

SYLLABUS

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT 2305 AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Fall, 2010

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RANGER COLLEGE

Syllabus

Spring, 2010

COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: Government 2305 – American National Government – 3 Hrs. Weekly

I. Course Description

This course is a study of the federal constitution, the organization and administration of the federal system, political participation by the citizen, and the principles which underlie American Representative Democracy.

II. Course Goal

Students successfully completing this course will have the knowledge to more readily understand how public officials are elected, how the government bureaucracy functions, the role of the judiciary among the executive and congressional branches, the importance of our foreign and military policies, and the civil rights of the individual.

III. Textbook

Wilson, James Q. American Government, Brief Version, Eighth Ed. Boston, Mass: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2007.

IV. Classroom Policy

- a. The college attendance policy will be enforced.

b. All students are expected to participate in class discussions.

c. Missed exams may due to an absence qualified under the attendance policy may be made up within 2 weeks and upon approval of the instructor.

d. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. At times, class discussion will involve issue that you may feel strongly about. It is not uncommon to find that others disagree with you or that you disagree with someone else on any given issue. You will show respect to each other and the instructor or you will not remain in the classroom. I reserve the right to ask you to leave the class. If I ask more than once, I reserve the right to drop you from the course.

e. ADA Statement: Ranger College provides a variety of services for students with learning disabilities and or physical disabilities. The student is responsible for making the initial contact with the Ranger College Counselor.

V. Grading

Three major exams will be administered during the semester. Each exam will be worth 25% of your final grade. Three exams at 25% = 75%. There is a semester project worth 15% of your grade. **You must complete the project in order to pass this class; it is not optional.** The rest of your final grade will be based on attendance, participation, and pop quizzes.

VI. Extra Credit

I will allow any student to earn extra credit by completing a paper. The paper may be a book review or an interview with an elected official. **All papers must be pre-approved by the instructor.**

SEMESTER CALENDAR

Aug. 25	Intro.
Sept. 1	Discussion of first chapter and background of America
Sept. 8	Chapter 2, Constitution of the U.S.
Sept. 15	Chapter 3, Civil Liberties
Sept. 22	Chapter 4, Civil Rights
Sept. 29	Chapter 5, Federalism
Oct. 6	Short Review/ First Exam
Oct. 13	Chapter 6, Public Opinion and the Media
Oct. 20	Chapter 7, Political Parties and Interest Groups
Oct. 27	Chapter 8, Campaigns and Elections
Nov 3	Short Review / Second Exam
Nov. 10	Chapter 9, Congress / Project Due
Nov. 17	Chapter 10, The Presidency
Nov. 24	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 1	Chapter 11, The bureaucracy
Dec. 8	Chapter 12, The Judiciary
Dec. 15	Short Review/ Third Exam/ Extra Credit Due