

SYLLABUS

**Political Science 1101 - American Politics
College of DuPage - Fall Semester 2006
Monday / Wednesday / Friday 8:00 a.m. to 8:50 a. m.
Room IC 3007
Thomas S. Moch - Instructor
Office Hours By Appointment
Voice Mail: (630) 942-2800 (ext. 53372)
e-mail: mochth@cod.edu**

Text:

Magleby, O'Brien, Light, Peltason, Cronin: *Government by the People*, 21st Edition Basic Version, Pearson/Prentice Hall, © 2004.

Additional readings as assigned by the instructor.

Course Description:

Analysis of the dynamics and processes of the evolving American constitutional democracy, its origins, factions and problems. Areas of study shall include an in-depth consideration of the United States constitutional framework, federalism, civil liberties, interest groups, political parties, campaigns and elections, the Courts, the President, the congress and the Bureaucracy.

Course Objectives:

- To understand the American Political System, in order to assure its' continuing viability, must establish authoritative institutions that can make decisions which are binding on all of the people, provide for the resolution of dissent, and effectively enforce basic rules.
- To understand the nature of our political system and the nature of our political behavior are closely related to the fundamental system of values to which our society adheres.
- To understand that the political ideals, values, attitudes, and institutions develop and change over time.
- To understand that our political system, individuals and groups disagree over some societal goals and directions; over who aims will be achieved; and over the enforcement of standard behavior.
- To understand the structures and functions of our democratic political structure.

Method of Evaluating Student Class Work:

- Class preparation, attendance and participation are of importance. Continued absence, or non-participation will reflect upon the final grade.
- A research paper will be assigned to each student. The paper must be submitted with proper grammar, typed, double line spaced and of seven (7) pages in length. Papers are due on the date assigned. Late papers will be marked down.
OR
- Service learning. A student that participates in learning through service may use this in lieu of the research paper. The requirement is at least twenty (20) clock hours of political activity and the keeping of a journal to the service being provided. A class presentation is required concerning what benefits the student has acquired through the service learning program.
- Quizzes will be given from time to time without announcement. Make-ups will not be permitted.
- Mid-term and final examinations will be given. These examinations will be made up of essay questions. Each will be non-cumulative, that is, the contents will cover the period prior to the examination.
- Materials and projects are due on the date assigned and must be turned in at the beginning of class. Late material will not be accepted.

Grading System:

Attendance and Participation	10%
Research Paper/ Service Learning Project	25%
Quizzes	15%
Mid-term Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%

Grading Policy: (No curve)

A = 100% - 91%
B = 90% - 81%
C = 80% - 71%
D = 70% - 61%
F = Below 61%

Tests and Quizzes:

Quizzes will be given from time to time and will consist of multiple-choice questions. The mid-term and final examinations will be made up of essay questions.