

MyPoliSciLab Course ID – haynie61652
Course Name – POLI 2051 Introduction to American Government

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COURSE OBJECTIVE:

This course will introduce students to the principles, institutions and processes of the American political system. This knowledge will provide a foundation enabling students to better understand and critically evaluate our form of government. Specifically, this course is designed to familiarize students with political behavior and its relationship to the executive, legislative, and judicial functions of government. Students also will be introduced to the bureaucracy responsible for administering social welfare, regulatory, foreign, economic, and fiscal policies.

GENERAL EDUCATION OBJECTIVES:

This course also fulfills three hours of the social science general education requirement. As such, it aims to address in a sustained way the different levels of association, from friends and family, to economy and polity, even to civilizations of global significance; The patterns by which societies organize how people relate not only to each other but to the world around them, ranging from relations to their physical environment to relations to the divine. Students completing the course will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

O'Connor, Karen and Larry J. Sabato. 2013. *American Government: Roots and Reform*. New York: Longman.

Students can elect to purchase a printed copy at the bookstore of the O'Connor and Sabato text which will have an access code to the required supplement – Mypoliscilab. Students may also purchase the electronic version of the text which will also include access to Mypoliscilab. If you purchase a used copy of the book you will need to purchase an access code separately to Mypoliscilab. If you choose to buy the book electronically with no hard copy, the least expensive option is to buy directly from www.mypoliscilab.com.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENT: Mypoliscilab. The access code to Mypoliscilab comes with NEW textbooks. Students purchasing used texts will have to purchase the Mypoliscilab separately. This can be done directly from www.mypoliscilab.com. See the instructions under "Accessing your Mypoliscilab" on your Moodle course page. Once you obtain access you will be asked to enter the Course ID (haynie65824) and Course Name (POLI 2051 Introduction to American Government LSU). I have provided a week before the first assignment is due to give you time to gain access to Mypoliscilab. Below is the information provided by Pearson's for the text and Mypoliscilab.

	Includes Pearson eText?	Bookstore ISBN(s)
MyLab (least expensive)	with etext	0205937284 9780205937288
MyLab + Books a la carte	with etext	0205956815 9780205956814
MyLab + Print Text (most expensive)	with etext	0205950035 9780205950034

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students must read the textbook, complete the on-line multimedia assignments, and take three exams. The third exam is NOT cumulative. The reading assignments come from the chapters of the textbook. All of the multimedia assignments are found on MyPolisciLab. You must read the chapters, take the Moodle chapter quizzes, complete the multimedia assignment and take the Moodle multimedia quizzes by the dates noted on the syllabus. After reading each chapter and completing the multimedia assignments, **you will then take the chapter quiz and/or multimedia quiz IN Moodle** by the dates noted on the syllabus. MyPolisciLab also has a number of helpful study aids that I would recommend, including flashcards and additional video and interactive assignments.

Quizzes on the chapters and on the multimedia assignments will be equal to 30 points. The syllabus quiz, and each chapter quiz is worth 1 point and each multimedia assignment is worth 1 point. Students can complete the assignments at their own pace. **However, chapter quizzes and on-line multimedia assignments MUST BE COMPLETED by 9:30 am on the dates listed on the syllabus.** For example, the Chapter 6 Civil Rights quiz is due by 9:30 am February 17. Because students may encounter technical difficulties that require assistance, I urge you to begin the assignments SOONER RATHER THAN LATER. You can take the quiz as often as you like to improve your grade UP TO the time listed on the syllabus.

In addition, three exams of equal weight (50 points each) will be administered which are open book, open notes, etc. The final examination will not be cumulative. Students will have a 23 hour and 55 minute window to take the exams as noted on the syllabus below. For example, the first exam's window begins at 12:00am on February 24 and continues to 11:55pm on February 24. The exam will consist of 50 questions and **students will have only one attempt and only 30 minutes to take the exam during the test window.** This means that you may select any 30-minute window between 12:00am February 24 and 11:55pm February 24 to take the first exam. Please be extremely careful when taking the exams – **you will not be allowed any additional chances.** I encourage you to ensure that you have secure computer access. Wireless access can sometimes be unreliable. Should you lose wireless access during your exam you will not be allowed to repeat it. You will need to listen to the Power Point lectures posted to Moodle which will prepare you for the exams. While reading the chapters, the chapter quizzes, and completing the multimedia assignments will also help prepare you for the exams, the majority of the material on the test will come DIRECTLY from the Power Point lectures. While you may use your notes and textbook, you have only 30 minutes. **IF YOU DO NOT STUDY IN ADVANCE** it will be impossible for you to do well. It will not be feasible to look up each of the questions in the text or your notes in the time constraint set. However, students who study hard prior to the exam do well. Makeup exams will not be given unless the instructor is notified **in advance** and agrees the absence is a university excused absence according to PS-22. Makeup examinations are all essay comprised of 20 identifications and 10 short answer essay questions and no notes or text or other ancillary study aids are allowed. Students will be required to come to my office to take their make-up examination. Your final grade is computed from the **SUM** of the three tests and the on-line assignments as follows:

162-180 = A
144-161 = B
126-143 = C
108-125 = D
Below 107 = F

Should you have questions or issues, contacting me by email is best (pohayn@lsu.edu), but my office phone is 578-2534, and I am happy to set appointment times that are convenient for you.

COURSE OUTLINE

Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
January		
15	Acquire Access to MyPoliSciLab	
17	Access MyPoliSciLab – see “Accessing Your MyPoliSciLab” on Moodle Topic 1	
20	Martin Luther King Holiday	

- 22 Learn how to access your multi-media assignments – see “How to Access Your Multi-Media Assignments” on Moodle Topic 1
- 24 Read the syllabus – [Moodle Syllabus Quiz Due](#)
- 27 Read Chapter 1 - The Political Landscape – [Moodle Chapter 1 Quiz Due](#)
- 29 Watch the Chapter 1 Video: The Basics - [Moodle Chapter 1 “The Basics” Video Quiz Due](#)
- 31 Read Chapter 2 - The Constitution - [Moodle Chapter 2 Quiz Due](#)

February

- 3 The Constitution - Simulation 2: You Are a Founder – [Moodle Simulation 2 Quiz Due](#)
- 5 Read Chapter 3 - Federalism [Moodle Chapter 3 Quiz Due](#)
- 7 Read Chapter 9 –The Judiciary – [Moodle Chapter 9 Quiz Due](#)
- 10 The Judiciary – Simulation 10: You Are a Clerk to Supreme Court – [Moodle Simulation 10 Quiz Due](#)
- [BEGIN STUDYING FOR FIRST EXAMINATION!!](#)**
- 12 Read Chapter 4 - Civil Liberties – [Moodle Chapter 4 Quiz Due](#)
- 14 Civil Liberties – Simulation 5: You Are a Police – [Moodle Simulation 5 Quiz Due](#)
- 17 Read Chapter 5 – Civil Rights – [Moodle Chapter 5 Quiz Due](#)
- 19 EXTRA CREDIT (1 POINT): Civil Rights Chapter 5 – In the Real World Video – [Chapter 5 In the Real World Quiz Due](#)
- 21 Study time for First Examination
- 24 **FIRST EXAMINATION** *The exam time will be 30 minutes. You may elect to take the exam any time from 12:00am February 24through 11:55pm February 24. You will have only one attempt.*
- 26 Read Chapter 10 – Public Opinion - [Moodle Chapter 10 Quiz Due](#)
- 28 Public Opinion Simulation 11: You Are a Polling Consultant – [Moodle Simulation 11 Quiz Due](#)

March

- 3 Mardi Gras Holiday
- 5 Mardi Gras Holiday
- 7 Read Chapter 11 – Political Parties – [Moodle Chapter 11 Quiz Due](#)

10 **EXTRA CREDIT (1 POINT): Political Parties – Simulation 14: You Are a Voter Registration Volunteer - Moodle Simulation 14 Quiz Due**

12 **Read Chapter 12 – Elections and Voting – Moodle Chapter 12 Quiz Due**

14 **Elections and Voting – Watch Colbert Super PAC Video – Colbert Super PAC Quiz Due**

BEGIN STUDYING FOR SECOND EXAMINATION!!

17 **Read Chapter 13 – Campaign Process – Moodle Chapter 13 Quiz Due**

19 **Read Chapter 14 – News Media – Moodle Chapter 14 Quiz Due**

21 **News Media – Simulation 15: You Are a Newspaper Editor – Moodle Simulation 15 Quiz Due**

24 **Read Chapter 15 – Interest Groups – Moodle Chapter 15 Quiz Due**

26 **EXTRA CREDIT (1 POINT): Chapter 15 “In The Read World” Quiz Due**

28 **SECOND EXAMINATION** *The exam time will be 30 minutes. You may elect to take the exam any time from 12:00am March 28 through 11:55pm March 28. You will have only one attempt.*

31 **Read Chapter 6 – Congress – Moodle Chapter 6 Quiz Due**

April

2 **Congress – Chapter 6 “In the Real World” Video – In the Real World Video Quiz Due**

4 **Read Chapter 7 – President - Moodle Chapter 7 Quiz Due**

7 **EXTRA CREDIT (1 POINT): Simulation 8: You Are a First-Term President – Simulation 8 Quiz Due**

9 **Read Chapter 8 – The Executive Branch – Moodle Chapter 8 Quiz Due**

11 **The Executive Branch – Simulation 9: You Are the Head of FEMA – Simulation 9 Quiz Due**

14 **SPRING BREAK**

16 **SPRING BREAK**

18 **SPRING BREAK**

21 **Read Chapter 16 – Domestic Policy – Moodle Chapter 16 Quiz Due**

23 **Domestic Policy – Simulation 19 You Are an OMB Staff Member – Simulation 19 Quiz Due**

25 **Read Chapter 17 – Economic Policy Moodle Chapter 17 Quiz Due**

28 **Watch Daily Show “Debt 2012 – “Debt 2012” Quiz Due**

30
May

Read Chapter 18 – Foreign & Military Policy Moodle Chapter 18 Quiz Due

2

EXTRA CREDIT (1 POINT): Foreign Policy - Watch Colbert Video “The Word: Due or Die” – Colbert Video “The Word: Due or Die” Quiz Due

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Complete ANONYMOUS course evaluation

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THIRD EXAMINATION *The exam time will be 30 minutes. You may elect to take the exam any time from 12:00am May6 through 11:55pm May 6. You will have only one attempt.*