

**American National Government 101-001, 101-002, 101-004**  
**Fall 2009**  
**LH 110**

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Office hours: Drop In Hours are 30 Minutes Following Classes  
Other Times By Appointment Only

\*\*\*Do Not Bring Cell Phones or Ipods to Class!

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the structures and basic principles of the American National Government. The student should learn to understand the unique characteristics of particular institutions (Presidency, Congress, Federal Courts) and functions (federalism, separation of powers, representation and judicial review) in the political system, the student should also understand government in terms of the interactions of institutions and groups and individuals in the political arena. In short, the student should understand American government as a process, as a set of dynamic relationships, as well as a legal structure. Finally, the student, in light of this understanding of American government, should evaluate the goals and performance of the American political system and should become a participant in the political processes.

Course Requirement

The textbook for the course is Barbour and Wright, Keeping the Republic, 2003, current edition. Assigned readings come primarily from this book. The lectures will supplement and explain the assigned readings. Having done the assigned readings **before** lectures, the student should be ready to initiate and participate in class discussion. Additionally, the student is expected to be informed about current public issues and problems. Only two cuts are permitted; over-cutting will **lower** one's final grade by **one** letter grade! There are no make-up exams. Consult the listed web sites for updated information as well as overviews of federal government organizations and agencies.

American Government Web Sites:

<http://congress.org/>  
<http://www.house.gov/>  
<http://www.senate.gov/>  
<http://www.capweb.net/>  
<http://www.rollcall.com/>  
<http://www.heritage.org/>  
<http://www.democrats.org/index.html>  
<http://www.gop.org/>  
<http://www.thomas.loc.gov/>  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/>  
<http://www.defenselink.mil>  
<http://state.gov>  
<http://library.uncwil.edu/subject/Polisci/>

## **Important Dates:**

Class Begins	Wednesday, August 19th
Last Day to Drop	Wednesday, August 26th
Fall Break	October 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup>
Thanksgiving	November 25 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup>
Last Class	December 2nd
Exams	December 7 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup>
Commencement	December 12th

## **Topic Outline**

I. Reading Requirements  
1<sup>st</sup> wk Chapter 1: Politics: Who gets what and how?  
Chapter 2: American Citizens and Political Culture

II. Sign Learning Agreement  
2<sup>nd</sup> wk Chapter 3: Politics of the American Founding

3<sup>rd</sup> wk Chapter 4: Federalism and the US Constitution

**EXAM Chapter 1, 2, 3, 4 = 30%**

4<sup>th</sup> wk Chapter 15: The Media

5<sup>th</sup> wk Chapter 11: Public Opinion  
Chapter 13: Interest Groups

6<sup>th</sup> wk Chapter 12: Political Parties  
Chapter 14: Voting, Campaigns and Elections

**EXAM Chapter 15, 11, 13, 12, 14 = 30%**

7<sup>th</sup> wk Chapter 7: Congress

8<sup>th</sup> wk Chapter 8: The Presidency

9<sup>th</sup> wk Chapter 9: The Bureaucracy

10<sup>th</sup> wk Chapter 10: The American Legal System and the Courts

**FINAL EXAM Chapter 7, 8, 9, 10 = 30%**

**Class Participation = 10%**  
**And My Evaluations**

**Total = 100%**

## **Final Exams:**

<b>PLS 101-001</b>	<b>Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> 8:00-11:00am</b>
<b>PLS 101-002</b>	<b>Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> 11:30-2:30</b>
<b>PLS 101-004</b>	<b>Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 11:30-2:30</b>