

POL 201, Government and Politics of the United States, Fall 2018

I. COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. MM Mottale

Instructor's Email: mmotalle@fus.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday 8-12, or by appointment

Class location: MV5

Class meeting times: Monday/Thursday 13:00-14:15

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The focus of this course is to introduce the students to the evolution of the American political system with an accent on the reading of the US Constitution as a starting point for an in depth analysis of American politics. This course will explore the dynamics of the political system since World War II, the consequences of increasing political centralization in Washington, and the growth of the so called imperial presidency by looking at key chapters in the history of contemporary America. The class will focus on aspects of foreign and domestic policy that have come to shape the current political values and perspectives and may explain the current socio-political dynamics driving the Trump administration.

III. RATIONALE

This course prepares students for the college academic experience and mastery. The course itself will focus on American politics, while teaching students how to closely read primary and secondary sources.

IV. COURSE GOALS

The goal of this course is to give students an insight in to the dynamics of contemporary American politics in the age of Trump.

V. SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

The learning outcomes at the completion of the course are that students are expected to have gained the ability to perform to study and write critically, not only in this course, but for future reference

VI. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

US Constitution

Dautrich, Kenneth and David a. Yalof, *American Government: Historical, Popular & Global Perspectives* [on reserve]

S. P. Huntington, *American Politics: the Promise of Disharmony*

Hamilton, Jay, Madison, *The Federalist Papers*

Paul Johnson, *A History of the American People*

There will be additional readings including articles from major newspapers, magazines, and scholarly journals. Students are expected to keep up with daily news.

Examples include:

American Political Science Review

Foreign Affairs

Orbis

Commentary

The New Republic

American Spectator

National Review

Dissent

The Nation

The Guardian

New York Times

Washington Post

You will be receiving on a weekly basis, articles from leading newspapers on current politics in America.

VII. ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

There will be a midterm exam, a final examination, and a research paper 10 pages long.

VIII. ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Midterm: 15% Attendance: 15% Research Paper: 20%
Final examination: 50%

XIX. GRADING POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Standard alpha-numeric scale.

Paper due: November 15

Midterm examination: October 15

Final Exam: December 13

X. HOW TO DO WELL IN THIS COURSE (POLICIES / REQUIREMENTS)

Absences to be discussed with students. Cell phones should be off in class and are not to be used for any reason. No computers unless individually agreed upon with instructor or otherwise specified.

XI. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: STATEMENT ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Refer to the full statement in the Franklin University handbook.

XII. Schedule

- Week 1 The English Political Experience
- Week 2 The Liberal Fragment in America
- Week 3 The Constitution
- Week 4 The Constitution
- Week 5 The Constitution
- Week 6 Political Parties
- Week 7 The Machinery of Government: Washington Today
- Week 8 Capitalism in North America
- Week 9 Social Policies
- Week 10 Foreign Policy
- Week 11 Defense
- Week 12 Science, Technology and Education
- Week 13 Promise and Reality

Reading Schedules

- Week 1 Huntington, Chapters 1,2,3. Dautrich/Yalof Chapter 1,2. Johnson, Part 1
- Week 2 The Federalist Papers, No. 1. Dautrich/Yalof Chapter 3. Johnson, Part 2
- Week 3 Dautrich/Yalof Chapter 4, The Federalist Papers, No. 37, 38, 39, 47.
- Week 4 Dautrich/Yalof Chapter 6,7,8,9, The Federalist Papers, No. 51 , 52 , 53 , and from No. 62 to 84.
- Week 5 Huntington, Chapters 4, 5, 6. Johnson, Parts 3,4. Murray, Entire Opus
- Week 6 Midsemester Review. Johnson, Parts 5,6
- Week 7 Dautrich/Yalof Chapter 10-15.
- Week 8 Huntington, all remaining chapters. Johnson, Parts 7,8
- Week 9 Huntington, all remaining chapters.
- Week 10 Dautrich/Yalof Chapter 16-19.
- Week 11 Himmelfarb, “Conservative Splits”, Commentary, May 1988 (article can be downloaded) Kristol, “A Conservative Looks at Liberalism”, Commentary, Sept. 1993 (article can be downloaded)
- Week 12 Additional readings and questions to be arranged for Final Examination.
- Week 13 Review