POLS 101 United States Government and Politics (71439)

Class: MWF, 10:10-11:00, SAC 126
Instructor: Anthony Nownes
Office: 811 McClung Tower
Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 11:15-12:15, or by appointment
Email: anownes@utk.edu
Home page: http://web.utk.edu/~anownes/default.html

Introduction
This course is designed to provide students with a basic understanding of American national government and politics. The course is divided into two sections: 1). The rules. 2). The players.
In Section 1, we examine what I call the “rules” of American politics. The most basic rules of American politics are found in the Constitution. Thus, this is where we start. However, since 1787, these rules have been changed, modified, and supplemented. “New” rules have manifested themselves in court decisions, laws, and other forms of policy. We will discuss these as well. In Section 2, we examine what I call the “players.” Of course, the most prominent players are the institutions of American national government—Congress, the president, the judiciary, and the bureaucracy. But these are hardly the only players. Other players include political parties, interest groups, the media, and of course, ordinary citizens like you and me. We will discuss these players in turn.

Texts
The following items can be purchased at the UTK Bookstore:


Grading
You will earn points as follows:

- 100 points for attendance/participation. Comment: Show up, have something good to say.
- 100 points for a small paper. Comment: You will write a small paper.
- 200 points for big quizzes. Comment: I will give you three big quizzes and count two of them.
- 200 points for the final exam. Comment: Your final exam will be comprehensive.
- 400 points for two midterm exams. Comment: The course schedule below indicates when you will take each midterm.
Your grade will be calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>900 - 1000</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>870 - 899</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>800 - 869</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>770 - 799</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>600 - 669</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>Less than 600</td>
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**Other Policies**

**Plagiarism**
Plagiarism will not be tolerated. The following is an excerpt from the University of Tennessee’s Honor Statement, which can be found in *Hilltopics Student Handbook* (p. 31), which is the official student handbook of the University of Tennessee:

“Students shall not plagiarize. Plagiarism is using the intellectual property or product of someone else without giving proper credit. The undocumented use of someone else's words or ideas in any medium of communication (unless such information is recognized as common knowledge) is a serious offense, subject to disciplinary action that may include failure in a course and/or dismissal from the University. Specific examples of plagiarism are: Using without proper documentation (quotation marks and a citation) written or spoken words, phrases, or sentences from any source; Summarizing without proper documentation (usually a citation) ideas from another source (unless such information is recognized as common knowledge); Borrowing facts, statistics, graphs, pictorial representations, or phrases without acknowledging the source (unless such information is recognized as common knowledge); Collaborating on a graded assignment without the instructor's approval; Submitting work, either in whole or in part, created by a professional service and used without attribution (e.g., paper, speech, bibliography, or photograph).”

The entire text of *Hilltopics* can be found at http://web.utk.edu/~homepage/hilltopics/default.html.

**Cheating**
It is understood that cheating will not be tolerated. The most common form of cheating is looking at your neighbor’s paper during a test or quiz. If I catch you doing this, I will remove you from the classroom and give you an “F” for the test or quiz in question. The second most common form of cheating is bringing in outside material and using it during a test or quiz. If I catch you doing this, I will remove you from the classroom and give you an “F” for the test or quiz in question.

*All students are expected to be familiar with the University of Tennessee Honor Statement and to abide by its terms.* The entire Honor Statement can be found in *Hilltopics.*
Attendance
I will take roll every day. You may be excused from class (or given credit for attending a class you did not actually attend) if you have written evidence of sickness, infirmity, or commitment to a university-sanctioned extracurricular activity. Appeals will be heard in other cases. Appeals are very seldom granted.

Talking in Class
You are to speak only when recognized by me. Furthermore, you may NOT talk when someone else (including me) is talking.

Disability Policy
If you need adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS). The office is located at 191 Hoskins Library, and can be contacted at 974-6087. The ODS web page is found at http://ods.utk.edu/default.html. Here is what *Hilltopics Student Handbook* (p. 45) says about ODS and its services:

“The Office of Disability Services (ODS) seeks to eliminate the barriers persons with disabilities encounter and to work with them to achieve and maintain individual autonomy. The office’s primary objective is to provide faculty, staff, and students with access to the academic, social, cultural, and recreational opportunities of the University.

Prospective students are encouraged to contact ODS personnel so that they can be assured that the campus facilities and services are adequate to meet their needs. The office can be of service to everyone to the extent that his or her individual needs are made known. Contact with students prior to registration enables the office to better assess the need for interpreters, readers, accessible facilities, and other support services. Van service is also provided to those individuals with mobility limitations, whether permanent or temporary. Documentation of a disability from an attending physician or the Student Health Center is required.

Registration with the office and use of services is on a voluntary basis, however, accommodations will not be provided without notifying the office and providing proper documentation. Confidentiality is maintained. Faculty, staff, and students desiring any services are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services so that necessary arrangements can be made. The office is located at 191 Hoskins Library.

Requests for interpreting services by enrolled deaf students should be made to ODS at least one month prior to the beginning of the semester.”

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic/Notes</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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Schedule
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<tr>
<th>M 1/19</th>
<th><strong>MLK HOLIDAY</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W 1/21</td>
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<tr>
<td>F 1/23</td>
<td>Federalism</td>
<td>NEW, ch. 3; KS 3-2.</td>
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<td>M 1/26</td>
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<td>W 1/28</td>
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<tr>
<td>F 1/30</td>
<td>Civil liberties</td>
<td>NEW, ch. 16; KS 5-1, 5-2.</td>
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<td>W 2/4</td>
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<td>F 2/6</td>
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<td>NEW, ch. 17; KS 4-2.</td>
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<td>M 2/9</td>
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<td>W 2/11</td>
<td>Catch-up day</td>
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<td>F 2/13</td>
<td><strong>Midterm 1</strong></td>
<td>Nothing</td>
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<td><strong>Section 2: The Players</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>M 2/16</td>
<td>Congress</td>
<td>NEW, ch. 12; KS 6-2, 6-3.</td>
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<td>M 2/23</td>
<td>The President</td>
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<td>W 2/25</td>
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<td>F 2/27</td>
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<td>M 3/1</td>
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<td>F 3/5</td>
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<td>M 3/8</td>
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<td>W 3/10</td>
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<td>F 3/12</td>
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<td>W 3/24</td>
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<td>W 3/31</td>
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<td>F 4/2</td>
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<td>M 4/5</td>
<td>Elections and campaigns</td>
<td>NEW, chs. 10, 11; KS 11-1, 11-3.</td>
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<td>W 4/14</td>
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<td>F 4/16</td>
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<tr>
<td>W 4/28</td>
<td>Last Day</td>
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**Final Exam: Tuesday, May 4th, 10:15-12:15 in this room**

**NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change!!!