Office: Escondido
Section #70623

6:00 - 8:50 PM, Thursday, Escondido

Office Hours: 30 minutes before class & as required on an individual basis.

SYLLABUS

REQUIRED TEXT:


In addition to specific reading assignments from the text, students are encouraged to follow current issues by reading major periodicals on a regular basis; these might include the NEW YORK TIMES, WASHINGTON POST, TIME, and NEWSWEEK.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The goal of this introductory course is to provide students with a basis on which to analyze and understand the contemporary US political system. Students will examine our political background, voter behavior, individual rights, the US Constitution, lobbies, the media's role in politics and the changing nature of political parties.

The ultimate purpose of the course is to provide the student with the tools with which to make informed and reasonable political decisions and choices. Students completing the course should be better prepared to participate meaningfully in the democratic process based in their more profound knowledge of and respect for our system and its institutions.

EVALUATION PROCESS:

Three tests consisting of multiple choice questions and one student-selected essay will be administered at evenly spaced intervals during the semester. Tests will cover assigned text, lecture and discussion material. Examination "blue books" will be required for each test. Tests will be incremental and not cumulative.
Each test will constitute 100 points toward the final grade. Attendance and Participation/Discussion will each constitute 50 points. A total of 400 points may be earned.

Grading will be as follows:
- 300 maximum test points
- 50 points attendance
- 50 points in-class discussions/participation

For attendance:
- 400 - 360 = A
- 359 - 320 = B
- 319 - 280 = C
- 279 - 240 = D
- 239 -           = F

Academic honesty and integrity are required at all times.

Make-up tests may be available on demonstration of a substantive reason for the exception, e.g.: military orders. Make-up tests, if given will consist solely of essay questions.

Courtesy to your fellow students and to your instructor require that you arrive on time and remain until class end. Failure to do either may result in an absence; excessive absences may result in your being terminated from the class or in a reduction in your grade.

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<td>Politics Today</td>
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10/23 TEST
10/30 Interest Groups Ch. 7
11/6 Political Parties Ch. 8
11/13 Campaigns, Nominations & Elections Ch. 9
11/20 Campaigns, Nominations & Elections, continued

11/27 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY - ENJOY!

12/4 The Media & Cyberpolitics Ch. 10
12/11 TEST

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!