material, or due to external circumstances that are affecting your academic work, you should see the instructor.**
7. All class members are expected to treat each other with appropriate courtesy. Students not acting in a courteous manner will be expelled from that class session.
8. Cell phones should not be used during class. If you must keep your phone on, for emergency purposes, the ringer should be turned off. Violation of this policy will result in expulsion from the class session. No electronic devices of any type are allowed to be in your possession during

any course activity for which you may receive a mark (for example, exams and group quiz activities in class). As possession of such a device during a graded situation enables plagiarism (cheating), we will assume that possession is an indication of plagiarism regardless of whether an instructor or proctors witness the actual act of plagiarism. For group quiz type activities, we will not require students to place their electronic devices at the front of the room; rather we will require them to be out of reach (and beyond the ability to observe any content). If any person violates this prohibition during a group activity, we will assume **the entire group** has benefited from the plagiarism and will bring charges against all group members.

9. My lectures and lecture materials are copyrighted (copyright held by Peter A. Ferguson). No duplication is allowed. This includes all forms of duplication (at minimum this includes audio, video and written duplication).

Despite the formal tone of this information, I want to emphasize that I welcome the opportunity to speak on a one-to one basis with you about your assignments, your comprehension of the material, useful courses to take in the future or your academic career. Please make use of my office hours.

**APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

Essay course requirements

With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

Use of Personal Response Systems ("Clickers")

"Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning.

Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence."

Security and Confidentiality of Student Work (refer to current *Western Academic Calendar* (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/>))

"Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

Duplication of work

Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

Grade adjustments

In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

Academic Offences

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Submission of Course Requirements

ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS MUST BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS).

THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

Students registered in Social Science should refer to <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/> <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> for information on Medical Policy, Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty's academic counselling office.

Plagiarism

"Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking: "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement,

currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>)."

Multiple-choice tests/exams: "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

PLAGIARISM*

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your

own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

*Reprinted by permission of the Department of History

Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History August 13, 1991

Accessibility at Western

Please contact poliscie@uwo.ca if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.