

**Objective:** To gain an understanding of the American political system, including the government; the media; the role of public opinion and polls; public policy; interest groups; and U.S. foreign policy.

**Textbooks:**

1. *We the People 5th edition*, Ginsberg, Lowi & Weir, W.W. Norton.
2. Each day there will be a brief discussion of current events. Thus students are expected to prepare themselves by keeping up with the news.

**Evaluation:**

1. 2 essay exams (worth 100 pts. each): In the event of an absence the day of the exams, the failure to contact the professor before the exam to schedule a make up exam (which will be different from the original) will result in a **ZERO** on the missed exam.
2. Online quizzes on WebCT. (worth 130 pts.)
  - There will be **NO MAKE-UP** quizzes. **NO LATE QUIZZES.**
  - There are 13 quizzes, 10 questions each.
  - Each quiz is worth up to 10 points toward your final grade (13x10 pts .= 130 total points possible).
  - The quiz becomes available at 1:00 a.m. on the week it is due.
  - IT IS NO LONGER AVAILABLE after 11:59 p.m. on Sunday of that week.
    - Don't push the time restriction because your watch may reflect a different time than your computer.
  - You have 10 minutes to complete the quiz.
    - **WARNING:**
      - 10 minutes **WILL NOT** give you enough time to research the answer if you have not previously read the material.
      - Use your time wisely.

Quiz	Week	Covers	Quiz	Week	Covers
1	2	Module 1, Chapter 1, class lectures, & current events	8	10	Module 8, Chapter 15, class lectures, & current events
2	3	Module 2, Chapter 2, class lectures, & current events	9	11	Module 9, Chapter 6, class lectures, & current events
3	4.	Module 3, Chapter 3, class lectures, & current events	10	12	Module 10, Chapters 7 & 11, class lectures, & current events
4	5	Module 4, Chapter 4, class lectures, & current events	11	13	Module 11, Chapter 16, class lectures, & current events
5	6	Module 5, Chapter 5, class lectures, & current events	12	15	Module 12, Chapter 17, class lectures, & current events
6	7	Module 6, Chapter 12, class lectures, & current events	13	17	Module 13, Chapter 18, class lectures, & current events

7	8	Module 7, Chapter 13, class lectures, & current events			
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Final grade based a total of points. **There will be NO extra credit.**

A= 297-330 pts.      B= 264-296 pts.      C= 231-263 pts.      D= 198-230 pts      F= below 198 pts.

**Absence Policy:** Attendance is a requirement of this course. Therefore, any absence in excess of 5 may result in the student being dropped from the class. The professor also reserves the right to reduce a student's grade for excessive absences. In the event of an absence, you are responsible for class material. Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss assigned readings. Students will take turns leading discussions over news events. In addition, students are expected to participate in class discussion. You **MUST** come prepared to discuss the class material and current political events. If you do not understand the text, come prepared with questions. Grades on the cusp will be determined by participation.

**General information:**

- Rude behavior, as defined by the instructor, will not be tolerated. Such behavior will result in the student being removed from the class. This rule applies to ALL forms of communication between the student and the instructor and between the student and his/her colleagues.
- **No late** quizzes/assignments will be accepted, no matter the reason.
- No grades can be discussed, posted, or given out via the email or the phone. The instructor can **ONLY** talk with the student regarding their grade. The instructor can discuss students' grades with other individuals only if written permission from the student is given to the professor.
- Students with special needs are required to present their material outlining their need to the instructor during the first week of class. Arranging with the instructor any special services is the student's responsibility.
- Students are expected to check the WebCT course page **DAILY**, including WebCT email and announcements.
- Students are expected to know how to use the WebCT. Failure of the student to use WebCT appropriately and correctly is completely the student's responsibility and will not be an acceptable excuse for failure to complete an assignment/quiz.
- This syllabus is not designed to cover every aspect of the course. In class/online instructions regarding the course, are equally important; therefore, any instructions given in class, but missed by the student, or misunderstood by the student, are the student's responsibility.
- Students do not have permission to use the course materials in any way other than as instructed by the professor.
- Students may not record or reproduce class materials without expressed written consent of the professor.

Professor reserves the right to make changes to the following schedule:

Week 1 8/16	<b>Introduction/American Political Culture</b> Module 1 Chapter 1	<b>NO QUIZ</b>
Week 2 8/21-23	<b>American Political Culture</b> Module 1 Chapter 1	<b>Quiz 1</b>
Week 3 8/28-30	<b>The Founding and the Constitution</b> Module 2 Chapter 2	<b>Quiz 2</b>
Week 4 9/4-6	<b>Federalism</b> Module 3 Chapter 3	<b>Quiz 3</b>
Week 5 9/11-13	<b>Civil Liberties</b> Module 4 Chapter 4	<b>Quiz 4</b>
Week 6 9/16-18	<b>Civil Rights</b> Module 5 Chapter 5	<b>Quiz 5</b>
Week 7 9/25-27	<b>Congress</b> Module 6 Chapter 12	<b>Quiz 6</b>
Week 8 10/2-4	<b>The Presidency</b> Module 7 Chapter 13	<b>Quiz 7</b>
Week 9 10/9-11	<b>10/9—Exam I</b> <b>10/11—No class—Fall Break</b>	
Week 10 10/16-18	<b>The Courts</b> Module 8 Chapter 15	<b>Quiz 8</b>
Week 11 10/23-25	<b>Public Opinion</b> Module 9 Chapter 6	<b>Quiz 9</b>
Week 12 10/30	<b>The Media &amp; Interest Groups</b> Module 10 Chapters 7 & 11	<b>Quiz 10</b>
Week 13 11/6-8	<b>Economic Policy</b> Module 11 Chapter 16	<b>Quiz 11</b>
Week 14 11/13-15	<b>Social Policy</b> Module 12 Chapter 17	
Week 15 11/20 Thanksgiving break 11/21-23	<b>Social Policy</b> Module 12 Chapter 17	<b>Quiz 12</b>
Week 16 11/27-29	<b>Foreign Policy</b> Module 13 Chapter 18	
Week 17 12/4 Last day of class	<b>Foreign Policy</b> Module 13 Chapter 18	<b>Quiz 13</b> <b>Quiz due by 5 pm.</b> <b>12/7.</b>

