

## Political Science 1010, Section 006

Thomas F. Eamon

Fall Semester 2009

Tuesday/Thursday 12:30

Welcome! This is a fascinating subject, one that often brings out disagreements. But to get things done a degree of consensus is also necessary. The American democracy is one of the older democracies in the world. In theory at least Americans value freedom and equality. Question what is the “American Dream”, and how close is the dream to reality?

### Course Requirements

- 1) ***Textbook- We the People*** by Thomas Patterson
- 2) ***Class Attendance*** is expected and required. Anyone missing over three classes is ineligible for a passing grade. Please keep me informed if you become ill or encounter a special problem. **(Please remember that there is no class on September 8. Monday classes will meet on the date. Labor day make-up)**
- 3) ***Tests – There will be three tests and a final examination.***
  - a) **Test I – Tuesday September 22** – In-class essay. You will get the questions in a week in advance and have a choice of questions to answer. I will be looking for your ideas on particular subjects.
  - b) **Test II – Tuesday October 6** – This will cover readings, court cases, lectures and class discussions up to this point.
  - c) **Test III – Tuesday December 8** – This will cover material from October 8 to end of course: readings, court cases, lectures, class discussions and material from class projects.
  - d) **Final Examination** – This will be a take home examination due at scheduled exam time – **Tuesday December 15** between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
- 4) ***Class Project*** – You have two options.
  - a) A group project to be followed by a short paper (3 pages) related to the project. This includes an oral presentation with a group and an individual paper.
  - b) A term paper (10 to 12 pages) reflecting both research and serious thought. Due at time to be announced.

**All assignments must be completed for a passing grade.**

### ***Grade Scale***

A – 93 – 100

B – 85 – 92

C – 70 – 84

D – 60 – 69

F – Below 70

### **Office Hours**

Tuesday: 3:15 – 4:30

Wednesday: 10:00 – 1:15

Thursday: 11:50 – 12:20

### **Office: Brewster A-130**

If I am in my office you are always welcome whether or not it is an official office hour time. You are also welcome to call me at home. I hope to get to know all of you in the near future. *Phone (919) 682-6486; Greenville – 752-7543; cell phone – (919) 402-7810.*

*Anyone needing special accommodation should contact the Office of Disability Service (737-1016).*

### **Introduction on August 25**

#### **August 27**

- I. Political Socialization and American Political Culture – *Chapters 1 and 6*
- II. Debates in American Society: How should our country be judged? – *Chapters 1 and 6*

#### **September 1**

- III. The formation of a nation and the federal system – *Chapters 2, 3*

#### **September 3-10**

- IV. A Fight for Equality – *Chapter 5*
  - A. The road to equality
  - B. Race- related cases
  - C. Gender issues

## **September 15-17**

- V. Elections and Current Public Opinion – *Chapters 6, 7, 8, 10*
  - A. Public opinion
  - B. The parties
  - C. The election process

### **Test I on September 22**

## **September 24-29**

- VI. The Presidency and Executive Branch of government – *Chapters 12, 13, also chapter 4, p.14-144*
  - A. The office of president
  - B. What makes someone a good president?
  - C. How presidents are elected: electability and competence
  - D. Theories of presidential power

### **Review on October 1 and Test II on October 6**

## **October 8-15**

- VII. Congress – *Chapter 11*
  - A. What Congress does
  - B. Leadership in Congress
  - C. The committee system

## **October 20**

- VIII. The Courts and Legal System – *Chapter 14*
  - A. Federal and state courts
  - B. How courts are set up
  - C. The special Role of the U.S. Supreme Court

## **October 22-27**

- IX. Religion in America Society – *Chapter 4 – p. 106-110, 119-123*

**October 29-November 3**

X. Free Expression – *Chapter 4 – p. 106-119*

**November 5-10**

XI. Rights of the Accused and Debates over Privacy – *Chapter 4 – p. 128-140*

**November 4 to end of course**

- 1) The Second Amendment, Crime and Gun Control Debate
- 2) The Delivery of Health Care
- 3) The Immigration Debate
- 4) The Successes and Failures of the Education System
- 5) The Pros and Cons of capital punishment
- 6) East Carolina University: The Good and the Bad. How ECU fits into American Higher Education.

**Test on December 8 – This will cover material from October 8 to end of course.**