

**AMERICAN GOVERNMENT  
Political Science 101 (Section 6)  
Fall 2009**

Dr. Hausegger  
[lorihausegger@boisestate.edu](mailto:lorihausegger@boisestate.edu)  
Office Hours: Tu, Th 10:35-11:35AM  
                  Tu 1:35-2:35PM  
                  and by appointment

Office: PAAW #126A  
Phone: 426-5804

This course is concerned with American politics at the national level. We will examine the constitutional origins of the American political system, the structure and function of its institutions, the political actors involved and the links between citizens and politics.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES:**

The class is part of the university's Core Curriculum and has several related goals. First, it should provide students with an understanding of how government and politics are organized in the United States, how the political process operates in practice and what role various actors play in that process. Students should also be able to effectively convey this understanding. Second, it should help students recognize and understand different positions and arguments about the difficult political questions facing the United States today. It should help students develop skills in analyzing political issues. Finally, it is hoped that students will not only develop informed opinions on American politics but will also discover its importance to their own lives – why the topic is important to study.

**REQUIRED READING:**

Christine Barbour and Gerald Wright 2009. *Keeping the Republic*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.  
**Various handouts** that will be provided throughout the semester.

The lecture and reading materials are meant to complement, **NOT** duplicate each other. Thus some of what you read will NOT be discussed in class and much of the lecture material is intended to go beyond what you read. The **exams** will cover material from **BOTH lecture and readings**.

**GRADING:**

Exam #1	28%	October 1, 2009 (tentatively)
Exam #2	30%	November 3, 2009 (tentatively)
Final Exam	34%	December 15, 2009; 1:00-3:00PM
Current Event Quizzes	8%	Throughout the semester

In addition to taking the exams and quizzes, students are **required** to read the assigned pages, be prepared for **discussion**, and to attend class on time and for the duration of the class! **Those who come late or leave early will miss quizzes and find that their grade suffers. I also do not allow computers to be used in my classroom.** You will have to take notes in a notebook.

### GRADING SCALE:

A = 94% and above	C = 74-76%
A- = 90-93%	C- = 70-73%
B+ = 87-89%	D+ = 67-69%
B = 84-86%	D = 64-66%
B- = 80-83%	D- = 60-63%
C+ = 77-79%	F = 59% and below

**EXAMS:** The exams will consist of multiple choice and long answer/short essay questions and will cover material from both lecture and readings.

I will only make special arrangements for students who miss a test for a **compelling reason** (serious illness, family crisis etc.) and who notify me and receive my permission prior to the exam (or in the case of an emergency as soon as possible). If you do not meet these conditions you will **earn a zero**. If you do meet these conditions, an **all essay makeup** exam will be administered.

For students who have special needs or require accommodations through Disability Services, please advise me of your situation **prior** to the exam (preferably at the start of the semester) so arrangements can be made -- and remind me of the arrangements the class before the exam.

**CURRENT EVENT QUIZZES:** Current events that occur in Washington D.C., in other places around the country and in other countries around the world are valuable supplements to the material you read in your textbook and hear about in class. I want you to learn about contemporary political events. To encourage you to read the newspaper and watch the news, I will give you 10 short quizzes on (American **national** government) current events throughout the semester. These quizzes will occur randomly – they can happen on any day and at any point in the class (beginning, middle or end).

There will be **no makeups** given for these quizzes no matter how good the excuse. If you come late to class when a quiz is in progress you will not be given extra time to finish the quiz. However, your two lowest grades on quizzes will be dropped when calculating your final grade. This means that the quizzes are worth 8% of your final grade. Take the quizzes seriously as they will be the difference between an A and a B.



Oct. 22-29            Money and Elections  
                                    B&W: Chapter 14 (pp.641-670)

**Nov.3                    Exam #2**

Nov. 5-10            Bureaucracy  
                                    B&W: Chapter 9

Nov. 12-19            Judiciary  
                                    B&W: Chapter 10

**Nov. 24-26            THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS**

**American Citizens and Politics**

Dec. 1-3              Civil liberties  
                                    B&W: Chapter 5

Dec. 3-8              Civil rights  
                                    B&W: Chapter 6

Dec. 10                Voting Rights  
                                    B&W: Chapter 14 (pp. 623-640)

**Dec. 15                Final Exam (1-3PM)**