

INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT- Political Science 1120

Instructor: Dr. David Briley

Time: MW 4:00-6:45

Place: Room # 327 Rogers-Stout

Office/Office Hours: 317 Rogers-Stout/ Before class on MW or by appointment

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PURPOSE: Political Science 1120 is designed to give students a survey of American government focusing on the United States Constitution, American political culture, political institutions, and policy processes. The course is divided into six broad topics:

- 1) Overview of American Political History since the New Deal,
- 2) American Democracy and Political Culture,
- 3) Civil Rights and Liberties,
- 4) People and Politics,
- 5) Political Institutions, and
- 6) Public Policy.

REQUIRED READINGS: 1) AMERICAN GOVERNMENT: THE ESSENTIALS; Seventh Edition. The authors are James Q. Wilson, John J. DiIulio, Jr., Meena Bose, and Matthew Levendusky. 16th Edition, Cengage Learning, 2019.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Classes will be lecture-oriented but will also involve a certain amount of input from the students. There will be occasions in which there will be some discussion of current issues in American politics. Discussion will be encouraged from time-to-time and will represent 10% of the final grade. This will not be your typical class where the teacher talks and the students listen and take notes. This should help you as well as your other students and the instructor. Attendance is not mandatory, but if you do not attend regularly, you blow any chance of a good grade on the discussion portion. If you are unable to attend class, it is your responsibility to get any available notes/materials from other students. All assignments from the book or outside sources will be given in class. There will be three tests that account for 75% of the final grade. A test or quiz cannot be made up unless you notify me before the time of the exam. There will be two quizzes given. These will account for 15% of your grade.

GRADING SCHEME:

93-100=A	90-92=A-	
88-89=B+	83-87=B	80-82=B-
78-79=C+	73-77=C	70-72=C-
68-69=D+	60-67=D	
0-59=F		

READING ASSIGNMENTS/COURSE SCHEDULE: This is a tentative schedule. There will be some additional reading assignments outside of the text made throughout the semester. I will announce these in class and post their internet address or put it on D2L.

1) Test #1 (approximately 3 weeks) covers reading material from the following:

* Chapters 1-6 from Wilson, DiIulio, Bose, and Levendusky. (WDBL)

2) Test #2 (approximately 2 weeks)

* Chapters 7-12 from WDBL

3) Test #3 (approximately 2 weeks)

* Chapters 13-16 from WDBL