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National Government Syllabus

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Dr. Samson, LUB 206 Office: 12:30-1:30 MW, 10-11 TH Phone: 7935

DESCRIPTION

This course offers an introduction to the American political system with an emphasis on its operative principles and practical issues. The course objectives are as follows:

1. To provide the student with frameworks for understanding, evaluating, and interacting with the structures, functions, and policies of the national government in the context of our American political culture.
2. To examine areas of constitutional and political continuity and change within the federal system.
3. To develop skills in political research and effective citizenship.
4. To enable students to explore the role of ideological presuppositions that help shape contemporary social and political issues.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Each student is responsible for all assigned readings, including handouts and other supplementary materials. Students should keep lecture notes and supplementary materials in a looseleaf notebook.
2. Students will be tested on their knowledge of material covered in the reading assignments and classroom lectures through five exams (20% apiece).
3. Attendance is required. One week's absence may be excused for good cause. Each week's absence after the first will result in the loss of one grade point.
4. Five points extra credit may be earned on the third exam by attending two sessions of the Critical Issues Symposium or listening to two lectures by Russell Kirk on reserve in the Media Center.
5. The grading scale is 93-100=A, 91-92=A-, 89-90=B+, 83-88=B, 81-82=B-, 79-80=C+, 73-78=C, 71-72=C-, 69-70=D+, 63-68=D, 61-62=D-, 0-60=F.

READING

Textbook:

Holmes, Jack E., Michael J. Engelhardt, and Robert E. Elder, Jr. The System Works! U. S. Government: Fundamentals and Alternative Viewpoints [H].

CALENDAR

FIRST DAY: H. 1
SECOND DAY: H. 1-2
THIRD DAY: H. 2

FOURTH DAY: H. 2-3; FIRST EXAM
FIFTH DAY: H. 3-4
SIXTH DAY: H. 4-5
SEVENTH DAY: H. 5; SECOND EXAM
EIGHTH DAY: H. 6
NINTH DAY: H. 7
TENTH DAY: H. 7; THIRD EXAM
ELEVENTH DAY: H. 8
TWELFTH DAY: H. 9
THIRTEENTH DAY: H. 10; FOURTH EXAM
FOURTEENTH DAY: H. 11
FIFTEENTH DAY: H. 12; FIFTH EXAM