

Spring 2008

POLS 206

American National Government

Section 501: MWF; ALLN 1005
9:45 – 10:35 a.m.

Section 504: MWF; BLOC 102
1:50 – 2:40 p.m.

Instructor: P. See Lim

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Office hours: MW 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.
After class and by appointment

Web Page: <http://www-polisci.tamu.edu/faculty/byname/?id=81>

Email Protocol: Please state your *name and section number* when you email me.
Do not email me about information you can get in the syllabus. Read the syllabus first before emailing me.

I. Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the American national government and American politics. The objective of the course is to stimulate the students' thinking about the relationship between political ideology and party identification, economics and politics, and the extent to which certain interests are served or compromised by the American political practice. Comparisons with other political systems around the world will be made so that students can appreciate the political stability and institutions of this nation.

II. Required Textbook

The Promise and Performance of American Democracy.

Jon R. Bond and Kevin B. Smith. 8th Edition. Thomson Wadsworth Publishing.

III. Exams and Grades

There will be three (3) exams in the course. All exams are multiple-choice, each worth 33.3% of the final grade. Each exam will cover all assigned chapters and lectures to that date. The exams are **non-cumulative**. No one will be allowed to take an exam if the **first** person who has completed the exam has left. All exams are held in the same classroom. There is no final exam.

Exam 1	33.3%
Exam 2	33.3%
Exam 3	33.3%

Please bring a clean, crisp, **grey** scantron. Fill in your information accurately before coming to the exam hall. A penalty of 4 points will be deducted from your score if an error(s) is made.

Note: fill in your **UIN** and not SSN.

You can check your grade from webct vista (elearning.tamu.edu).

I will **not change** grades unless I made an error in computation.

[A=90-100 B=80-89 C=70-79 D=60-69 F=Below 59]

IV. Make-up Exams

Only students with **documented University excuse(s)** for missing a regularly scheduled exam will be allowed to take the make-up. Students who cannot take an exam **must** notify the instructor at least 24 hours before the scheduled examination. You must provide your **official** document if you want to schedule your makeup at an earlier date. Make-up exam date is **Monday, April 28th**. Students with University excuses can take a maximum of 2 make-ups only. Please drop the course if you have to miss 3 exams.

V. Withdrawal Policy

Should you decide to drop this course at any time, you must do so by yourself. Failure to drop a course because of not passing or excessive absences will result in an "F" grade at the end of the semester. The Q-drop date is Tuesday, **April 1st**.

VI. Class Attendance and Conduct

Students are expected to be punctual and to attend all lectures. It is assumed that you have read the assigned materials before coming to class. Participation and questions relevant to the lectures are welcome. If you should miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain lecture notes from your classmate. Students should avoid any form of class disturbance. You will be asked to leave the class if you disrupt class proceedings. All cell phones or pagers must be on the off mode during class meetings and failure to comply will result in a five-point penalty. Please take a seat near the door if you intend to leave the class early.

VII. Academic Dishonesty

Students must obey the University policy on academic dishonesty. The penalty for any type of plagiarism or cheating will be an "F" on the exam. As commonly defined, plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own the ideas, words, writings, etc., which belong to another. In accordance with the definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you should have the permission of the person. Plagiarism is one of the worst academic sins, for the plagiarist destroys the trust among colleagues without which research cannot be safely communicated. If you have any questions regarding plagiarism, please consult the Aggie Honor System Office website (<http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor>) or the latest version of the Texas A&M University Student Rules, under the section "Scholastic Dishonesty." (<http://rules.tamu.edu/urules/100/159903m1.htm>)

The handouts used in this course are copyrighted. By "handouts," I mean all materials generated for this class, which include but are not limited to syllabi, quizzes, exams, lab problems, in-class materials review sheets, and additional problem sets. Because these are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy the handouts, unless I expressly grant permission.



VIII. ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities in **B118 of Cain Hall**, or call 845-1637. Please call the counseling center at 979 845-4427 if you are experiencing coping difficulties or anxieties.

Course Schedule

Week of	Week 1
Jan. 14	<i>First day of class</i> ; Introduction to American Government
Jan. 16	Chapter 1: The Promise of Democracy
	Week 2
Jan 21	<i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday</i>
	Chapter 1: The Promise of Democracy
	Week 3
Jan 28	Chapter 2: The American Constitution
	Week 4
Feb. 4	Chapter 3: Federalism
	Week 5
Feb. 11	Chapter 4: Civil Liberties
	Week 6
Feb. 18	Chapter 5: Civil Rights

		<i>Week 7</i>
Feb. 25 Feb. 27	Exam 1 (bring grey scantron, pencil and eraser) Chapter 12: Congress	
		<i>Week 8</i>
March 3	Chapter 12: Congress Chapter 13: The Presidency	
		<i>Week 9</i>
March 10	<i>Spring Break</i>	
		<i>Week 10</i>
March 17 March 21	Chapter 14: The Bureaucracy Reading Day, No class	
		<i>Week 11</i>
March 24 March 28	Chapter 15: The Federal Judiciary Exam 2 (bring grey scantron, pencil and eraser)	
		<i>Week 12</i>
March 31 April 1 st	Chapter 9: Public Opinion and Political Socialization Tuesday, 5 pm--Q drop	
		<i>Week 13</i>
April 7	Chapter 10: Elections Chapter 11: Voting Behavior and Political Participation	
		<i>Week 14</i>
April 14	Chapter 11: Voting Behavior and Political Participation Chapter 7: Political Parties	
		<i>Week 15</i>
April 21 April 23	Chapter 6: Interest Groups Exam 3 (bring scantron, pencil and eraser)	
		<i>Week 16</i>
April 28 April 29	Makeup Exam (for students who missed an exam and NOT for students who want to retake an exam) Reading Day	