

Introduction to American National Government – Political Science 1101

Fall Semester 2008

Instructor – Matthew A. Sorensen

Text – We the People, By Ginsberg, Lowi and Weir, Seventh edition

Online

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## **Course Syllabus**

### **Course Outline:**

This course is designed to make students aware of our American political system and give a broad overview of the organizations, institutions, and policies that form the foundations of our government. Students will study the found and formation of our government and understand the principles and ideals upon which our country was formed. Upon completion of this course students will understand the three branches of government and how they are interconnected. Students will understand the importance of political participation in a democratic government, and know how to get involved. Through this class student will come to understand the differences in local, state, and federal government, and how the three are connected. Students will learn and understand the important role that outside influences such as popular culture, religion, and the media play in politics. This introductory course will also ensure that all students have a well-rounded understanding of how our national government functions from the local grass-roots level to the presidency of the United States.

### **Class Assignment and Requirements:**

Students enrolled in this course will be required to take a mid-term and a final exam. The midterm and final exam will be comprehensive of the course material that has been covered. Students will also be required to complete a weekly assignment from the class readings and online discussions.

Students will be required to participate in the online discussions by posting at minimum one comment and one response to a classmate each week. Students who complete this requirement will be given an extra 10 percent on their final exam.

All assignments and exams must be submitted online. Any other submission of assignments or exams must be approved by the instructor.

### **Virtual Office Hours:**

You may contact the instructor at [msorensen@westga.edu](mailto:msorensen@westga.edu), or online to set up a time to chat. In an emergency should you need to contact the instructor I may be reached at 770-316-9148. Email is the preferred method of contact.

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### Online Course Schedule

#### **Week One – August 17-21**

Introduction Class Meeting

Chapter one – American Political Culture

#### **Week Two – August 24 – 28**

Chapter Two – The Founding and the Constitution

#### **Week Three – August 31 – September 4**

Chapter Three – Federalism

Chapter Four – Civil Liberties

#### **Week Four – September 8 – 11 (Labor Day)**

Chapter Five – Civil Rights

#### **Week Five – September 14 – 18**

Chapter Six – Public Opinion

#### **Week Six – September 21 – 25**

Chapter Seven – the Media

**Week Seven – September 28 – October 2**

Chapter Eight – Political Participation and Voting

**Week Eight – October 5 – 9**

Mid- Term – Must be completed by October 9 at 5:00 p.m.

**Week Nine – October 12 – 16**

Chapter Nine – Political Parties

**Week Ten – October 19 – 23**

Chapter Ten – Campaigns and Elections

**Week Eleven – October 26 – 30**

Chapter Eleven – Groups and Interests

**Week Twelve – November 2 – 6**

Chapter Twelve – Congress

**Week Thirteen – November 9 – 13**

Chapter Thirteen – The Presidency

**Week Fourteen – November 16 – 20**

Chapter Fourteen – Bureaucracy in a Democracy

**(All late work due)**

**Week Fifteen – November 23 -27 (Thanksgiving)**

Chapter Fifteen – The Federal Courts

**Week Sixteen – November 30 – December 4**

Final Exam – Must be completed by December 4 at 5:00 p.m.

*All weekly assignments due by Friday at 5:00 p.m.*