UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT & POLITICS
Fall 2015 Syllabus

Course Overview
This course is designed to give the student a comprehensive survey of the workings of government and politics. These two divisions cover types of government, systems of governance, political theory, the American government, participation, political parties, civics, public policy, and a range of other issues. Students will be asked regularly to examine multiple aspects and facets of governance and society through a variety of assignments, readings, and activities.

Textbook and Supplemental Readings

Additional readings as assigned by instructor.

Grading Scale & Categories
The following grading scale and categories will be utilized in determining quarter, semester, and course grades.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100-90%</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Unit Examinations</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89-80%</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Chapter Content Quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>79-70%</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>69-60%</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Homework &amp; Assignments</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>59% &amp; Below</td>
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Examinations & Assignments
Grades in this course will be based on the following assignments.

**Examinations** – At the conclusion of each unit of study a comprehensive examination will be administered to students assessing their knowledge of the subject matter covered. Each exam will consist of limited to no multiple choice, short-answer identification questions, and long-answer essay questions. The amount of points per exam will vary slightly, but will mostly remain consist across the board.

**Chapter Content Quizzes** – At the conclusion of each chapter a content-based multiple choice quiz will be administered to students assessing their master of the content covered. Each quiz will consist only of multiple choice and/or vocabulary-based questions. The amount of points per quiz will vary by chapter.

**Research Paper** – Over the course of the semester, one (1) research paper will be assigned to students with benchmarks for completion covering one (1) topic of government and/or politics. This paper is expected to be 4-6 pages in length, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12-point font and written in APA style with a references page and in-text citations.

**Homework & Assignments** – Over the course of the semester a series of in-class and out-of-class projects, readings, document-based questions, and other assignments will be given.
Tips for Success (#ProTips)
If you want to succeed in this course, it will be critical for you to do a few things:
1. Always show up to class, and show up on time. You can’t learn if you’re not here.
2. Be responsible for your learning. Complete assignments, take notes, read the text.
3. Don’t miss deadlines. When you are given deadlines for a project, write them down in your calendar or planner, and be self-motivated enough to complete them without reminder.

Course Scope & Sequence
To make the vast amount of information we cover easier to digest, the course is divided into units and sub-units of content arranged by theme. Some units will take longer than others and some will cover more information, but every attempt will be made to keep the content and information understandable and not overwhelming. We will cover them in the following order.

UNIT 1 – The American System
   Chapter 1 – The Democratic Republic
   Chapter 2 – Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
   Chapter 3 – Federalism

UNIT 2 – Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
   Chapter 4 – Civil Liberties
   Chapter 5 – Civil Rights

UNIT 3 – Participation and Politics
   Chapter 6 – Public Opinion and Political Socialization
   Chapter 7 – Interest Groups
   Chapter 8 – Political Parties
   Chapter 9 – Voting and Elections
   Chapter 10 – Campaigning for Office
   Chapter 11 – The Media & Cyberpolitics

UNIT 4 – Political Institutions
   Chapter 12 – The Congress
   Chapter 13 – The President
   Chapter 14 – The Bureaucracy
   Chapter 15 – The Courts

UNIT 5 – Public Policy
   Chapter 16 – Domestic Policy
   Chapter 17 – Economic Policy
   Chapter 18 – Foreign Policy and National Security

UNIT 6 – State and Local Politics
   Chapter 19 – State and Local Government
Classroom Expectations
It is expected that students will conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times throughout the course. All building and district safety, behavior, participation, and conduct policies will be followed. Additionally, students will be expected to be part of creating a safe learning environment for all members of the course. Discrimination of any kind (including but not limited to: harassment, rude remarks, bullying, physical aggression) will not be tolerated. All students, regardless of race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, creed, or socio-economic status, deserve the opportunity to learn in a safe and accepting environment.

Plagiarism
Any instance of taking the work of another without appropriate attribution (parenthetical, footnote, end note, references page, etc.) is considered plagiarism whether it is directly copying and pasting someone else’s published work, copying off of a neighbor, taking someone else’s idea (published or not), or using the same phrasing as another class member. Plagiarism is absolutely unacceptable and will result in a grade of 0% for the assignment in question.