

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY
Political Science 020
American Politics

Fall 2008
Section 1004
MWF 1-1:50 p.m.
LL 216

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Office Hours: MWF 10-11, 12-1

REQUIRED TEXT:

Ginsberg, et al., We the People (New York: Norton, 2007), hardcover, 6th ed.

ON-LINE STUDY GUIDE:

A Student's Study Guide to We the People, 6th ed. (see www.wwnorton.com/studyspace or www.wwnorton.com/wtp6e)

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

The entire sociopolitical environment in which the American political system was formed and currently functions is the basic focus of this course. This will lead to a consideration of varied topics such as formal institutions, elections, political parties, interest groups, ideology, public policies, and state and local politics. This course covers the basic problems and principles and the major themes, theories, and concepts of political science in the sub-field of American politics. Students will demonstrate the ability to use analytical, research, and writing skills, as appropriate. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the basic political institutions and processes of the American political system, in light of major competing theories of politics. Students will reflect on and express the broad purposes of political life, in light of varying theoretical understandings of those purposes among different thinkers and in different communities over the course of American history.

FORMAT OF CLASS:

Classes will include lectures by the instructor; however, emphasis is **also** placed on student participation in class discussions. Class attendance is not optional; regular class attendance is expected. Students are expected to be on time and to remain awake and in the classroom until the class is over. The latter is particularly important during exams; students will not be allowed to leave the room and return during exams. Absence and academic dishonesty policies conform to University and College of Arts and Sciences policies as described in the current MU Undergraduate Bulletin. All students are bound by Arts and Sciences rules.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING PROCEDURES

EXAMS: The assigned work in this course is as follows: There are the specific reading assignments drawn from the required text. Each student is expected to read and digest this assigned material prior to the time when it is dealt with in class. Three non-cumulative exams will be based on these readings and the lectures and each determines 25% of the final grade. The exams will be half multiple-choice (25 questions) and half essay (a choice between two questions) in format. Make-up exams will be given to those who must miss the exam due to serious personal emergencies. Others who miss the exam will be allowed to take a make-up exam with a 10% reduction in grade. Seven multiple-choice quizzes (10 questions) will be announced in advance and given at the beginning of class. These ordinarily will cover two chapters of the textbook and are drawn from the text. Only the 6 highest grades will be averaged and this average will determine 25% of the course grade. Please note that make-up quizzes will not be available; you must be in attendance for the quizzes. Adjustments will be made in the event of extended absences due to serious illness. In addition, you may write (only) one guest lecture critique (3 pages, typed) as a substitute for (only) one quiz grade. These on-campus lectures will be announced in class and the critiques are due no later than one week after (or the next class meeting thereafter) the lecturer's appearance on campus. At

least 50% of the critique must consist of personal analysis, not summary of remarks. Critiques must be submitted in hard copy. Submissions by attachment will not be accepted.

OPTIONAL PAPER: A student may choose to write a paper dealing with a topic within the general area of American politics and government. The paper grade cannot lower your grade; if lower than your test and quiz average it will be disregarded. It is worth 20% of the final grade. (The three exams and the quizzes are weighted 20% each for those writing the paper.) You must clear your topic with the instructor before becoming deeply involved in this project. Most important, you should choose a topic that interests you.

1. All papers are due on or before 2:00 p.m. Nov. 24, 2008. Since this is an optional paper, late papers will not be accepted.
2. Papers must rely primarily upon scholarly sources (journals, books) rather than popular periodicals or newspapers. You may not use web pages or other materials posted on the inter-net as sources. This prohibition does not include academic journals available on-line. Do not use the required textbook for this class or other college survey textbooks and reference books (e.g., encyclopedia) except for very limited citations.
3. Appropriate scholarly form should be used in writing. Use a standard form of citation and be consistent throughout. Numbered notes may appear at the bottom of the page or at the end of the paper. You may also use embedded author-date references with an alphabetized list of complete citations at the end of the paper.
4. Papers should be typed, double-spaced in a standard font (e.g., Times Roman 10 or 12 point) with standard (one inch) margins. The minimum required length is 7 pages, excluding title page, endnotes, list of references, and tables. For a paper of this length you should use subheadings to reflect your organizational framework.
5. Your original notes (handwritten or computer generated) on all sources used must be submitted with the paper. Do not hand in the whole article or printout. You may instead submit earlier drafts of the paper with your handwritten revisions. A hand-written outline of your paper does not fulfill this requirement. Papers and notes must be submitted as hard copies; submissions by attachment will not be accepted.

COURSE OUTLINE

Note: The dates listed below should be considered only as approximate goals. Some topics may require more or less time than was anticipated.

I. INTRODUCTION

Aug. 25	A. Class Orientation
Aug. 27, 29	B. Political Culture, C. 1, pp. 2-31.

II. THE U. S. CONSTITUTION

Sept. 3, 5	A. History and Content of the Constitution, C. 2, pp. 32-73, A8-19.
Sept. 8, 10	B. Intergovernmental Relations, C. 3, pp. 74-109.
Sept. 12, 15, 17	C. Civil Liberties, C. 4, pp. 110-149.
Sept. 19, 22, 24	D. Civil Rights, C. 5, pp. 150-193.

Sept. 26

FIRST EXAM

III. INSTITUTIONS AND PROCESSES: NON-ELITE ROLES

Sept. 29, Oct. 1

A. Public Opinion, C.6, pp. 196-235.

Oct. 3, 6

B. The Media, C. 7, pp. 236-267.

Oct. 8, 10

C. Political Participation and Voting, C. 8, pp. 269-303.

Oct. 13, 15

D. Political Parties, C. 9, pp. 304-349.

Oct. 20, 22

E. Campaigns and Elections, C. 10, pp. 350-397.

Oct. 24, 27

F. Interest Groups, C. 11, pp. 398-433.

Oct. 29

SECOND EXAM

IV. INSTITUTIONS AND PROCESSES: ELITE ROLES

Oct. 31, Nov. 3

A. Congress, C.12, pp. 436-483.

Nov. 5, 7

B. The President, C. 13, pp. 484-525.

Nov. 10, 12

C. The Bureaucracy, C.14, pp. 526-568.

Nov. 14, 17

D. The Courts, C.15, pp. 570-611.

V. PUBLIC POLICIES

Nov. 19, 21

A. Economic Policy, C.16, pp. 614-659.

Nov. 24, Dec. 1

B. Social Policy, C. 17, pp. 660-697.

Dec. 3, 5

C. Foreign Policy, C. 18, pp. 698-738.

Dec. 9 (Tues.)

THIRD EXAM 1:00-2:15 p.m.