

SYLLABUS

Semester: Fall, 2001

Course Number and Name POLI 490
Advanced Reading and Research

Number of Semester Hours of Credit 3

Time Class Meets Monday and Wednesday: 12:00 PM - 1:20 PM

Building and Room Number JKSA 204

Instructor's Name Dr. Hsiaofen Hemstock

Office Location: TS 207C

Office Telephone: 672-1125
hemstock@uncfsu.edu

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday: 7:30-8:00; 2:00 - 2:30
Tuesday and Thursday: 11:00-12:30
Friday: 7:30-8:00; 11:30-2:00

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a course designed to assist students in carrying out intensive independent studies of selected topics, requiring preparation and presentation of assigned topics for critical

TEXTBOOK:

McKenna, George and Stanley Feingold, Taking Sides: Closer Views on Controversial Political Issues (eds.) Dushkin Publishing Group/Brown & Benchmark Publishers, 1999.

*** It is extremely important that each student read a newspaper and a national news magazine such as Time, Newsweek, US News and World Report to keep up events pertaining to the world in this course.

COURSE COMPETENCIES:

Competencies of this course are in line with competencies

required by SDPI and NCATE (Government 1,2,3,7,8 & 10). Students should be able to understand, describe, and explain the foundations, competing philosophies, basic structures, and functions of governmental systems.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to accomplish the following:

Competency Goal 1: Students will understand issues and challenges confronting the American economic, legal, and political systems.

1.6 Compare differing points of view on the proper role of government in the personal lives of citizens.

Competency Goal 5: Students will understand why and how interest groups and public opinion play an important role in American politics.

5.2 Explore and determine the relationship between interest groups and public opinion; and their consequent influence on public policy through political science research.

Competency Goal 7: Students will understand the structures and functions of local, state, and national governments and describe their relationship.

7.4 Analyze costs and benefits of government functions.

STUDENT EVALUATION AND GRADING

a. Mid-term Exam: The midterm will consist of essay questions. Makeup exams need prior approval from the instructor. Questions for makeup exams may be more difficult than regular ones.

b. Final Exam: The final exam will consist of essay questions. Make-up exams need the prior approval of the instructor. Questions for makeup exams may be more difficult than regular ones.

c. Two short papers: Each student is required to write two short papers. Topics will be chosen by the student himself or herself from the weekly reading assignments. (It will be helpful if the student in detail one topic in each paper.) In the first half of each paper, the student needs to present the characteristics of the issue and both pro and con viewpoints. Then, in the second half of each paper, the student is required to take sides on the issue and provide evidence and arguments to support his or her view. Taking Sides

Clashing Views on Controversial Political Issues will serve as the framework for our class discussion as well as the two required papers. However, students should also draw on out-of-classroom research for the two papers.

All papers must be typed. No handwritten paper will be accepted. Each paper should be four (4) pages in length with references. There will be a penalty for late papers.

d. Class attendance and participation is extremely important.

The student's final grade will be determined in the following proportion.

. Attendance, Class Participation, and Paper Presentations	10%
. Mid-term Exam	20%
. Final Exam	20%
. First Paper	20%
. Second Paper	20%

The Grading Scale is as follows

92 - 100	.....	A
84 - 91	.....	B
74 - 83	.....	C
64 - 73	.....	D
below 64	.....	F

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Aug 22	Introduction
Aug 27/Aug 29	Has the American Political System Succeeded? * readings: pp. 2-19
Sept 5/Sept 10	Do Political Action Committees Undermine Democracy? * readings: pp. 42-53

Sept 12/Sept 17	Should There Be Term Limits for Members Congress? * readings: pp. 70-81
Sept 19/Sept 24	Does the Government Regulate Too Much? * readings: pp. 98-113
Oct 8/Oct 10	Paper Presentations 1 st Paper Due
Oct 15	Mid-term Exam
Oct 17/Oct 22	Do We Need Tougher Gun Control Laws? * readings: pp. 154-169
Oct 24/Oct 29	Is Affirmative Action Reverse Discrimination? * readings: pp. 190-205
Oct 31/Nov 5/Nov 7	Has the Welfare state Failed America's * readings: pp. 222-241
Nov 12/Nov 14	Is a Flat tax a Fair Tax * readings: pp. 242-259
Nov 19/Nov 26	Should Abortion Be Restricted? * readings: pp. 260-277
Nov 28/Dec 3	Must America Be the World Leader? * readings: pp. 310-327
Dec 5/Dec 10	Paper Presentations 2 nd Paper Due
Dec 12	Final Exam (12:00 am -1:50 pm)

REFERENCES

- Bardach, Eugene. A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis. New Chatham House Publishers, 2000.
- Bonser, Charles, Eugene McGregor, Jr., and Clinton Oster, Jr. American Public Policy Problems. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2000.
- Brent, James. (ed.) Issues in American Government (1999-2000). Englewood, CO: Morton Publishing Company, 1999.
- Grover, William and Joseph Peschek. Voices of Dissent. New York: Longman, 1999.
- Meier, Kenneth and Jeff Gill. What Works: A New Approach to Policy and Policy Analysis. Westview Press, 2000.
- Woll, Peter and Stephen Rockwell. American Political Ideals and Realities. New York: Longman. 2000.