

Term: Spring 2013

Course Title: American Government II

Course Prefix: POSC

Course No.: 1123

Section No.: P03 & P04

Department of	Division of Social Work, Behavioral and Political Sciences	College of	Brailsford College of Arts and Sciences
Instructor Name:	Michael J. Nojeim, Ph.D.		
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Office Hours and Virtual Hours:	MWF: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM. Do NOT send messages to me via Ecourses. Instead, send all Email to mjnojeim@pvamu.edu , which I check many times each day.		
Course Location:	Section P03, CRN 20209: meets MWF at 10:00 am in New Science A104.		
Class Meeting Days & Times:	Section P04, CRN 20207: meets MWF at 4:00 pm in Woolfolk 204		
Catalog Description:	This course surveys the national and Texas legislative and executive institutions, local government, governmental services, regulatory policies, and foreign affairs		
Prerequisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Required Text:/	<i>American Democracy Now</i> , by Brigid Harrison, Jean Wahl Harris, Susan J. Tolchin and Gary M. Halter. Custom-published edition for Prairie View A/M University, McGraw-Hill. The text can be found at the Bookstore or online at: http://www.mhprofessional.com/mhhe_product.php?isbn=0077565622&cat=108		
Recommended Text/Readings:	N/A		
Access to Learning Resources:	PVAMU Library: phone: (936) 261-1500; web: http://www.tamu.edu/pvamu/library/ University Bookstore: phone: (936) 261-1990; web: https://www.bkstr.com/Home/10001-10734-1?demoKey=d		
Course Goals or Overview:	The goal of this course is to stimulate students' thinking and understanding of the American political system, especially state and federal government institutions and certain public policy issues.		

Learning Outcomes/Objectives

At the end of this course, the student will be able to:

Course learning outcome aligns with . . .	Program Learning Objective	Core Objective
Identify the role of the U.S. and Texas executive branches.	PLO #1: knowledge of inst'ns pertaining to government	CO #1: Critical thinking
Identify the role of the U.S. and Texas legislative branches.	PLO #1: knowledge of inst'ns pertaining to government	CO: #1: Critical thinking
Identify the role of the U.S. and Texas judicial branches.	PLO #1: knowledge of inst'ns pertaining to government	CO: #1: Critical thinking
Explain the role of administrative agencies at	PLO #1: knowledge of inst'ns	CO: #1 Critical thinking

the state and federal levels.	pertaining to government	
List the civil rights of diverse groups in the United States.	PLO #3: critical thinking skills on political issues	CO: #1: Critical thinking
Explain how various public policies affect individuals.	PLO #2: knowledge of political science concepts, principles, etc.	CO: #1: Critical thinking
Write a research paper critiquing an important public policy issue.	PLO #4: demonstrate research and writing skills	CO: #2: Communication
Write an essay exam on debates and divisions surrounding a key policy issue.	PLO #3: critical thinking skills on political issues	CO: #2: Communication
List the many ways Americans can participate in the political process.	PLO #1: knowledge of inst'ns pertaining to government	CO #5: Social responsibility
Properly document a research paper as to bibliography and in-text citations	PLO #4: demonstrates research and writing skills	CO #6: Personal responsibility

Course Requirements & Evaluation Methods

This course will utilize the instruments listed in the following grading matrix to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course:

Exams – There will be four multiple choice tests consisting of 50 questions each. The critical thinking and social responsibility core objectives will be stressed on these exams. Exam questions will test students' civic knowledge regarding such things as the role and structure of government institutions. They will also test students' critical thinking skills by asking them to differentiate between important types of governing regimes, e.g., democracy vs. monarchy, important concepts, e.g., horizontal federalism vs. vertical federalism, and important constitutional concepts, such as implied powers vs. express powers.

Writing Assignments – There will be two writing assignments, the first of which will be used for assessment purposes. The critical thinking, communication, social responsibility and personal responsibility core objectives will be emphasized. The short research paper will be used to assess students' ability to properly conduct, deploy and then cite research sources as well as their ability to weigh the strengths and weaknesses of evidence presented in disparate source materials.

Grading Matrix

Instrument	Value (in points)	Percent of Course grade
Exam 1	100	25
Exam 2	100	25
Exam 3 (the lowest score of exams 1-3 is dropped)	100	25
Exam 4	100	25
Writing Assignment 1 – Immigration paper	100	12.5
Writing Assignment 2 – Foreign Policy Articles	100	12.5
Total:		100%

Grade determination: A=90-100 B=80-89 C=70-79 D=60-69 F=Below 60

Course Procedures

Exam Policy: Once an exam or quiz begins, you may not leave the room. Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except under documented emergencies (See Student Handbook and description below). The lowest score between exams 1-3 will be dropped. You cannot drop the final exam grade. Exams are **NOT** cumulative. Students must bring their own scantron and pencil on exam days. No hats—for women or men—are allowed on exam days. I will not grade your exam unless all these policies are followed.

Submission of Writing Assignments Policy: Writing assignments are due in class in hard copy form on their assigned due date. No late assignments will be taken under any circumstances. All papers must have a title, but not a separate title page, which is a waste of paper. They must be typed, double-spaced, in 12 point font and stapled only (no folders). Assignments that are sent via email, slipped under my office door or stuck in my campus mailbox will not be accepted for grading. Unstapled assignments will not be accepted for grading. Students cannot turn in another student's assignment. Only assignments turned in during class will be accepted for grading. Papers

are graded according to the following four criteria: 1) content; 2) organization; 3) quality of writing; and 4) quality of research sources and reference citation formats.

Political Science Program Policy on Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a serious academic crime and the Political Science Program has a strict, rigorous enforcement policy for students who commit plagiarism. In general, plagiarism is using another person's words, statistics, and/or ideas as if they were your own. Plagiarism, which is formally defined in the University Rules and Procedures section of this syllabus, can come in many forms, such as directly quoting a source without quotation marks, directly quoting a source without giving a reference citation, paraphrasing a source without giving a reference citation and so forth. It is incumbent on students to seek help from the instructor or other University resources to avoid even the appearance of plagiarism in their work. Any student caught committing ANY type of plagiarism in a Political Science course will receive one OR MORE of the following punishments, depending on the severity of the offense and in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct:

1. Grade Penalty (an F for the assignment and/or an F for the course);
2. Letter of Reprimand
3. Probation
4. Suspension
5. Dismissal
6. Expulsion

Students must consult the University's Code of Conduct for other forms of academic dishonesty and the punishments.

Writing Assignment #1: Due IN CLASS ONLY on Friday, February 1.

Writing assignment on immigration. This assignment requires you to research issues regarding U.S. immigration policy. Here are the following requirements for this assignment:

- 1) look up the proposed DREAM Act and give two of its provisions and the name, title, political party and state of the bill's sponsor (you can find this at <http://thomas.loc.gov>);
- 2) explain at least two positive and two negative impacts immigration has on the United States;
- 3) explain why you either support or oppose allowing more immigrants into the United States;
- 4) explain how you—and other people—can engage in the political process to influence government toward your point of view; and
- 5) Conduct research and cite at least three reliable, quality references from the media and/or the Internet. One of the citations MUST come from the assigned text, and NONE may be from ANY encyclopedia, including Wikipedia. You must have at least three in-text citations (in the body of the paper) based on the three reliable sources you use. You must also have a properly formatted works cited section at the end of the paper. The paper's in-text citations AND works cited section must conform to the format found in the examples from this website:

http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html.

This assignment is due IN class on **Friday, February 1**. Your report should be about two pages of text (not counting the works cited section). This assignment is due in class in hard copy form on its assigned due date. No late assignments will be taken under any circumstances. All papers must have a title, but not a separate title page, which is a waste of paper. The report must be typed, double-spaced, in 12 point font and stapled only (no folders). Assignments that are sent via email, slipped under my office door or stuck in my campus mailbox will not be accepted for grading. Unstapled assignments will not be accepted for grading. Students cannot turn in another student's assignment. Only assignments turned in during class will be accepted for grading. Papers are graded according to the following four criteria: 1) content; 2) organization; 3) quality of writing; and 4) quality of research sources and reference citation formats.

Writing Assignment #2: In-Class Essay Quiz on Friday, April 26.

Students must read "U.S. Foreign Policy and the Opening to Communist China," and "The Korean War: A Turning Point in U.S. Foreign Policy." These readings are found in the front of the assigned text. Students must be prepared to answer questions provided by the professor and based on these readings.

Electronic Communication: Notes and other course materials may be posted on Moodle/Ecourses, which is available at <http://ecourses.pvamu.edu>. Note the frequently asked questions links in the left margin of this link. You are expected to use this website as a resource for the class. The University also maintains an email account for you. Periodically, I may send you class notices or other information. **I expect you to check your Prairie View A&M email account at least once a week.** If you have problems accessing your account, please call (936) 261-

2525. Not having access to your Panther Email is not an excuse for missing important information. The new Moodle/Ecourses is heavily reliant on your PVAMU email. I check Ecourses messages less frequently than my Prairie View email, so my PV email – mjnojeim@pvamu.edu – is by far the best way to communicate with me.

Make-up Policy: You will only be allowed to make up an exam or assignment if you have a valid excuse. Valid excuses include *documented* illness, school or business trips, or family crises. Without proper documentation, there will be no makeup assignments. **If granted a make-up, you have a period of three (3) class days to schedule your make-up assignment or exam. After that point, the grade becomes a zero.** Please provide written documentation for why you need to make up an assignment from a university official, doctor, police officer, or coach. Student athletes must notify me **BEFORE** they attend an event to represent the school and **MUST** be proactive in getting their assignments completed. **Email will not be accepted as notification.** Make up exams may be an essay/short answer test or a modified version of the original exam. Any assigned extra credit cannot be made up.

Grade Groveling Policy: Students concerned about their grades should endeavor to attend all class sessions and complete all work to the best of their ability. Students **earn** high grades, based on demonstrating mastery of the subject matter and not based on what they want or need for their overall GPA. Therefore, no grade groveling will be entertained and no “do-overs” allowed.

Formatting Documents: Microsoft Word is the standard word processing tool used at PVAMU. If you’re using other word processors, be sure to use the “save as” tool and save the document in either the Microsoft Word, Rich-Text, or plain text format. All writing assignments must use acceptable citation style and document all sources. **No assignments will be accepted via email under any circumstances.**

Course Content: Topics and Readings

16 WEEK CALENDAR

Week One: 01/14/13 - 01/18/13 Chapter(s): Assignment(s):	Course Introduction N/A N/A
Week Two: 01/21/13 – 01/25/13 Chapter (s): Assignment (s):	The Legislative Branch – Congress Harrison Chapter 11 M.L. King, Jr. Holiday, no class Monday, January 21.
Week Three: 01/28/13 – 02/01/13 Chapter (s): Assignment (s):	The Legislative Branch – The Texas Legislature Harrison Chapter 23 Assignment #1 due, Friday, February 1
Week Four: 02/04/13 – 02/08/13 Chapter (s): Assignment (s):	Wrap-up and Review for Exam One Chapters 11, 23 Exam One, Friday, February 8
Week Five: 02/11/13 – 02/15/13 Chapter (s): Assignment (s):	The Presidency Harrison Chapter 12 N/A
Week Six: 02/18/13 – 2/22/13 Chapter (s): Assignment (s):	The Federal Bureaucracy Harrison Chapter 13 N/A
Week Seven: 02/25/13 – 03/01/13 Chapter (s): Assignment (s):	The Texas Governor and Texas State Agencies Harrison Chapter 24 N/A
Week Eight: 03/04/13 – 03/08/13 Chapter (s):	Wrap-up and Review for Exam Two Chapters 12, 13, and 24

Assignment (s):	Exam Two (Mid-term), Friday, March 8
Week Nine: 03/11/13 – 03/15/13	Spring Break
Week Ten: 03/18/13 – 03/22/13 Chapter (s): Assignment (s):	The Supreme Court and Federal Judiciary Harrison Chapter 14
Week Eleven: 03/25/13 – 03/29/13 Chapter Assignment	The Court System of Texas Harrison Chapter 25 (<i>your professor may provide this chapter as a stand-alone document</i>) Student Holiday: No class on Friday, March 29
Week Twelve: 04/01/13 – 04/05/13 Chapter (s) Assignment (s):	Wrap-up and Review for Exam Three Chapter 14 and Chapter 25. Chapters 14 and 25 Exam Three, Friday April 5
Week Thirteen: 04/08/13 - 4/13/12 Chapter (s): Assignment (s):	Civil Rights Harrison Chapter 5 N/A
Week Fourteen: 04/15/13-04/19/13 Chapter (s): Assignment (s):	Domestic Policy Harrison Chapter 16 N/A
Week Fifteen: 04/22/13 – 04/26/13 Chapter (s): Assignment(s):	Foreign Policy and National Security Harrison Chapter 17 Assignment 2: In-class essay quiz on Friday, April 26.
Week Sixteen: 04/29/13 – 05/03/13	Course Review and Final Exam Period Begins Chapter 5, Chapter 16, Chapter 17 Final Exam is on Monday, May 6 (tentative). To confirm, go to http://www.pvamu.edu/pages/2097.asp . Click on Final Exam Schedule in the left margin to see the date/time of your final exam.

University Rules and Procedures

Disability statement (See Student Handbook): Students with disabilities, including learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in class should register with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal laws, a student requesting special accommodations must provide documentation of their disability to the SSD coordinator. Please contact 936-261-3585 if you have questions.

Academic misconduct (See Student Handbook): You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course and all other courses. Make sure you are familiar with your Student Handbook, especially the section on academic misconduct. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to university disciplinary procedures.

Forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Cheating: deception in which a student misrepresents that he/she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he/she has not mastered; giving or receiving aid unauthorized by the instructor on assignments or examinations.
2. Academic misconduct: tampering with grades or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a scheduled test.
3. Fabrication: use of invented information or falsified research.
4. Plagiarism: unacknowledged quotation and/or paraphrase of someone else's words, ideas, or data as one's own in work submitted for credit. Failure to identify information or essays from the Internet and submitting them as one's own work also constitutes plagiarism.

Nonacademic misconduct (See Student Handbook): The university respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires campus conditions that do not impede their exercise. Campus behavior that interferes with either (1) the instructor's ability to conduct the class, (2) the inability of other students to profit from the instructional program, or (3) campus behavior that interferes with the rights of others will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such disruptive behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Such incidents will be adjudicated by the Dean of Students under nonacademic procedures.

Sexual misconduct (See Student Handbook): Sexual harassment of students and employers at Prairie View A&M University is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Any member of the university community violating this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

Attendance Policy: Prairie View A&M University requires regular class attendance. Excessive absences will result in lowered grades. Excessive absenteeism, whether excused or unexcused, may result in a student's course grade being reduced or in assignment of a grade of "F". Absences are accumulated beginning with the first day of class. **For the purposes of this class, your grade may be reduced by a letter grade if you miss more than three (3) absences without an excuse.**

YOU CANNOT COME TO CLASS IF YOU ARE MORE THAN NINE (9) MINUTES LATE! If you are TEN (10) or more minutes late, by the instructor's watch, you cannot come to class that day. If you try to violate this rule, you will be expelled from class for that day. Failure to comply with these rules will mean a five-point reduction in your overall class average for each infraction.

Student Academic Appeals Process: "Authority and responsibility for assigning grades to students rests with the faculty. However, in those instances where students believe that miscommunication, errors, or unfairness of any kind may have adversely affected the instructor's assessment of their academic performance, the student has a right to appeal by the procedure listed in the Undergraduate Catalog and by doing so within thirty days of receiving the grade or experiencing any other problematic academic event that prompted the complaint.

Technical Considerations for Online and Web-Assist Courses

Minimum Hardware and Software Requirements:

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| -Pentium with Windows XP or PowerMac with OS 9 | -56K modem or network access |
| -Internet provider with SLIP or PPP | -8X or greater CD-ROM |
| -64MB RAM | -Hard drive with 40MB available space |
| -15" monitor, 800x600, color or 16 bit | -Sound card w/speakers |
| -Microphone and recording software | -Keyboard & mouse |
| -Netscape Communicator ver. 4.61 or Microsoft Internet Explorer ver. 5.0 /plug-ins | |
| -Participants should have a basic proficiency of the following computer skills: | |
| Sending and receiving email | -A working knowledge of the Internet |
| -Proficiency in Microsoft Word | -Proficiency in the Acrobat PDF Reader |
| -Basic knowledge of Windows or Mac O.S. | |

Netiquette (online etiquette): students are expected to participate in all discussions and virtual classroom chats when directed to do so. Students are to be respectful and courteous to others in the discussions. Foul or abusive language will not be tolerated. When referring to information from books, websites or articles, please use APA standards to reference sources.

Technical Support: Students should call the Prairie View A&M University Helpdesk at 936-261-2525 for technical issues with accessing your online course. The helpdesk is available 24 hours a day/7 days a week. For other technical questions regarding your online course, call the Office of Distance Learning at 936-261-3290 or 936-261-3282

Communication Expectations and Standards: All emails or discussion postings will receive a response from the instructor within 48 hours. You can send email anytime that is convenient to you, but I check my email messages continuously during the day throughout the work-week (Monday through Friday). I will respond to email messages during the work-week by the close of business (5:00 pm) on the day following **my receipt** of them. Emails that I receive on Friday will be responded to by the close of business on the following Monday.

Do **NOT** send messages to me via Ecourses. Instead, send all Email to mjinojeim@pvamu.edu, which I check many times each day. In your email communication, please notify me of your NAME, Course, and Course Time, so that I can quickly respond.