

Political Science 1010, Section 008

Thomas F. Eamon

Fall Semester 2009

Tuesday/Thursday 2:00

Welcome! Political Science is a fascinating subject. People often behave in unpredictable and unusual ways. As we will see there are rules in politics and government. But the rules often differ from the realities.

I hope to get to know all of you in the near future. Questions and discussion are encouraged.

Introduction on August 25

Topic Outline

August 27-September 3

- I. American Foundations and Political Culture – **Chapter 1, 2, 6**
 - A. What is good and bad about America
 - B. American Culture: The attitudes and beliefs of the people
 - C. A profile of the U.S. and the world
 - D. The Culture of religion - **Chapter 4 – p.119-123**
 1. Free exercise of religion
 2. Establishment of religion

September 10

- II. Checks and Balances and American Federalism – **Chapter 3**
 - A. Rationale for the system
 - B. The National government and the states

September 15-17

- III. Politics, Public opinion and Political Parties – **Chapter 7, 8**
 - A. Why political parties
 - B. The expansion of democracy and current political party
 - C. Elections and their meaning

September 24-October 1

- IV. Freedom of Expression - **Chapter 4 – p.106-119**
 - A. Freedom of press – the med
 - B. Freedom of speech

Review on October 6

Test II on October 8

October 15-22

- V. The Judicial Branch of Government and Rights of the Accused
 - A. The Court System - **Chapter 14**
 - B. Special role of US Supreme Court
 - C. Search and seizure –
 - D. Fair Trials -
 - E. What is cruel and unusual punishment? – **p.136-140**

October 27-29

- VI. The Congress – **Chapter 11**
 - A. Roles of Congress
 - B. How decisions are made

November 3-5

- VII. The Presidency and the Bureaucracy - **Chapter 12, 13**

Test on November 10

Special Class Projects

- I. Medical Care in America: What should be done?
- II. The state of the schools: The good and the bad.
- III. East Carolina University: The Good and the Bad – How ECU Fits Into American Higher Education?
- IV. Do we have true democracy and freedom in the US? Should we?
- V. Our Future: What America will be like in ten years?
- VI. American Involvement in the World: What should it be?

Information:

Office – Brewster A-130

Office Hours

Tuesday: 3:15 – 4:30

Wednesday: 10:00 – 1:15

Thursday: 11:50 – 12:20

If I am in my office you are always welcome whether or not it is an official office hour time. *Phone- Durham - (919) 682-6486; Greenville – 752-7543; cell phone – (919) 402-7810.*

I prefer person-to-person or phone communication over e-mail. And it is the best way for a quick and personalized response.

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

Requirements :

- 1) *Textbook- We the People by Thomas Patterson*

- 2) *There will be three tests and a final examination. Everyone is expected to participate in a class project.*
 - a) **Test I – Tuesday September 22** – An In-class essay. You will get the questions a week in advance.

 - b) **Test II – Thursday October 8** – Will cover readings and class materials up to this point.

 - c) **Test III – Tuesday November 10** – Will cover readings and class material for period after Test II.

 - d) **Class Project** – You have two options.
 - 1) **Option 1** – participation in a group class project to be followed by a short paper (3 pages)
 - 2) **Option 2** – write a 10 page paper that is thought and research oriented. Topic to be decided in consultation with instructor.

e) **Final Examination** – A take home examination that will be due at officially scheduled exam time – (Will have questions on class panels and one other) Exam is to be turned in at 2 p.m. Thursday December 10.

Grade Scale

A – 93 – 100
B – 85 – 92
C – 70 – 84
D – 60 – 69
F – Below 70

Example of grade equivalents on some papers you receive a letter grade rather than a number grade, An A is averaged as a 96, A- is 94, B+ is 92, B is 90, B- is 85, C+ is 83, C is 78, C- is 70, D+ is 68, D is 65, D- is 70.

All assignments must be completed for a passing grade.

Class Attendance is expected and required. Anyone missing over three classes is normally ineligible for a passing grade. Please let me know 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)**