**POLITICAL SCIENCE 201 – Section 05**

**INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**

**Spring, 2023**

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**COURSE MEETING:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 2:00 – 2:50pm, in **Brittain Hall #110**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Mikel Norris

**OFFICE:** Brittain Hall #356

**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday and Wednesday, 8 – 9:30am, 11 – 1:30pm, and by appointment

* Please contact me via email to arrange face-to-face meetings on Microsoft Teams

**E-MAIL and PHONE:** [mnorris1@coastal.edu](mailto:mnorris1@coastal.edu) / (843) 349-4033

**INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to POLI 201: Introduction to American Government!

***Catalog Description***

An introduction to the national institutions and political processes of American government. Students will examine the formation, development, organization, and powers of national institutions; the interaction between political processes and political behavior; the development of civil rights and civil liberties, and the policy process.

***Course Objectives***

Course objectives are as follows and fulfill Core Curriculum Knowledge Goal #9 (Knowledge of the Structure and Development of the U.S.):

* Provide an overview of the theoretical principles and historical documents underlying the American political system;
* Improve knowledge and understanding of the structure, processes, and outputs of the modern American political system;
* Discuss and evaluate various contemporary issues and current events in American politics;
* Improve critical thinking and analytical skills;
* Provide civic education and the tools that students need to be active participants in the political system;
* Adhere to Section 59-29-130 of the “Reinforcing College Education of America’s Constitutional Heritage Act,” which requires reading:
* The United States Constitution in its entirety;
* The Declaration of Independence in its entirety;
* The Emancipation Proclamation in its entirety;
* A minimum of five essays in their entirety from the *Federalist Papers* as selected by the instructor; and,
* One or more documents that are foundational to the African American Freedom struggle.

***Student Learning Outcomes***

Upon successful completion of the course, students are expected to be able to:

* Demonstrate an understanding of the American political system with an emphasis on constitutional foundations;
* Describe and explain the basic terms and concepts associated with the structure, processes, and function of American government;
* Analyze, discuss, and write critically about theories and current practices in American politics and government;
* Analyze contemporary political issues;
* Recognize the responsibilities of citizenship and articulate ways in which individuals can actively participate in the political system.
* Fulfill Section 59-29-130 of the “Reinforcing College Education of America’s Constitutional Heritage Act” to comply with state law and enrich students’ understandings of key documents in the development of American national government.

**BOOKS and SUPPLEMENTARY READING**

The following required book is available for purchase at the University Bookstore:

* Christine Barbour and Gerald C. Wright. *Keeping the Republic, Power and Citizenship in American Politics, 9th Brief Edition.* Washington DC: Sage/CQ Press (ISBN: 9781544393896)

This book can be purchased online through several different websites. Students who intend on purchasing their textbook in this way need to do so IMMEDIATELY, as we will begin using the text for this class beginning immediately.

Materials that are required for you to read in order to comply with the REACH Act are found in the different Supplementary Readings folders on the course Moodle page.

The Supplementary Readings folders in Moodle also contain other interesting readings for each unit that are **optional.** However, I highly recommend that you read them – especially if it involves subject matter you are really interested in.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

**EXAMINATIONS:** There will be three examinations during the semester. Examinations will consist of multiple-choice questions and short answers. Each exam will be worth 25% of your final grade. The date of the first examination will be **Friday, February 10th.** The date of the second examination will be **Monday, March 20th.** The date of the third examination will be **Wednesday, May 3rd.**

**QUIZZES:** There will be three quizzes during the semester. Quizzes will consist of multiple-choice questions. Each quiz will be worth 8.25% of your final grade (the total of the three quizzes is equal to 25% of your final grade). The date of the first quiz will be **Friday, January 27th.** The date of the second quiz will be **Monday, February 27th.** The date of the third quiz will be **Wednesday, April 5h.**

**GRADING**

A total of 400 points can be earned in this class. You will earn points as follows:

* Examinations: 100 points (each)
* Quizzes: 33 points (each)

Your grade will be based on the following grade calculations:

* A (90% - 100%) = 360-400 points
* B+ (88% - 89.99%) = 352-359.99 points
* B (80% - 87.99%) = 320-351.99 points
* C+ (78% - 79.99%) = 312-319.99 points
* C (70% - 77.99%) = 280-311.99 points
* D+ (68% - 69.99%) = 272-279.99 points
* D (60% - 67.99%) = 240-271.99 points
* F (0% - 59.99%) = 239.99 points or less

**POLICIES**

**Class Attendance:** It should be common knowledge that students who attend class and participate in class discussion perform better on tests and quizzes and ultimately receive higher grades. Class attendance for this course is mandatory. Attendance will be taken for every class. Per University policy, I reserve the right to fail any student who is absent for more than 25% of regularly scheduled classes. This comes out to missing eight (8) or more courses for a Monday, Wednesday, Friday course.

I only excuse absences for **FOUR** circumstances, which are deemed acceptable by Coastal Carolina University:

* University representation
* Death of an immediate family member
* Religious observance
* Incapacitating illness

The key word in the last excuse is **incapacitating.** Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary defines incapacitating as “unable to work, move, or function in the usual way.” So, a cold is not incapacitating, a tummy-ache is not incapacitating, etc. etc. etc. I will only accept as incapacitating illness different illnesses requiring you to have extensive bedrest, hospital stay, or quarantine. This includes COVID-related illness. Please see below.

**DO NOT** bring me doctors’ excuses or other forms of verification for missing class unless your absence occurs on a test or a quiz day, and the notification must be presented **before** the test or quiz. Be aware that **just because you bring me a doctor’s note does not mean I will count your absence as excused.** If you are truly sick, or are going to miss time due to a death in the family, please fill out an **Attendance Notification Request Form.** This form can be found on the Dean of Students’ website:

<https://www.coastal.edu/deanofstudents/attendancenotificationforstudents/>

When you submit this form, the Dean of Students’ Office will send notification of the reason of absence to **all** of your professors. It’s the easiest and most effective way to let your professors and others know that you will be missing class. **I am more likely to accept this verification of an excused absence than I am a doctor’s note.**

For further information on the rights and responsibilities of students and professors regarding class attendance, please see policy **ACAD-125** on the University’s Policies webpage:

<https://www.coastal.edu/policies>

Coastal Carolina University is committed to taking steps to retain its student body. One of those steps is to require absence reporting for 100-level and 200-level courses. I will file absence alerts after a student has missed two consecutive absences and has not informed me of the reasons for doing so. This will happen regardless of whether the absences are excused or unexcused. Once this is submitted, you can expect to be contacted by an Academic Outreach Advisor. If you don’t want to be bothered by the people in Academic Outreach, then come to class.

I must also report absences for your interim and final grades. The absences reported for these grades will account for both excused and unexcused absences.

**Class Participation:** Class participation is also important for class success. All students should come to class prepared to discuss the materials to be covered for each lecture. Class preparation includes reading and thinking critically about all class material. Students should also be prepared to ask questions about material they do not understand, answer questions during class, and make appropriate comments and insights that will benefit and enhance class discussion. Students who meet all of these criteria may receive extra points when their final grade is calculated. Assignment of these points will be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Students are also asked to speak and act appropriately during class. This includes not talking to other students in a disruptive manner during class, or making inappropriate comments toward other students. Cell phones should also not be used during class. They are disruptive to the instructor and other students. Continued violations of these guidelines WILL impact your final grade.

**Academic Integrity and Code of Conduct:** Cheating and plagiarism are wrong and I do not like it. It is unfair to other students. Furthermore, it reflects very poorly on your character. Cheating carries with it a severe penalty, and may even lead to expulsion from the university. **DON’T DO IT.** It is wrong and will not be tolerated. Those caught cheating (e.g., looking at someone else’s paper during a test, consulting notes during a test, consulting previously-taken tests/quizzes, etc.) in this class will receive a zero for that assignment and be reported to the University Academic Integrity Officer. Further action may be considered based on the extent and severity of the offense. If further action is pursued, I will request the student receive a grade of **Fx** for the course.

Coastal Carolina University operates under a Code of Student Conduct, which governs both academic and social conduct. The Code of Student Conduct may be reviewed here:

<https://www.coastal.edu/media/2015ccuwebsite/contentassets/documents/deanofstudents/2020-2021%20Code%20of%20Student%20Conduct.pdf>

Per the Code of Student Conduct, all students at Coastal Carolina pledge to oppose all instances of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism is listed as the second form of prohibited conduct in the Code of Conduct behind personal behavior. This should make clear the importance of not engaging in this type of activity. Students may talk to me privately if they have any questions or concerns involving cheating and plagiarism.

**Late Assignment Policy:** I will not tolerate late assignments. Students who miss tests or quizzes will not be able to make up those assignments unless they have an excused absence (see above), and will receive a zero for the assignment.

**Students with Disabilities:** I am committed to making all necessary accommodations for students with verified disabilities. However, it is the responsibility of *the student* to begin the accommodation process. I will not make accommodations unless the student provides me with verification of disability and supplies the proper paperwork to me in a timely fashion so I can accommodate them. Students with disabilities are urged to contact the Office of Accessibility and Disability Services ((843) 349-2503) to learn more about the rights and responsibilities of disabled students attending Coastal Carolina University.

**Interim Grades:** Per University policy, I am required to submit interim grades for this course. Interim grades must be submitted by **Monday, February 13th.** Your interim grade will be based on all tests/quizzes taken to that point. Please be aware that your interim grade – for better or worse – may not reflect **AT ALL** your final grade in this course.

**COVID-19:** Individual students affected by COVID-19 need to refer to my absence policy detailed above. Students who are quarantined because of COVID-19 will still be able to stay on pace with the rest of the class via the recorded lectures on Moodle. It will be that student’s responsibility to stay on pace with the rest of the class. I would also recommend that student’s affected by COVID-19 stay in contact with me via email and Microsoft Teams so I can help you through the inevitable difficulties that will arise from missing a lot of class time.

Be aware that I take all reports of students becoming ill with COVID-19 *very* seriously. If you tell me you are missing class time due to COVID-19, I will contact Student Health Services personally to make sure they are aware of the situation. If you use COVID-19 as an excuse for missing class, you can expect for the University to place you in quarantine and compel you to undergo COVID-19 testing as a price for using that excuse.

In the event of a COVID-19 spread that affects the entire campus and we are evacuated or moved to a distance learning format, we will move our courses online as outlined in the Hurricane Policy listed above and proceed on schedule.

**\*\*\*\*\*\*THE PROFESSOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE**

**SYLLABUS DURING THE COURSE OF THE SEMESTER. ANY CHANGES WILL BE**

**DISCUSSED BEFOREHAND\*\*\*\*\*\***

**COURSE SCHEDULE and ASSIGNMENTS**

MONDAY, JANUARY 9..…....……………………………………...COURSE INTRODUCTION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11 thru FRIDAY, JANUARY 20………...CONSTITUTIONAL ORIGINS

* Textbook: pp. 1 – 83
* REACH ACT Required Readings:
  + The Declaration of Independence: Appendix 2 in the back of your textbook
  + The Constitution: Appendix 3 in the back of your textbook
  + Read the following *Federalist Papers: Federalist #10, Federalist #51*
* **FRIDAY, JANUARY 13th: CLASS CANCELLED (Professor at conference)**
* **MONDAY, JANUARY 16th: MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY (NO CLASSES)**

MONDAY, JANUARY 23 thru FRIDAY, JANUARY 27……………………….......FEDERALISM

* Textbook: pp. 84 – 107
* REACH ACT Required Readings:
  + Read the following *Federalist Papers: Federalist #39, Federalist #45, Federalist #46*

MONDAY, JANUARY 30 thru FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3……………………....CIVIL LIBERTIES

* Textbook: pp. 108 – 145
* **QUIZ #1: MONDAY, JANUARY 30th**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6 thru FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10………………………..CIVIL RIGHTS

* Textbook: pp. 146 – 186
* REACH ACT Required Readings:
  + The Emancipation Proclamation
  + Reread the Thirteenth Amendment: Appendix 3 in the back of your textbook
  + *Equality and the Indefinite Perfectibility of Man,* from Alexis DeTocqueville’s *Democracy in America*
  + *Letter from Birmingham Jail* by Martin Luther King

**TEST #1: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13th**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15 thru MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20…………………...CONGRESS

* Textbook: pp. 187 – 227
* REACH ACT Required Readings:
  + *Federalist #42*

WEDNESADY, FEBRUARY 22 thru MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27……..……THE PRESIDENCY

* Textbook: pp. 228 – 265

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1 thru MONDAY, MARCH 13…………………THE BUREAUCRACY

* Textbook: pp. 266 – 294
* **QUIZ #2: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1st**

**MONDAY, MARCH 6th thru FRIDAY, MARCH 10th: SPRING BREAK (NO CLASSES)**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15 thru MONDAY, MARCH 20………….……………...THE COURTS

* Textbook: pp. 295 – 327
* REACH ACT Required Readings:
  + *Federalist #78*

**TEST #2: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22nd**

FRIDAY, MARCH 24 & MONDAY, MARCH 27……………………………..PUBLIC OPINION

* Textbook: pp. 328 – 359

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29 thru MONDAY, APRIL 3……………...PARTIES & INTEREST GROUPS

* Textbook: pp. 360 – 400

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5 thru WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12…………………………THE MEDIA

* Textbook: pp. 441 – 474
* **QUIZ #3: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5th**
* **FRIDAY, APRIL 7th: SPRING HOLIDAY (NO CLASSES)**

FRIDAY, APRIL 14 thru WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19……….VOTING, CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS

* Textbook: pp. 401 – 440

FRIDAY, APRIL 21 thru WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26……………………………PUBLIC POLICY

* Textbook: pp. 475 – 523

**TEST #3 (Final Exam): WEDNESDAY, MAY 3rd @ 1:30pm, in this classroom**