



Political Science 2244E

American Government and Politics

Term: Fall/Winter 2015-2016

Lecture Schedule: Wed., 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

Lecture Location: UCC-56

Instructor: Dr. David Hoogenboom

Email: dhoogen2@uwo.ca

Office Location: SSC 4134

Office Hours: Thurs., 12:30-
1:30 or by appointment

Course Description

In the first term, students will be introduced to the American system of government, and key political organizations including parties and interest groups. In this term, students will also have an opportunity to explore central historical figures in the American political tradition including Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin D. Roosevelt, among others. In the second term, students will focus on key domestic and international issues in American politics including civil liberties and civil rights, the role of the media, the American economy and the United States' use of force around the world. The goal of this course is to encourage the development of analytical tools for interpreting, understanding and explaining the political process in the United States.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students should a) be able to identify and explain the basic system of government in the United States; b) have acquired a historical context of the American system of government; c) be able to apply this knowledge in order to evaluate current political issues in the United States; and d) improve their critical thinking and essay-writing skills.

Required Texts

First Term

Nigel Bowles, Robert K McMahon, *Government and Politics of the United States*, 3rd edition, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014. (Hereafter referred to as "*Government and Politics of the United States*")

Second Term

Custom Course Book (available closer to the second term)

Course Requirements

Participation	10%
Critical Commentary Paper	15%
Essay	25%
Midterm	20%
Final Exam	30%

Participation

Participation grades are based on participation in class and tutorial discussions and activities. Students are expected to attend class and tutorial having completed all of the required readings (please consult page 11 for more information regarding participation).

Critical Commentary Papers

Students are required to write one **critical** commentary paper. The paper should be 1800-2000 words, double spaced, 12 pt. times new roman. The purpose of the paper is to encourage students to familiarize themselves with academic writing and argumentation. The purpose of the assignment is to summarize AND critique the arguments of the assigned readings. The assignment requires students to accomplish the following:

1. Provide a **brief summary** (i.e. around 1 page) of the main arguments of the paper.
2. Identify the important questions or issues identified by the author(s).
3. Highlight any assumptions the author(s) makes and the facts they use to support their claims.
4. Discuss whether or not the article is compelling and any gaps in the author(s) argument.
5. Provide your own thoughts on the issues covered and provide one theoretical or empirical question that arises from the article.

The article you will respond to will be posted to the class OWL site in the first few weeks of the course.

*****DUE DATE FOR CRITICAL COMMENTARY PAPERS:**

A hard copy of your Critical Commentary Paper is due at the beginning of class on **November 11, 2015**.

Essay

Students are required to write a research paper of 3200-3500 words, double spaced, 12 pt. times new roman). Due date: **March 02, 2016**. The late penalty is automatically **10% per week**. Please note that a hard copy of the assignment must be submitted at the beginning of class on March 02.

For the research essay, students will choose from a list of topics/questions that will be provided on OWL. Students must put forth a clear argument, backed by coherent reasoning and high-quality research. Students should make mention of important counter-arguments to their own claims, though this need not be a major aspect of your analysis.

The essays should rely on independent research outside of the assigned course material. Greater weight should be given to resources such as books, academic/research journals and government documents. Good quality newspapers and Internet resources will also be acceptable if you have made use of a few quality books and academic/research journals. It is highly recommended that you do not cite your textbook. Students are encouraged to make use of the Western and Brescia Libraries' resources. Besides the course instructor, librarians could be consulted for help.

Students are required to use Chicago Style formatting for all assignments, and marks will be deducted for improper formatting. Please consult a writer's handbook when composing your essays in order to see how to format things like bibliography and footnotes. One such excellent handbook is Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007). A useful link may be found at the following url:
http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

***Important Notes Regarding the Essay:

Citations

You must identify all quotations, references, and other people's ideas in the notes/footnotes. If you do not use any footnotes/endnotes, a penalty of -10% will be imposed.

Bibliography or Works Cited

You must attach a Bibliography or Works Cited. Another -10% penalty will be imposed if you do not do so. You must have a minimum of four academic sources (consult a librarian for clarification on what counts as an academic source (e.g. newspapers, magazines, encyclopedias, do not count). Failure to

include at least four academic sources will result in a grade of “F”. The highest grades in this course typically go to students that consult a large number of high-quality source materials. The use of more than eight sources is highly recommended.

Spelling and Typing Errors

If there are excessive spelling errors or typos in the essay (i.e. more than 15), a penalty of (-) 10% will be applied.

Style Guide

Students are required to use Chicago Style formatting for all assignments, and marks will be deducted for improper formatting. Please consult a writer’s handbook when composing your essays in order to see how to format things like bibliography and footnotes. One such excellent handbook is Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007). A useful link may be found at the following url: <http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocChicago.html>.

Turnitin

Students will be required to submit papers to Turnitin via a link on OWL.

Midterm Exam

The midterm will be administered during the scheduled exam period in December and will cover all course material from the first term. Exam details will be provided in class and available through the OWL site.

Final Exam

The final exam for this course will be administered during the scheduled exam period in April and will cover material from the beginning of the course. Exam details will be provided in class and available through the OWL site.

Additional Important Information (PLEASE READ)

Registration in the course constitutes your agreement to the following terms:

Late Penalties and Academic Accommodation

- Students must submit a hard copy of their assignments and all assignments are due at the beginning of class. Please do not email your assignments. The late penalty is automatically **10% per week**. Extensions must be granted by academic accommodation. Generally speaking, extensions will only be granted when there

is proof of a severe medical or other emergency in the form of a signed medical note, etc. that explains why you are unable to complete the assignment on time.

- If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your performance in the course, you should contact your instructor and Social Science Academic Counselling (SSC 2105) as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time rather than on a retroactive basis.
- For further information on academic accommodation please consult the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:
<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>
- Access to the STUDENT MEDICAL CERTIFICATE (SMC) is at:
<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf>
- For conflicts with religious observances, the appropriate accommodation will be made. Please inform me within the first two weeks of classes whether there is a conflict, and to make appropriate arrangements with me.
- Non-medical absences: Students are expected to attend each class and attendance and participation will be documented every week. Given the limited number of classes and the total number of students in the class, missed presentations will be given a mark of zero. It is up to you to ensure that you have the correct date, however, to help facilitate this process, I will provide a schedule of the presentations on Sakai.
- Failure to complete any evaluation component may result in a failing grade in the course.

Support Services

- Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Students with Disabilities

- Any student with a disability is advised to contact the Coordinator for Services for Students with Disabilities in order that arrangements can be made through them to accommodate that student. Services for Students with Disabilities is located in The Student Development Centre in Western Student Services Building, Suite 4100; they can be reached by telephone at 519-661-3031, or on the web at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca>

The university's policy on the

accommodation of students with disabilities can be found at:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_disabilities.pdf

Other Resources

- There are many resources at UWO designed to assist you in your learning. You are strongly advised to utilize these services. The Student Development Centre offers many services, including Effective Writing Programs and Learning Skills Services. The Student Development Centre is located in Western Student Services Building, Suite 4100; they can be reached by telephone at 519-661-3031, or on the web at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca>. You should also become familiar with the services offered by the University Library System. The D.B. Weldon Library may be contacted by telephone at 519-661-3162, or on the web at <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/weldon>

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
- 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>.
- If you object to using Turnitin.com, please see the course Instructor to set up alternative arrangements for submission of your written assignments. Such arrangements could include some or all of the following: submission of drafts, rough work and notes; submission of photocopies of sources along with call numbers and web site addresses of sources cited in the paper.

Etiquette

- Discussion and debate is an important component in an online course. However, at times, the course deals with sensitive and controversial topics. Therefore, our interactions in each forum must be guided by an ethic of respect.

Electronics

- Electronics are increasingly an important component in learning. Therefore, laptop use is permitted as long as it does not disrupt the learning experience of other students. Disruptive behavior will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and may result in the suspension of laptop privileges.

Course Outline

September 16 - Introduction to the Course

Readings:

- *Government and Politics of the United States*, Introduction, pp. 1-5

September 23 - American Beliefs and Values

Lecture Readings:

- *Government and Politics of the United States*, Chapter 1, pp. 6-23

Tutorial Readings:

- Erwin C. Hargrove, "On Canadian and American Political Culture," *The Canadian Journal of Economics and Political Science* 33, no. 1 (Feb., 1967): 107-111. (Available through Western library website)

September 30 - The Constitution

Lecture Readings:

- *Government and Politics of the United States*, Chapter 2, pp. 24-49

Tutorial Readings:

- Lawrence O. Gostin, "The Right to Bear Arms: A Uniquely American Entitlement," *The Journal of the American Medical Association* 304, no. 13 (2010): 1485-1486. (Available through Western library website)

October 07 - Political Parties in the United States

Lecture Readings:

- *Government and Politics of the United States*, Chapter 3, pp. 50-87

Tutorial Readings:

- Matt Grossmann and David A. Hopkins, "Ideological Republicans and Group Interest Democrats: The Asymmetry of American Party Politics," *Perspectives on Politics* 13, no. 1 (March 2015): 119-139. (Available through Western library website)

October 14 - Elections and Political Participation

Lecture Reading:

- *Government and Politics of the United States*, Chapter 4, pp. 88-122

Tutorial Readings:

- Alan I. Abramowitz, "The Electoral Roots of America's Dysfunctional Government," *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 43, no. 4 (Dec., 2013): 709-731. (Available through Western library website)

October 21 - The Presidency

Lecture Readings:

- *Government and Politics of the United States*, Chapter 5, pp. 123-166

Tutorial Readings:

- <http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2014/11/18/constitutional-limits-of-presidential-action-on-immigration-12>

October 28 - Congress

Lecture Readings:

- *Government and Politics of the United States*, Chapter 6, pp. 167-210

Tutorial Readings:

- Lars Berger, "Guns, Butter, and Human Rights – The Congressional Politics of U.S. Aid to Egypt," *American Politics Research* 40, no. 4 (July 2012): 603-635. (Available through Western library website)

November 04 - The Judiciary

Lecture Readings:

- *Government and Politics of the United States*, Chapter 7, pp. 211-252

Tutorial Readings:

- Marcus Schulzke and Amanda Cortney Carroll, "Culture and the Court: The Judiciary as an Arbiter of Cultural Disputes in the USA," *Cultural Studies* 28, no. 5-6 (2014): 1078-1102. (Available through Western library website)

November 11 - Interest Groups

Lecture Readings:

- *Government and Politics of the United States*, Chapter 8, pp. 253-283

Tutorial Readings:

- Martin Gilens and Benjamin I. Page, "Testing Theories of American Politics: Elites, Interest Groups, and Average Citizens," *Perspective on Politics* 12, no. 3 (Sept., 2014): 564-581. (Available through Western library website)

November 18 - The Bureaucracy

Lecture Readings:

- *Government and Politics of the United States*, Chapter 9, pp. 284-316

Tutorial Readings:

- Joe Soss and Donald P. Moynihan, "Policy Feedback and the Politics of Administration," *Public Administration Review* 74, no. 3 (May 2014): 320-332. (Available through Western library website)

November 25 - Federalism

Lecture Readings:

- *Government and Politics of the United States*, Chapter 10, pp. 317-351

Tutorial Readings:

- Gary Gerstle, "Federalism in America: Beyond the Tea Partiers," *Dissent* 57, no. 4 (Fall, 2010): 29-36. (Available through Western library website)

December 02 – Economic Policy

Lecture Readings:

- *Government and Politics of the United States*, Chapter 11, pp. 352-384

Tutorial Readings:

- TBA

December 09 - Term Review

Lecture Readings

- No assigned readings

Tutorial Readings:

- Tutorials will not be held during this week

*****Midterm (scheduled during exam period)**

Term 2 Readings will be Posted Shortly

PARTICIPATION

Participation may take many forms. Throughout this course, you will be asked to participate in a number of different ways, including participation in discussions, simulations, and debates. Critical to all of this, of course, is attendance—you can't participate if you're not here!!

Participation Grading Guide

Grade	Attendance	Discussion	Reading
10	Always	Excellent: leads debate; offers analysis and comments; always has ideas on theme of reading; takes care not to dominate; asks questions	Clearly has done and prepared questions on virtually all readings; intelligently uses this understanding and these questions in discussion
8	Almost always	Very Good: thoughtful comments and questions for the most part; willing, able and frequent contributor	Has done most readings; provides competent analysis of reading when prompted by others
6	Frequent	Good: has basic grasp of key concepts and occasional ideas on the main theme of the reading; arguments are sporadic and at times incomplete or poorly supported; unwilling to ask questions	Displays familiarity with most readings, but tends not to analyze them or to relate them to the course material
4	Occasional	Somewhat Poor: remarks in class marred by misunderstandings of key concepts; seldom contributes effectively to discussion of the main theme; often digresses in unhelpful ways; sporadic	Actual knowledge of material is outweighed by improvised comments and remarks
0-2	Rare	Poor: rarely speaks; parrots text or comments of others	Little or no apparent familiarity with assigned material

FINAL ESSAY

Argument	
Organization of the Essay	
Quality of Evidence	
Communication Skills	
Use of Quotations and Footnotes	
Other Comments	

**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/pdf/academic_policies/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) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.

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

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

EXAMINATIONS/ATTENDANCE (Sen. Min. Feb.4/49, May 23/58, S.94, S.3538, S.3632, S.04-097) A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations: 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year. 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Medical Policy, Late Assignments, etc.

Students registered in Social Science should refer to

http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having_problems/index.html 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.

University Policy on Cheating and Academic Misconduct

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/academic_policies/index.html

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.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Registrar's office can be accessed for Student Support Services at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services (including the services provided by the USC listed here) can be reached at:
<http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Services can be reached at: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western
<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.