

Spring 1997

State and Federal Government II Syllabus

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STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT II

POLS 2310

Spring 1997

Dr. Samson

Hardy 10

Office: MWF 8-10, MF 2-4; TR 8-9:30, 2:30-3

Phone: x4551

DESCRIPTION

A study of the federal and state constitutions and governments with emphasis on governmental structures, processes, and policy making. Meets the requirements for Texas teacher certification.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Each student is responsible for assigned readings and should keep a looseleaf notebook of class materials.
2. Participation is an essential part of class. Reading assignments should be completed before the class meets. Be prepared to discuss textbook material, readings, and current events.
3. Regular attendance is required. Lengthy absences (more than one week) and erratic attendance tend to affect grades. Exams must be taken at the scheduled date and time.
4. Students will be tested on the lecture, reading, and discussion material through five exams. The lowest score will be dropped.
5. Each student will take a pass/fail political geography quiz.
6. For up to two points extra credit, students may write two 2-3 page article abstracts, typed and double-spaced. The first abstract is due April 3 and the second is due May 1. Do not use plastic covers or tabs.

READING

Textbook

Burns, Peltason, Cronin, Magleby. Government by the People, Texas Version 1995 [B]

SCHEDULE

PART ONE: AMERICAN POLITICAL CULTURE AND GEOGRAPHY (January 30-February 11)

Reading B. 7-8

PART TWO: CONGRESS (February 11-18)

Reading B. 14

FIRST EXAM: February 20

PART THREE: TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND EXECUTIVE (February 20-March 4)

Reading B. 25-26

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY QUIZ: March 4

PART FOUR: THE PRESIDENCY (March 4-18)

Reading B. 15

SECOND EXAM: March 20

PART FIVE: THE BUREAUCRACY (March 20-27)

Reading B. 17

PART SIX: THE FEDERAL AND TEXAS JUDICIARIES (March 27-April 8)

Reading B. 4-6

THIRD EXAM: April 10

PART SEVEN: ECONOMIC AND REGULATORY PUBLIC POLICY (April 10-24)

Reading B. 29, 18-19

FOURTH EXAM: April 29

PART EIGHT: SOCIAL, FOREIGN, AND DEFENSE POLICY (April 29-May 15)

Reading B. 20-21, 30

FINAL EXAM: May 20, 8:30 AM