

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 200:
AMERICAN POLITICS
SPRING 2018
Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m.**

**or
1:30 p.m.-4:15 p.m.**

Instructor: Richard Melzer, Ph.D.
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Office Hours Mondays & Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.-noon & 4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. & 4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
& by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Survey of American politics, including political behavior of the American electorate, the theory of democracy, the structure and the function of American political institutions, and contemporary issues.

TEXTBOOK

REQUIRED: Course binder: contains all needed lists, checklists, and review sheets.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To introduce students to basic themes and concepts of political science and, specifically, American politics;
 - To introduce students to the major forces, interests, and institutions of American democratic politics;
 - To introduce students to the legislative and/or judicial processes through first-hand experiences and observations;
 - To prepare students to think critically and analytically about American politics and major political issues as they affect our lives;
 - To help students develop the habit of keeping up-to-date on political developments as they occur in the United States and, in relation to the United States, around the world.
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CLASS SCHEDULE

Week #1: Tues., Jan. 16: Syllabus Review
Introduction: Definitions on a *Tabula Rasa*

AMERICAN POLITICAL FREEDOMS & INSTITUTIONS

Week #2: Tues., Jan. 23: The United States Constitution

Week #3: Tues., Jan. 30: The United States Constitution (continued)

Week #4: Tues., Feb. 6: Congress

Week #5: Tues., Feb. 13: Congress (continued)
Legislative or Judicial Project #1 due

Week #6: Tues., Feb. 20: The Presidency

- Week #7: Tues., Feb. 27: **Review Sheet #1 due**
The Presidency (continued)
- Week #8 Tues., March 6: The Judiciary
Review Sheet #2 due
- Fri., March 9: **Optional Review session at 11:00 a.m. in A131**
- Week #9 Tues., March 13: **SPRING BREAK**
- Week #10 Tues., March 20: **Exam #1**
on Review Sheets #1 & #2
The Judiciary (continued)

AMERICAN POLITICAL FORCES

- Week #11: Tues., March 27: Political Parties
- Week #12: Tues., April 3: Interest Groups
- Week #13: Tues., April 10: The Media
Judicial or Legislative Project #2 due
- Week #14: Tues., April 17: Elections & Campaigns

AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY

- Week #15: Tues., April 24: Foreign Policy
Optional Extra Credit Project due
- Week #16: Tues., May 1: Foreign Policy
Review Sheet #3 due
- Friday, May 4: **Optional review session at 11:00 a.m. in A131**
- Week #17: Tues., May 8 : **Exam #2**, on Review Sheet #3
10:30 a.m. for the 10:30 a.m. class
1:30 p.m. for the 1:30 p.m. class

SUMMARY OF GRADED ACTIVITIES

<u>DATE DUE</u>	<u>GRADED ACTIVITY</u>	<u>% OF FINAL GRADE</u>
Every class	Political Updates	15%
Tues., Feb. 20	Review Sheet #1	3.3%
Tues., March 6	Review Sheet #2	3.3%
Tues., May 1	Review Sheet #3	3.4%
Tues., Feb. 13	Judicial or Legislative Project #1	15%
Tues., April 10	Judicial or Legislative Project #2	15%
Tues., March 20	Exam #1	20%
Tues., May 8	Exam #2	25%
Tues., April 24	Optional Extra Credit Project	1%
<i>TOTAL</i>		100%

GRADE LEVELS FOR EXAMS, PROJECTS, & FINAL COURSE GRADES

98-103: A+: STUDENTS MUST HAVE A 98 TO 103 AVERAGE & DO AN EXTRA CREDIT PAPER IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR AN A+ IN THE COURSE)

93- 97: A	83- 87: B	70- 77: C	0- 59: F
90- 92: A-	80- 82: B-	68- 69: D+	
88- 89: B+	78- 79: C+	60- 67: D	

REVIEW SHEETS

Review sheets are to help you prepare for exams. Every exam question will be based on information on your review sheet.

Your three review sheets are due on the dates listed above.

Review sheets are *not corrected*. Instead, they are graded in the following manner:

A	<i>all</i> questions are answered
C	<i>most</i> questions are answered
D	<i>some</i> questions are answered
F	the review sheet is <i>not submitted</i>

EXAMS

Regularly scheduled exams are objective and include the following parts:

Part 1:	30 Matching IDs (1 point each)....	30 points
Part 2:	35 Short Answer Questions	
	(2 points each).....	70 points
TOTAL.....		100 points

Make-Up Exams taken before or after regularly scheduled exams are *essay questions* and are generally considered harder than objective exams.

CLASS PROJECTS

Each student is required to visit one judicial and one legislature session and write a report about each session observed. See the class project handouts (in your course binder) for details and requirements for each project option.

Don't hesitate to see the instructor if you need help with your project. He is willing to read early drafts to make suggestions.

POLITICAL UPDATES

Each class will include a discussion about recent **political** events or issues in the United States and in the world as it relates to the U.S.

Each student should be prepared to present 3 such events or issues. Headlines of their issues will be submitted on three 3x5 index cards (one card for each issue) before each class starts. For example:

Jane Doe	1/16/18
The World Came to an End Yesterday.	
source: <i>Albuquerque Journal</i>	

This assignment will require regularly reading newspapers and/or news magazines and/or listening to radio and/or TV news broadcasts and/or reviewing internet sources.

Students who suffer psychological or emotional problems in making oral presentations should discuss their situation with the instructor. Instead of making oral presentations, they will be required to write half-page summaries of each of their three political updates each week.

EXTRA CREDIT

Students can earn 1 extra credit point by writing a 1-page reaction paper after viewing one of the following videos available in our library:

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| "All the King's Men" | "All the President's Men" |
| "America & the World Since World War II" | "Chicano: Fighting for Political Power" |
| "Classics of Political Television Advertising" | "Crime and Punishment in America" |
| "Doing Time" | "Doing Time: 10 Years Later" |
| "The Equal Rights Amendment" | "Frontline: The Betrayal of Democracy" |
| "Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years"
(6 tapes; watch any one or more) | "Good Night and Good Luck" |
| "The History & Functions of Congress" | "High Crimes & Misdemeanors" |
| | "Hollywood on Trial" |

"If Women Ruled the World"	"In Search of Bin Laden"
"Inside the CIA"	"In the Face of Terrorism"
"Inherit the Wind"	"Justice Vision: Border Crossing"
"The Kennedys"	"LBJ: A Biography"
"Listening to America" (7 tapes; watch any one)	"Malcolm X"
"McCarthy: Death of a Witch Hunter"	"Munich"
"Pornography & Obscenity"	"Power, Politics, & Latinos"
"Mississippi Burning"	"The Rage for Democracy"
(6 tapes; watch any one)	"The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow"
"The Road to Brown"	"The Secret Government"
"The Speeches of Franklin D. Roosevelt"	"The Speeches of John F. Kennedy"
"The Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton & Susan B. Anthony"	"Votes for Women"
"That Delicate Balance: The First Amendment & Hate Speech"	"13 Days"
"Suffragette"	and others, as approved by the instructor

Students who are 18 and older and have never registered to vote can earn a second extra credit point by registering to vote and showing the instructor your new voter registration card. You can now register to vote on line.

Extra credit points are added to a student's final average. In other words, if a student has a final average of 89 and has done an extra credit essay, he/she will have a final average of 90. Instead of a B+ for the course, he/she will receive an A-.

Students *must* submit an extra credit project to qualify for an A+ in the course.

Extra credit papers must be submitted by Tuesday, April 24.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Students are encouraged to participate in class discussions, although they do not receive a grade for their participation.

However, if a student is borderline between two grades and he/she has participated often and well in class, he/she will receive the higher of the two grades in question. For example, if a student has an 89 average for the course and has participated often and well in class, he/she will receive an A- for the class rather than a B+.

PAIR & SHARE MOMENTS

You will be asked to identify a person sitting near you to be your Pair and Share Partner. Periodically, questions will be asked in class that you will discuss with your Pair and Share Partner. After a few moments of discussion (called Pair and Share Moments), you may be asked to share your group's ideas with the class as a whole.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students found cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero for the exam or assignment involved.

Students may attend the same legislative or judicial sessions, but their reports on these sessions ***must be completely different in wording and ideas.***

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you have a documented disability, the Equal Access Services office on campus will provide the instructor with a letter outlining your accommodations. The instructor will then discuss the accommodations with you to determine the best learning environment.

If you feel you need accommodations, but have not documented your disability, see <https://valencia.unm.edu/students/advisement-and-counseling/equal-access-services.html> or contact Jeanne Lujan, the coordinator for Equal Access Services, at 925-8910 or jmlujan@unm.edu.

TITLE IX

In an effort to meet obligations under Title IX, UNM faculty, students, and staff should report cases of gender discrimination, including sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence, to the Title IX Coordinator at the UNM Office of Equal Opportunity (oeo.unm.edu). For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>

All students are required to attend The Grey Area: Mandatory Sexual Misconduct Prevention Training on Jan. 10, 19, 24, or 26. For more information about this training, call 925-8560.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Students may record lectures and discussions with electronic devices.

Students can bring cell phones to class to receive emergency calls. However all phones must be set to “SILENT” and should not ring during class. If you receive an emergency call, you should leave the classroom to answer it.

Students cannot use electronic devices during quizzes and exams.

PERSONAL CONVERSATIONS

Students should not engage in personal conversations during class time. Those who do will be given a **yellow warning card**. If the conversation continues, they will be given a **red card**, which means that they must leave the class for the rest of the day.

LATE POLICY

Students who miss exams or quiz or turn assignments in late will lose 5 points for every day (excluding Saturdays and Sundays) they do not make-up the missed exam or submit the late assignment.

This penalty is not enforced only if a student lets the instructor know **prior to the due date** that he/she has an emergency and will be unable to take the test or submit the assignment at the scheduled time.

Students must make-up the exam or quiz or hand in the assignment within a week.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to attend all class sessions, from start to finish. Attendance is ***taken before and at the end of each class session.***

Students sign in *prior to and at the end* of each class by initializing the attendance book. Late arrivals can not sign in, although they can stay to participate and take notes in class. **Late arrivals are considered *absent.***

Students must attend the entire class to be given credit for attending class. Students who leave before the end of class (and therefore do not sign the attendance book at the end of class) are officially absent.

Students with 2 consecutive absences (that is, missing 2 straight days of class) or 3 regular absences (that is, missing any 3 days of class) will be dropped from the class by the instructor.

There are no “excused absences.”

Students can not sign the attendance book for other students. ***Students who sign in or out for other students will be charged with an absence, as will the student he or she signed in or out for.***

Students who have been “red carded” cannot sign out and are therefore counted as absent for the entire class.

If you are forced to miss a class due to an emergency, you are encouraged to get the notes for the day you missed from your Pair and Share Partner or some other reliable member of the class.