

**POL 013: Introduction to the U.S. Political System**

Term: 2020 Winter Session
Instructor: Staff
Language of Instruction: English
Classroom: TBA
Office Hours: TBA
Class Sessions Per Week: 6
Total Weeks: 4
Total Class Sessions: 25
Class Session Length (minutes): 145
Credit Hours: 4

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the US governmental institutions and their practices and how the political forces are combined to shape them and the approach we can take to understand the system. We will introduce the US Congress, political parties, pressure groups, growth of the Presidency, the Supreme Court, judicial review, federalism, separation of powers, and the Bill of Rights; the executive, administrative agencies, the judiciary; constitutional development and law; relations between formal institutions, parties, and interest groups.

Course Materials:**Textbook:**

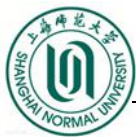
The Logic of American Politics, Kernell, Jacobson and Kousser, 9th edition

Publisher: CQ Press; Ninth edition (April 4, 2019)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1544322992

ISBN-13: 978-1544322995



Course Format and Requirements:

This course has 25 class sessions in total. Each class session is 145 minutes in length.

The primary format of this course is lecture, problem solving and discussion. Familiarizing with the course material before class, you will gain a better understanding the information presented during lecture. Each student will be responsible for learning as much as possible. Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions on things you did not understand.

Attendance

Attendance is MANDATORY!!! Due to the fact that this is a public speaking course students are required to attend ALL sessions. The only excused absences will be for illness documented by a doctor's note. If you know ahead of time that you will be absent, kindly e-mail the instructor immediately. Unexcused absences will result in an automatic drop in grade. With each unexcused absence your final letter grade will be dropped $\frac{1}{2}$ a grade – NO EXCEPTIONS (e.g.: A to A-).

Grading Scale:

A+: 98%-100%

A: 93%-97%

A-: 90%-92%

B+: 88%-89%

B: 83%-87%

B-: 80%-82%

C+: 78%-79%

C: 73%-77%

C-: 70%-72%

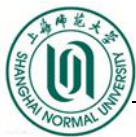
D+: 68%-69%

D: 63%-67%

D-: 60%-62%

F: Below 60%

Course Assignments:

**Essays**

Students will write three papers, each two pages in length, in which they will advocate a position on one of topics we will be discussing in class. Each paper is worth 10% of total grade. Written instructions for each paper will be handed out in class. These instructions will identify the paper topic and provide additional information about the assignment. A rubric later handed out will provides specific criteria about how the papers will be graded.

Exams

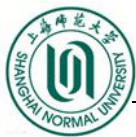
2 Mid-Term Exam will be given in class. Both Mid-term exams will be closed book and closed note, and will contain both short answer and essays questions. The Mid-Term will be non-cumulative and the Final will be cumulative.

Course Assessment:

Essay 1	10%
Essay 2	10%
Essay 3	10%
Midterm exam 1	20%
Midterm exam 2	20%
Final exam	30%
Total	100%

Course Schedule:

Week 1- Class 1	Week 1- Class 2
Course Introduction Read the syllabus THE LOGIC OF AMERICAN POLITICS	The Constitution and the Nationalization of American Politics Problems of Collective Action Reading: <i>Logic</i> (for <i>The Logic of American Politics</i>), Chapter 1
Week 1- Class 3	Week 1- Class 4



<p>The Constitution and the Nationalization of American Politics:</p> <p>The Articles of Confederation</p> <p>The Constitution in Context</p> <p>Reading: <i>Logic</i>, Chapter 2,</p>	<p>The Constitution and the Nationalization of American Politics - Continued</p> <p>Federalism</p>
Week 1- Class 5	Week 1- Class 6
<p>Anti-Federalist</p> <p>Reading: <i>Logic</i>, Chapter 3</p> <p>Constitutional Issues:</p> <p>Civil Rights - Past Issues</p>	<p>Constitutional Issues:</p> <p>Civil Rights - Current Issues</p> <p>Reading: <i>Logic</i>, Chapter 4</p>
Week 2- Class 7	Week 2- Class 8
<p>Constitutional Issues:</p> <p>Civil Liberties</p> <p>Reading: <i>Logic</i>, Chapter 5</p>	<p>Essay 1 Due</p> <p>The U.S. Congress:</p> <p>Political Parties as an American Institution</p> <p>Reading: <i>Logic</i>, Chapter 6</p>
Week 2- Class 9	Week 2- Class 10
Midterm Exam 1	<p>The U.S. Congress:</p> <p>Electoral Representation</p> <p>Organization and Lawmaking</p> <p>Reading: <i>Logic</i>, Chapter 12</p>
Week 2- Class 11	Week 2- Class 12
<p>The U.S. Congress:</p> <p>Legislative Deal-making and Gridlock</p> <p>Reading: <i>Logic</i>, Chapter 6</p> <p>Reading: Jay Cost, “<i>The Pivotal Politics of Health Care Reform Part II.</i>” 2009</p>	<p>The Presidency: Presidential Power</p> <p>Reading: <i>Logic</i>, Chapter 7</p>
Week 3- Class 13	Week 3- Class 14
<p>The Presidency:</p> <p>Presidential Leadership</p> <p>Reading: Neustadt, Richard. 1990. <i>Presidential</i></p>	<p>The Judiciary:</p> <p>The Federal Judiciary</p> <p>Appellate Court Structure</p>



<p><i>Power: The Politics of Leadership from Roosevelt to Reagan.</i></p> <p>Reading: Klein, Ezra. 2012. <i>The Unpersuaded: Who Listens to a President?</i></p>	
Week 3- Class 15	Week 3- Class 16
<p>Inter-branch Relations</p> <p>Reading: <i>Logic</i>, Chapter 9</p> <p>In-Class Video - <i>Obama's Deal</i></p>	<p>Essay 2 Due</p> <p>Judicial Review</p> <p>The Supreme Court</p> <p>Reading: <i>Logic</i>, Chapter 9</p>
Week 3- Class 17	Week 3- Class 18
Midterm Exam 2	<p>Bureaucracy and The Budget</p> <p>Electoral Institutions</p>
Week 4- Class 19	Week 4- Class 20
<p>The Electoral College, Gerrymandering, and Primaries</p> <p>Reading: <i>Logic</i>, Chapter 8</p> <p>Reading: <i>Logic</i>, Chapter 11</p>	<p>Campaigns and Elections:</p> <p>Turnout and Decision</p> <p>Reading: <i>Logic</i>, Chapter 11</p> <p>Reading: Francia et al., <i>the Financiers of Congressional Elections: Investors, Intimates, and Ideologues</i>. Chapters 1, 3</p>
Week 4- Class 21	Week 4- Class 22
<p>Political and Social Identities:</p> <p>Polarization</p> <p>The Polarized Public?</p>	<p>Political and Social Identities:</p> <p>Race and Ethnicity</p> <p>Interest Groups and Public Opinion:</p> <p>Interest Groups</p> <p>Reading: <i>Logic</i>, Chapter 13</p>
Week 4- Class 23	Week 4- Class 24
<p>Interest Groups and Public Opinion:</p> <p>Public Opinion</p> <p>Reading: <i>Logic</i>, Chapter 10</p>	<p>Public Partisanship</p> <p>Reading: <i>Logic</i>, Chapter 14</p>
Week 4- Class 25	

***Essay 3 Due***

THE NEWS MEDIA;
THE PROSPECTS FOR INSTITUTIONAL
REFORM
Wrap up
Review for final

Final Exam (Cumulative): TBA***Academic Integrity:***

Students are encouraged to study together, and to discuss lecture topics with one another, but all other work should be completed independently.

Students are expected to adhere to the standards of academic honesty and integrity that are described in the Zhejiang University's Academic Conduct Code. Any work suspected of violating the standards of the Academic Conduct Code will be reported to the Dean's Office. Penalties for violating the Academic Conduct Code may include dismissal from the program. All students have an individual responsibility to know and understand the provisions of the Academic Conduct Code.

Special Needs or Assistance:

Please contact the Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material. Our goal is to help you learn, not to penalize you for issues which mask your learning.