

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD TAKOMA PARK

Professor Navarro Pulley

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202 997-0981)

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE NUMBER: **POLI 101**

COURSE TITLE: **AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Structure, powers, and processes of the American political system: executive, legislative, and judicial branches; civil liberties, federalism, democratic patterns and backgrounds, public opinion, pressure group politics, political parties, constitutional mechanisms, and administrative establishment; foreign and domestic policy. Emphasis on national level. (BSSD) (CE: TP/SS)
Assessment levels: EN 101/101A, RD 120. Three hours each week.

REQUIRED TEXT(S):

WE THE PEOPLE by Benjamin Ginsberg (*9th edition, Latest*), W.W. Norton & Company, Inc. 2013

I. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course will acquaint the student with the necessary information to become an active member of our democratic system. The three branches of government, the levels of government, and the interaction of these institutions will be examined. Foreign and domestic policies of our government will be studied and discussed. The U.S. Constitution will be a major emphasis of study as we examine the changing nature of our society as it is anchored by the political skill of the founding fathers.

II. TEACHING APPROACH

I promote discussion and participation during the class period as it will improve your understanding of the materials in this course. It is important that all folks feel comfortable in freely expressing their opinions and comments so long as they are constructive and conducive to the academic environment. Also, it is important to understand, however, that developing an appreciation for the many different lenses through which persons can see things is critical to the development of a keen mind and critical thought process. It is my responsibility as the professor in this course to present the course materials to you in an understandable form. I will do this, and I will also address questions and concerns regarding the material covered in this course

as they arise. It is the student's responsibility to complete the readings prior to class and come prepared to discuss the material assigned for each particular day.

III. BIBLIOGRAPHY / SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

- A. WE THE PEOPLE by Benjamin Ginsberg (*9th edition, Latest*), W.W. Norton & Company, Inc. 2013
- B. Additional assigned reading with relevance to the topic under discussion, including magazines and newspaper articles
- C. Reference books and periodicals

IV. STATEMENT AND POLICY ON CHEATING, PLAGIARISM, AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Students are required to perform all work specified by the faculty, and they are responsible for the content and integrity of all academic work submitted. A violation of academic integrity will occur if a student: (1) knowingly represents work of others as one's own, (2) uses or obtains unauthorized assistance in any academic work, (3) gives fraudulent assistance to another student, or (4) furnishes false information or other misuse of college documents.

In cases of suspected violation of academic integrity, the incident is to be reported to the Office of the Dean of Academic Services, and an investigation will be conducted as appropriate. A student found guilty of violating the rules of academic integrity by a committee composed of the Dean of Student Services and the Dean of Academic Services (or their designees) shall be considered failed in personal obligation to the College; such failure will be subject to disciplinary action by the College. Unless otherwise notified, the instructor will allow students who are pending disciplinary to attend class. **ALSO, see HONOR CODE ATTACHED.**

V. MISSED EXAM POLICY

Any student who misses an exam will contact the professor within one day and explain why he/she missed the exam. If the excuse is sufficient, the student will have an opportunity to make up the exam. The makeup exam need not be the same exam given on the original scheduled date.

VI. LATE WORK POLICY

A written assignment that is turned in late will be subject to grade deduction.

VII. ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are expected to attend all classes and participate in all class discussions. Attendance and participation will be part of the grading system.

VIII. COURSE SCHEDULE: The course will follow the listed chapters in the required exams.

Chapter 1	American Political Culture	Chapter 2	The Founding and the Constitution	Chapter 3		
Federalism	Chapter 4	Civil Liberties	Chapter 5	Civil Rights	Chapter 6	Public
Opinion	Chapter 7	The Media				

Chapter 8 and Elections	Political Participation and Voting	Chapter 9 Political Parties	Chapter 10 Campaigns
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MIDTERM EXAM

Chapter 11 Chapter 14 Chapter 16 Chapter 17 Chapter 18	Groups and Interests Bureaucracy in a Democracy Government and the Economy Social Policy Foreign Policy and Democracy	Chapter 12 Congress	Chapter 13 The Presidency Chapter 15 The Federal Courts
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FINAL EXAM

The above schedule is to be considered a guide and may be modified or adjusted as deemed necessary by the instructor.

IX. GRADING (90-100 = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D; and 59 and below = F) Midterm 30% Final Exam 40% Class Participation (10%)/Related Events Presentation¹ (20%)
Total 100%

¹The student will give a 3-5-minute oral presentation as part of the Related Events Presentation.