



Mr. Garrick

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Room #50

Political Science

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#### Instructor Availability e

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• Room #50

#### Course Description

American Government is an introduction to the structure and processes of the United States political system. Additionally, students will gain an understanding of the nature of the party system, the roll of interest groups, due process of law, legal rights, and legal responsibilities. Comparative studies of governmental systems in nations other than the United States will also be introduced.

#### General Education Co mpetency Area (This section is required for General Education Courses)

This course fulfills the Idaho State General Education competency area of: American Government

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#### AND/OR

This course meets a CWI Institutionally Designated Core competency area of (CWID or Global Perspectives)

#### Academic Objectives:

This section is required for all classes. Please check appropriate boxes for your course, as outlined by your department:

[2 Learn to Learn. Students learn that as important as content knowledge is, shaping one's future requires the development of skill in discerning, applying, analyzing, synthesizing and evaluating knowledge in diverse contexts. The educational experience at CWI prepares students for a world in which they are likely to change occupations and face unpredictable life events. We strive to develop courses and learning experiences that give students the tools to confidently thrive in a complex, information-saturated, diverse, and dynamic world.

C] Make Connections. Students learn success in today's interconnected world requires deliberate engagement and comfort with multiple perspectives, cultures, and contexts. In navigating difference and diversity in the natural and social worlds, students connect ideas, forms of knowledge, and practices to create a richer understanding of themselves as personally and socially responsible citizens.

CI Solve Problems. Students identify problems, analyze and implement solutions, and interpret and reflect on outcomes to develop skills to individually and collaboratively face challenges and create opportunities.

[2 Reason Ethically. Students learn that ethical ideas and moral conduct maybe understood from many perspectives: as products of historical, cultural, and religious forces, as reflections of human nature, and as personally held attitudes and beliefs. Students learn to articulate ethical self-awareness, ethical issue recognition, and varieties of ethical perspectives to evaluate, create, and live consciously according to their own personal moral values.

## Co urse Schedule

- Monday through Friday
- Classes are 45 minutes long ● Room #50

## Course Objectives and Outcomes

1. identify and explain the formation, function, players, organizations, and institutions that make up the American system of government
2. understand the importance of political participation and civic duty
3. Apply terms relevant to the content appropriately and accurately

### Outcomes Assessment

TESTS AND QUIZ SCORES 75%

SIGNATURE ASSIGNMENT AND OTHER COMPONENTS 25%

At the end of units a unit test will be administered. Unit tests are worth approximately 100 points. All unit tests will be announced approximately one week in advance- Learning targets will be given to the students prior to beginning a new unit. These targets will establish a clear set of expectations as to what the students must know.

**\*\*Test Retakes:** If a student is not satisfied with his/her test results, a retake can be administered. Before a retake can be taken, the student must demonstrate that all prior work has been completed to the satisfaction of the teacher. Work can include: daily assignments, study guides, notes, etc. ..

Test retakes will be administered 2 to 3 days after the initial test was taken. The student will be given the score from the retake not the original test.

Quizzes will be administered during most class periods. Quizzes can be pop-quizzes and on some occasions will be announced in advance. The quiz questions will be from material that was covered in the previous class period. In most cases, quizzes are worth 5-10 pts. No retakes on quizzes will be given.

## Signature Assignments

As part of the Political Science curriculum, each student will be required to complete a signature assignment. This assignment will involve critical thinking skills that are important in becoming an effective, independent thinking citizen. Students will be asked to analyze, evaluate, and apply information relevant to the 2020 election issues, developments, and outcomes. An Election Journal will be kept in which the student will keep their responses to weekly critical thinking questions.

date:

## Grading Policy

### GRADING SCALE:

90-100

80-89            B

70-79            C

60-69            D

## Textbooks and Required Materials

William A. McClenaghan, Magruder's American Government, Prentice Hall, 2003

## Course Calendar

Module One — Foundations of Government

Weeks One, Two and Three

Chapter I -Principles of Government

- \* Introductions/Syllabus
- \* What is Government Lecture/Notes

Chapter 2-Origins of Government

- \* Forming Our Government

Notes

- \* Chapters 1 & 2 Study Guide due
- \* Chapters I & 2 Exam

Weeks Four, Five and Six

Chapter 3 -The Constitution

- \* Formal and Informal Amendments Notes
- \* Amending the Constitution Activity

Week Seven, Eight

Chapter 4-Federalism

- \* Federalism Graph Lecture[Notes
- \* Chapters 3 & 4 Study Guide due
- \* Chapters 3 & 4 Exam

Weeks Nine and Ten

Module Two — Political Behavior: Government by the People

Chapter 5-Political Parties-Political Ideology

\* Minor Parties Lecture/Notes

\* Liberal Conservative Lecture/ Notes/Ideological Graph

Chapter 6-Voters and Voter Behavior

\* Eras of American Suffrage Lecture/Notes

\* Chapters 5 & 6 Study Guide due \* Chapters 5 & 6 Exam

Weeks Eleven and Twelve

Chapter 7-The Electoral Process

\* The Nominating Process Lecture/Notes

\* Presidential Mandate Activity

Weeks Thirteen and Fourteen

Chapter 8-Mass Media and Public Opinion

\* Propaganda Lecture/Notes

Chapter 9 - Interest Groups

\* Political Action Committees Lecture/Notes

- \* Study Guide Chapters 7,8,9 due
- \* Chapters 7,8,9 Exam

Weeks Fifteen, Sixteen and Finals

### Module Three — The Executive Branch

#### Chapter 13-The Presidency

- \* Presidents Job Description Lecture/Notes/Majoritarian, Pluralist, Elite Presidential Views
- \* Presidential Personalities Lecture/Notes/Graph

#### Chapter 14-The Presidency in Action

- \* President' s Powers Lecture/Notes
- \* Watergate Nixon Lecture/Notes
- \* Study Guide Chapter 13 & 14 due
- \* Chapters 13 & 14
- \* Semester Review
- \* Final Study Guide due
- \* Semester Final Exam
- \* All the President's Men movie with Guided Questions (if time permits)

Second Semester,

Weeks One and Two

### Module Four — The Bureaucracy

#### Chapter 15-Government at Work: The Bureaucracy

- \* Bureaucracy Lecture/Notes/Gmph
- \* Cabinet Positions Activity

Weeks Three and Four

#### Chapter 16-Financing Government \*

Lecture/Notes on Federal Spending

- \* Trillion and Counting Activity

Weeks Five and Six

#### Chapter 17-Foreign Policy and National Defense

- \* Lecture/Notes Foreign Policy
- \* Tank Man Guided Questions due
- \* Study Guide Chapter 15, 16 & 17 due
- \* Chapters 15, 16 & 17

Week Seven and Eight

### Module Five - Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

#### Chapter 19 -First Amendment Freedoms

- \* Press, Speech, Assembly Lecture/Notes

#### Chapter 20-Protecting Individual Rights

- \* Talking Stick Group Activity
- \* Due Process of Law Lecture/Notes
- \* Miranda Rights Lecture/Notes
- \* Miranda v. Arizona Questions

Weeks Nine and Ten

#### Chapter 21 -Equal Justice under the Law

- \* Civil Rights Lecture/Notes

## Chapter 2 1 -Equal Justice under the Law

- \* Civil Rights Lecture/Notes
- \* Turning 1 8 Activity
- \* Study Guide Chapters 1 9, 20 & 21 due
- \* Chapters 19,20 & 21

## Weeks Eleven and Twelve

### Module Six - The Judicial Branch

- \* Chapter 1 8-The Federal Court System
- \* The National Judiciary LectuR/Notes

### Chapter 23, 24 Comparative Legal Systems of the World Comparative Political, Economic, Legal Systems Lecture/Notes

#### MOCK TRIAL EXERCISE

- \* Study Guide Chapter 1 8, 23 & 24 due
- \* Chapters 18,23 & 24

## Weeks 13, 14, 15, and 16

### Module Seven— The Legislative Branch

#### Chapter 10-Congress

- \* National Legislature Lecture/Notes

#### Chapter 1 1 -Powers of Congress -

- \* Congressional Powers Assiglment

#### Chapter 1 2 -Congress in Action

- \* How a Bill Becomes a Law LectureJNotes
- \* There ought to be a law Group Activity Final Weeks of the Semester

### Module Eight — Mock Legislature Exercise

- \* Bill Written in Correct Format
- \* Committee Hearings for Mock Legislature
- \* Floor Hearings For Mock Legislature Written and Public Testimony
- \* Opposite Chamber's Live Bills are Heard
- \* Governor Signs or Vetoes Bills
- \* Final Study Guide due
- \* Semester Final Exam

### Co ntp liter Proficiency Expectations:

Basic computer skills are required:

Powerpoint

Word Processing

### Behavioral Expectations:

- \* Respect others
- \* Be on time
- \* Pay attention

**DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS:** Refer to the student handbook.

## Academic Honesty:

All work submitted by a student must represent his or her own ideas, concepts, and current understanding.

All material found during research must be correctly documented to avoid plagiarism. Cheating or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and violations may result in disciplinary action ranging from failure of the assignment to failure of the course. Repeated acts of academic dishonesty may have more severe institutional ramifications. The consequences for cheating in this class are listed below:

- The student will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

## Emergency Procedures

Follow the posted exit instructions in case of fire or other emergency. This diagram is posted by the doorway

