

POLS 2301 - INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVT I
Lamar University – Fall 2010
Syllabus

Instructor: Ms. Cissie Owen

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Office Hours: before and after classes and by appointment

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Course Description

Upon completion of the course the student will have a working knowledge of the U.S. and Texas constitutions, federalism, political socialization and participation, public opinion and interest groups, parties, voting and elections. The goal of this knowledge is effective participation as a citizen of one's state and nation.

The objectives of the course are to provide students with an intellectual foundation from which to analyze government and governmental activities, engage in political discussion and activities, and to obtain further education in political science, law, and other social sciences. Students are encouraged to formulate their own opinions on topics covered in the course and discuss their opinions in class as they relate to the subject matter, readings, and lectures of the course.

Texts

Benjamin Ginsberg, Theodore J. Lowi, and Margaret Weir, *We The People*, 7th edition.

Students are also strongly encouraged to keep abreast of current events.

Course Requirements

Grades will be determined by three in-class examinations each counting one-third of your final grade. The material covered for each examination is listed on the syllabus.

The exams consist of fifty multiple choice questions counting two points each. Students will have the class period to complete their exams.

An **optional** final examination will be given on the dates and times shown on the Course Schedule. The final examination grade will replace your lowest exam grade **if the final examination score is higher than your lowest test score**. If you have missed any of the first three regular exams, your final exam grade will be used to replace **any and all** of those missing exams. There will be NO exceptions and NO make-up exams for the ones missed.

Americans with Disabilities Act: If you have a disability that needs special accommodation, please speak privately with the professor at the beginning of the semester. Students must provide documentation from the appropriate dean and/or testing center before accommodations will be made.

NOTE: (1) The standard grading system will be used (90-100=A; 80-89=B; and so forth), (2) Any student found to plagiarize the work of another or otherwise cheat on an examination or assignment will be expelled from the course and reported to the appropriate university officials; (3) The carrying of guns or other weapons onto University property is a violation of state law; (4) Children and other non-tuition-paying individuals will be allowed to attend the class only upon prior permission by the professor and must not disturb the class; (5) NO extra credit assignments will be given, so don't ask.

Course Schedule

Last day to drop or withdraw without penalty.....Sept. 27

First Test.....Sept. 30.....Chapters 1-3 & 19-20

Last day to drop or withdraw with penalty.....Nov. 1

Second Test.....Nov. 4.....Chapters 4-7 & 21

Third Test..... Dec. 2.....Chapters 8-11 & 22

Final examination Dec. 7 (2301-40) 9:30AM.....Chapters 1-11 & 19-22
Dec. 14 (2301-09) 11AM-1:30PM

BIOGRAPHY: Ms. Owen has a B. A. in political science from Texas Christian University and an M.A.I.S. in International Terrorism from George Mason University. She has visited 130 nations and has lived in Algeria and Saudi Arabia. She is retired from the Central Intelligence Agency and has worked for three Senators, a Congressman, and at the top level of a presidential campaign.

Opinions expressed by the professors are theirs alone and may not reflect those of any unit of the State of Texas, including Lamar.