

Fall 1996

## State and Federal Government I Syllabus

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## STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT I

POLS 2310

Autumn 1996

Dr. Samson

Hardy 10 Office: MWF 8-10, MF 2-4; TR 9-9:30, 12-1, 2:30-3 Phone: x4551

## DESCRIPTION

A study of the federal and state constitutions and governments with emphasis on elections, political parties, and interest groups. 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 three objective exams. Each exam represents 30% of the grade.
5. Three or four pop quizzes will be given on the reading material. The lowest score will be dropped. Together the quizzes represent 10% of the grade.
6. Each student will take a pass/fail political geography quiz.
7. 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 October 31 and the second is due November 21. Do not use plastic covers or tabs.

## READING

**Textbook**

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

**Reserve Desk**

Notebook: Study Aids and Supplementary Readings. [N]

## SCHEDULE

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION (September 3-10)

Readings: B. (Burns, etc., chapter) 30, 22

PART TWO: CONSTITUTIONALISM AND FEDERALISM (September 12-October 3)

Readings: B. 1-3; N. Declaration of Independence; Constitution; Locke, Second Treatise on Civil Government (excerpts); Herbert W. Titus, "America's Declaration of Independence: A Christian Legacy;" The Federalist, Nos. 10, 51.

FIRST EXAM: October 8

PART THREE: STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (October 10-22)

Readings: B. 23, 28

POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY QUIZ: October 22 (last 25 minutes of class)

PART FOUR: PARTIES, ELECTIONS, AND THE MEDIA (October 24-November 7)

Readings: B. 10-13

SECOND EXAM: November 12

PART FIVE: INTEREST GROUPS (November 14-19)

Readings: B. 9, 24

PART SIX: RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES (November 21-December 10)

Readings: B. 4-6

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, December 17, 8:30 AM