

## GOVT 291 AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

### Syllabus

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### **COURSE CREDIT:**

Three Semester Hours

### **PREREQUISITES:**

None

### **COURSE MATERIALS:**

#### **Required Textbook:**

Volkmer, Walter E. *American Government, Eleventh Edition*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2007. ISBN: 0132211084

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is a survey of national governmental/political processes, American democracy, the Constitution, political parties, the executive/congressional/judicial branches, and contemporary issues.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES/STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- The student will identify or describe the proper structures and form of American government at the national, state, and local level, including the current positions and makeup of national political parties and how they evolved, the role of the Constitution in shaping policy, the political culture of the United States, and the chronological organization, the major eras, events, personages, and their relationships in the evolution of American Government.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the interplay of course terms, ideas, and concepts through constructing acceptable responses to essay questions.
- Examine and appraise selected scholarly debate about key terms, ideas, and/or concepts in American Government.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Students must complete all tests and coursework with a 70% or higher to pass the class. The student will be expected to read the chapters assigned for each section and submit their answers to the assigned reading questions. There are three sections, which cover four to five chapters each. At the end of each section, the student must refer to the Guidelines for Proctored Exams and submit an Exam Request Form **two to three weeks PRIOR** to the date you plan to take each exam. Each exam will consist of 20 multiple-choice questions and four short essay questions of which the student may select three to answer.

## **GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND SCALE:**

In alignment with ASC academic policies, no D may apply to a major or minor field.

### **Grade Distribution:**

13 Reading Assignments	20 points each	160 points
3 Proctored Exams	100 points each	<u>300 points</u>
Total Points		460

### **Scale:**

414-460	A
368-413	B
322-367	C
276-321	D
275 and below	F

## **COURSE INSTRUCTIONS**

### **Reading Assignments:**

After reading each assigned chapter the student will answer four questions to demonstrate their understanding of some of the chapter's key ideas. The questions are found in the study guide below the chapter summary. Students may e-mail their completed assignments, fax them or, mail assignments through the postal service; refer to the contact information listed in the syllabus.

### **Proctored Examinations**

For the purposes of exams, the book will be divided into three sections with a proctored exam at the end of each section. Each exam will consist of 20 multiple-choice questions and four short essay questions. Of the four essay questions, the student will select three to answer. The student may answer all four questions, but only their three best answers will count for their exam grade.

These exams are closed book, but the student may bring a standard 8-½ X 11 sheet of paper with notes on both sides of the paper. And although there is not a time limit to the exams, students must complete the exam in one sitting.

### **ADA Statement:**

Students who need special accommodation to complete this class should contact the instructor and the Office of Student Affairs, 719-587-7221 as soon as possible.