

Please read Chapter 1 before First Class

SPRINGFIELD COLLEGE IN ILLINOIS

Fall 2006E
Classroom D229
Classes: Tuesday, 6:00 - 10:00 p.m.
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Office Hours in D229,
Tues. 5:45 - 6:00 pm
Phone: 544-4868 (w)

American Federal Government PSC 210-70

I. Course Description: An introduction to the organization and function of American national government, principles of the U.S. Constitution, operation of the federal system and institutions of government (Congress, Presidency and Supreme Court); the nature of political beliefs and political participation (political parties, interest groups, elections and voting) and contemporary public policy issues. IAI S5 900; IAI PLS 911. 3 hours

II. Textbook: Patterson, Thomas E., *We The People*, 6th Edition (2006).

III. Mission Statement

The mission of Springfield College in Illinois is to provide students the best liberal arts education in the Ursuline tradition of a nurturing faith-based environment. We prepare students for a life of learning, leadership and service in a diverse world.

IV. Goals, Objectives, and Student Learning Outcomes:

A. Goals

Students will develop an understanding of federalism and the form and function of the government of the United States.

Students will gain an appreciation of the influence of the federal government and the U.S. Constitution on individual citizens.

Students will develop an understanding of the democratic process.

B. Common Student Learning Objectives – The following CSLOs, adopted December 9, 2004, apply to this course:

Content Knowledge (Lifelong Learning) – CK-1 – Know and apply the central concepts of the subject matter

Communication Skills (Lifelong Learning and Leadership) – CS-1 – Communicate effectively in oral and written forms

Problem Solving Skills (Lifelong Learning and Leadership) – PS-1 – Use inquiry and collaboration to solve problems

Social Responsibility (Service and Leadership) – SR-2 – Make ethical and informed decisions

Global Perspectives (Diversity) – GP-1 – Recognize the importance of diversity of opinion, abilities, and cultures

Self-Direction and Personal Growth (Lifelong Learning) – SP-1 – Develop a sense of intellectual curiosity

C. Course-Based Student Learning Objectives (CBSLO)

1. To demonstrate an ability to analyze and apply the basic principles of federalism. (CS-1, PS-1, SP-1)
2. To demonstrate an understanding of the U.S. governmental structure including checks and balances between branches (CK-1, CS-1)
3. To analyze the public's input into the national government and political process (CK-1, SR-2, GP-1, SP-1)
4. To understand the rights protected by the U.S. Constitution (CK-1, SR-2, GP-1)

V. Teaching Methods:

Lecture/Class Discussion (both in small groups and as a whole)

VI. Course Requirements

Attendance:

Attendance is required. Classroom discussion is an important element of the course, and therefore, more than one absence may result in the final grade being lowered.

Class Participation:

Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the reading assignment and to participate in in-class activities.

Academic Honesty Policy:

Plagiarism. Plagiarism is defined as follows: "The deliberate and knowing presentation of another person's original ideas or creative expressions as one's own. Generally, plagiarism is immoral but not illegal. If the expression's creator gives unrestricted permission for its use and the user claims the expression as original, the user commits plagiarism but does not violate copyright laws. If the original expression is copied without permission, the plagiarist may violate copyright laws, even if credit goes to

the creator. And if the plagiarism results in material gain, it may be deemed a passing-off activity that violates the Lanham Act." Black's Law Dictionary, 8th ed. (2004), p. 1187. [The Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C., is the federal law regulating, and protecting, trademarks.] Also useful to establish guidelines for delineating plagiarism is Diana Hacker's definition: "Three different acts are considered plagiarism: (1) failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas, (2) failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks, and (3) failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words." (*A Writer's Reference*, by Diana Hacker, Bedford St. Martin's Press, 2003, page 331.) Some instances of plagiarism may, in fact, be violations of copyright law and subject to prosecution. The SCI Student Handbook lists plagiarism as a serious breach of conduct standards and will result in disciplinary action.

Reading Assignments: See course outline. **Please read Chapter 1 for Class 1. Students should read assignment before the indicated class and be prepared to discuss the material covered.**

VII. Means of Evaluation

Course Requirements:

Examinations	40%
In-class participation	30%
Project	30%

Examinations will include a mid-term and a final exam, consisting of multiple choice and essay questions based on textbook assignments, lectures, guest speakers, and student presentations of written projects. (CBLSO 1, 2, 3 & 4). Each student will write an 8-10 page paper on a chosen topic involving American federal government and give an oral presentation of the paper. The presentations will be made to the class in week 6. (CBSLO 2, 3, & 4). Keep in mind that plagiarism will result in disciplinary action. The SCI Student Handbook defines plagiarism as a serious breach of conduct standards. Plagiarism is defined as, "The act of appropriating the literary composition of another, or parts or passages of his writing, or the ideas of language of the same and passing them off as the product of one's own mind." Black's Law Dictionary 1035 (5th Ed. 1979).

Class participation will constitute 30 % of the class grade.

Grading scale:

A = 91 -100 %

B = 81 -90 %

C = 71 - 80 %

D = 61 - 70 %

E = 60 % and below

VIII. Course Outline

Students should read assignment before the indicated class and be prepared to discuss the material covered.

Class 1 Aug. 22	Constitutional Principles American Political Culture Constitutional Democracy Chapters 1 & 2
Class 2 Aug. 29	Constitutional Principles Continued Federalism Civil Liberties Equal Rights Chapters 3, 4, & 5
Class 3 Sept. 5	Citizen Participation Public Opinion Political Parties, Campaigns, and Elections Chapters 6, 7, & 8
Class 4 Sept. 12	Mid-Term Exam Interest Groups The News Media Chapters 6 & 7
Class 5 Sept. 19	Congress The Presidency The Federal Bureaucracy Chapters 11, 12 & 13
Class 6	The Judiciary – structure and function

Sept. 26 Project presentations
Chapter 14

Class 7 Government Policy
Oct. 3 Economic
 Environmental
 Welfare
 Education
 Foreign Relations
 Defense
Chapters 15, 16, & 17

Class 8 **Review & Final Exam**
Oct. 10

IX. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Springfield College in Illinois provides individuals with disabilities reasonable accommodations to participate in educational programs, activities, and services. Students with disabilities requiring accommodations to participate in college-sponsored programs, activities, and services or to meet course requirements should contact the Dean of Student Affairs as early as possible.

X. Assessment: Classroom Assessment Techniques

The goals, objectives, and student learning outcomes listed above will be assessed through the written assignments, presentations, and exams. The instructor will also utilize prior knowledge inventories, directed paraphrasing, RSQ2C exercises, misconception/preconception checks, and other Classroom Assessment Techniques as deemed necessary to provide continuous improvement in instruction. All students are required to participate in all assessment measures. Feedback on lectures and assignments is encouraged and will be respected.