

# Syllabus

## Welcome To The National Political System 201



SEMESTER & YEAR: Fall, 2012

Course: GP 201

PROFESSOR: Jason Baker      OFFICE BLDG. & ROOM: SGASD Room 329

OFFICE PHONE: 717-225-4731

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OFFICE HOURS: Before and After School

### Materials:

- Textbook: Patterson, Thomas. We The People: A Concise Introduction To American Politics McGraw-Hill (Latest edition)
- Notebook and folder
- Pen/Pencil

### Course Description:

Catalog Description (335.2)

Introduction to American Government. In-depth discussion of the U.S. Constitution, interest groups and political parties, voting patterns and public opinion, the Congress, President and the Supreme Court, civil rights and civil liberties, foreign policy and economic policy.

Learning Outcomes (335.2)

(These outcomes are necessary to enable students to attain the essential knowledge and skills embodied in the program's educational objectives.)

### UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE COURSE THE STUDENT WILL BE ABLE TO:

1. Describe the basic institutions of the American national government.
2. Examine the major features of the U.S. Constitution and the role of the Supreme Court in its interpretation and application.
3. Define civil liberties and civil rights and explain their importance in the maintenance of democratic government.
4. Explain the dynamics of the political process.
5. Analyze the role of interest groups, political parties, the Congress and the President in

the formation of domestic and foreign policy.

6. Explore the structure, functions, and problems of the National Legislative Branch through model legislation.
7. Comprehend the election, power, structure and function of the National Executive Branch through recreating an executive order.
8. Analyze the development, structure, functions, and purpose of the National Judicial Branch via Supreme Court Cases.

### **Course Requirements and Grading:**

GRADE BASED ON AVERAGE OF ALL  
REQUIRED ASSIGNMENT GRADES:

- 20% NOTEBOOK (see below)
- 10% Amendment Paper
- 5% Supreme Court Cases
- 5% Executive Orders
- 10% Media Project
- 15% Congress Simulation
- 15% Examination # 1
- 5% Examination # 2
- 15% Examination # 3

### **COURSE GRADING SYSTEM**

90-100 %	A
80-89 %	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
BELOW 60%	F

### **OTHER REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Take notes on all lectures.
2. Successfully participate in and complete all classroom work such as inquiry, group discussion, group work.
3. Maintain a COURSE NOTEBOOK which will contain all class notes, reading notes, writing assignments, handouts and class work, bill paper notes, your completed U.S. Congressional Bill (after it is graded and returned to you), and creative and extra items related to this course that you wish to include to enhance the substance and appearance of this "production".

Maintain this notebook weekly so that it does not become a last minute assignment.

See notebook expectations and standards Sheet.

These assessments will cover lectures, notes, reading, and classroom cooperative learning experiences. The purpose of assessment is to reinforce the concepts that we have learned in class as well as to stretch the thinking and reasoning skills of each learner.

## **Attendance Policy and Missing Assignment Deadlines**

All students will be expected to:

Attend every class (this is very important)

Arrive and be prepared

If you are absent, you must consult, upon return, with the instructor. You will not be permitted to make up any missed assignments, if absent, except in case of excused "emergencies", in which case the student will be responsible for making up the work at a time and in a manner acceptable to the instructor.

Late assignments will be accepted without penalty if the student receives permission from the instructor. All other missed assignments will be graded as a "zero".

Any student who misses the equivalent of seven consecutive hours of class time, without consent of the instructor, will be referred to administration for review and the possibility of being dropped from the class. Also, if your attendance becomes a concern you may be required to consult with the instructor to determine your status in the course.

. Students who have to miss several consecutive classes should inform the instructor and arrange to make up missed work.

There is no penalty for an excused absence for missing class. However, since a substantial portion of your grade is based on lecture and classroom activities, it is expected that you will attend every class.

## **Academic Honesty Policy**

The policy of this instructor and HACC is in compliance with the Crime Code of Pennsylvania. Students will not submit for course credit any written work that has been, in whole or in substantial part, prepared, borrowed, purchased or otherwise obtained from any source that is not a product originating from the student's own effort. Students will likewise not submit for credit any work for which the student has already received credit in another course or at any other institution. Use of others intellectual property, or quotations from other sources may only be used in brief portions when duly cited (e.g., quotations, footnotes) within the written document being submitted by the student. Cheating on quizzes or exams will not be tolerated and could result in the student being dropped from the class or failure in the course.

### **Violation:**

Penalties will include failure in the assignment or course and referring the matter to HACC Administration for possible further recourse as stated in the Student Handbook.

### **Participation:**

I believe in interaction when learning. Projects and cooperative learning make politics come alive and allow me to access multiple modalities for all learners. Therefore, class participation is key to a successful class learning experience. Participating includes but is not limited to staying awake in class, arriving to class on time, working with your group or partner towards a common goal, and contributing to class discussions with thoughtful and purposeful dialogue.

## **Classroom Management:**

I expect that all students will come to class on time, complete their assignments as required and participate to the best of his/her ability during class and activity times. This classroom will elicit respect from teacher to students, from students to teacher and from student to student at all times and in all activities.

As my classroom operates with a lot of interaction through debates, simulations, activities, etc.; it is imperative that we respect everyone's rights and opinions. *I will not tolerate any name calling in class, including but not limited to racial, ethnic, sexual slurs. We can be critical of ideas without hurting people.*

## **DISCRIMINATION AND THE LAW**

The Pennsylvania Human Relations Act ("PHRAct") prohibits discrimination against prospective and current students because of race, color, sex, religious creed, ancestry, national origin, handicap or disability, record of a handicap or disability, perceived handicap or disability, relationship or association with an individual with a handicap or disability, use of a guide or support animal, and/or handling or training of support or guide animals.

The Pennsylvania Fair Educational Opportunities Act ("PFEOAct") prohibits discrimination against prospective and current students because of race, religion, color, ancestry, national origin, sex, handicap or disability, record of a handicap or disability, perceived handicap or disability, and a relationship or association with an individual with a handicap or disability.

Information about these laws may be obtained by visiting the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission website at [www.phrc.state.pa.us](http://www.phrc.state.pa.us)

If an accommodation is needed, please contact:

Carole Kerper  
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**GP 201  
Fall 2012**

<b>Date (20 Week Course)</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENT By The Week</b>
<b><i>Politics and The Constitution</i></b>		
Aug. 23	An Introduction to American Politics Culture and Politics	Chp 1 and Chp 2
Aug. 30 To Sept. 7	Constitutional Democracy, Federalism The States and Amendments (Notebook Due)	Chp 3 and Chp 4
Sept. 10 To Sept. 21	The Bill of Rights, Civil Liberties and Equal Rights (Paper Due)	Chp 4 and Chp 5
Sept. 28	<b>Examination # 1 and Notebook Due</b>	
<b><i>Political Dynamics</i></b>		
Oct. 1	Opinions & Political Socialization	Chp 6
Oct. 8	Voting and Participation	Chp 7
Oct. 15	Political Parties, Candidates & Campaigns	Chp 8
Oct. 22	Interest Groups (Notebook Due)	Chp 9
Oct. 24	<b>Examination # 2</b>	
Oct. 29	Creation of Media Project	Video
<b><i>Political institutions</i></b>		
Nov. 8	The Congress	Chp 11
Nov. 12	Performing Congress	Bill Writing
Nov. 19	Performing Congress	Bill Committees
Nov. 26	Performing Congress	Senate Floor Debate
Dec. 3	Performing Congress	Senate Floor Debate
Dec. 10	The Presidency	Chp 12
Dec.17	Presidential Orders	Executive Orders
Jan. 2	The Judiciary	Chp 14
Jan. 8	Supreme Court Cases	Performing Supreme Court
Jan. 11	<b>Examination # 3 and Notebook Due</b>	
Jan. 14	<b>Wrap-Up Supreme Court and Senate</b>	

***Note: Examination and Project dates are subject to change depending on the pace of the class.***