

CBM003 ADD/CHANGE FORM

Undergraduate Council
 New Course Course Change
 Core Category: Govt/Pols Effective Fall 2014

or

Graduate/Professional Studies Council
 New Course Course Change
 Effective Fall 2013

APPROVED SEP - 4 2013
M.M.

1. Department: POLS College: CLASS
2. Faculty Contact Person: JW Jackson Telephone: 3-3919 Email: jjackson5@uh.edu
3. Course Information on New/Revised course:
 - Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:
POLS / 1336 / U.S. and Texas Constitution and Politics
 - Instructional Area / Course Number / Short Course Title (30 characters max.)
POLS / 1336 / US AND TEXAS CONST/POLITICS
 - SCH: 3.00 Level: FR CIP Code: 45.1002.0001 Lect Hrs: 3 Lab Hrs: 0
4. Justification for adding/changing course: To meet core curriculum requirements
5. Was the proposed/revised course previously offered as a special topics course? Yes No
 If Yes, please complete:
 - Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title:
 / /
 - Course ID: Effective Date (currently active row):
6. Authorized Degree Program(s):
 - Does this course affect major/minor requirements in the College/Department? Yes No
 - Does this course affect major/minor requirements in other Colleges/Departments? Yes No
 - Can the course be repeated for credit? Yes No (if yes, include in course description)
7. Grade Option: Letter (A, B, C ...) Instruction Type: lecture ONLY (Note: Lect/Lab info. must match item 3, above.)
8. If this form involves a change to an existing course, please obtain the following information from the course inventory: Instructional Area / Course Number / Long Course Title
POLS / 1336 / U.S. and Texas Constitution and Politics
 - Course ID: 13504 Effective Date (currently active row): 2012827
9. Proposed Catalog Description: (If there are no prerequisites, type in "none".)
 Cr: 3. (3-0). Prerequisites: None Description (30 words max.): Introduction to the constitutions and politics of the United States and Texas, emphasizing constitutional structure, federalism, separation of powers, limited government, public opinion, elections, and civil liberties.
10. Dean's Signature: Date: 10/8/12

RECEIVED OCT 12 2012
GA

Print/Type Name: Dr. Sarah Fishman

REQUEST FOR COURSES IN THE CORE CURRICULUM

Originating Department or College: Political Science

Person Making Request: Gregory Weiher

Telephone: 3-3924

Email: gweiher@uh.edu

Dean's Signature: _____

Date: 09/09/12

Course Number and Title: POLS 1336 Introduction to American Government I

Please attach in separate documents:

Completed CBM003 Add/Change Form with Catalog Description

Syllabus

List the student learning outcomes for the course (Statements of what students will know and be able to do as a result of taking this course. See appended hints for constructing these statements):

Learning outcomes in this course focus on citizenship:

1. Students will gain familiarity with the fundamental institutions and processes of American and Texas government.
2. Students will become knowledgeable consumers of news about politics.
3. Students will have an appreciation of the implications of the policy choices that are made by elected and appointed officials.

Component Area for which the course is being proposed (check one):

Communication

Mathematics

Creative Arts

Life & Physical Sciences

American History

Government/Political Science

Social & Behavioral Science

Competency areas addressed by the course (refer to appended chart for competencies that are required and optional in each component area):

Critical Thinking

Communication Skills

Empirical & Quantitative Skills

Teamwork

Social Responsibility

Personal Responsibility

Because we will be assessing student learning outcomes across multiple core courses, assessments assigned in your course must include assessments of the core competencies. For each competency checked above, indicated the specific course assignment(s) which, when completed by students, will provide evidence of the competency. Provide detailed information, such as copies of the paper or project assignment, copies of individual test items, etc. A single assignment may be used to provide data for multiple competencies.

Critical Thinking:

Students will be required to complete an essay of 350 words (approximately two pages, double-spaced) in answer to the question, “Which of the rights guaranteed in the Bill of Rights is most important for democracy?” This assignment will require them to compare the various rights guaranteed in the Constitution, to evaluate their significance and implications in light of a consideration of the nature of democracy, and to make a case for one as opposed to the others. Alternatively, they may make a reasoned argument that various or all of the rights are important in concert, and cannot be ranked separately.

Communication Skills:

Students will be required to complete an essay of 350 words (approximately two pages, double-spaced) in answer to the question, “Which of the rights guaranteed in the Bill of Rights is most important for democracy?” They will be evaluated on whether they present a clear thesis, and on the coherence and clarity of the case that they make.

Social Responsibility

Students will be required to complete an essay of 350 words (approximately two pages, double-spaced) in answer to the question, “Which of the rights guaranteed in the Bill of Rights is most important for democracy?” In doing so, students will have to think about the requirements of democracy, and can hardly do so without encountering issues of social responsibility – what is required of citizens in a democracy? How is democratic citizenship to be nurtured and protected?

Individual Responsibility

Students will be required to complete an essay of 350 words (approximately two pages, double-spaced) in answer to the question, “Which of the rights guaranteed in the Bill of Rights is most important for democracy?” In doing so, students will have to think about their place in a democracy, how that place is protected by the Bill of Rights, and what individual responsibilities are implied by the need to preserve these rights for all.

Will the syllabus vary across multiple section of the course?

XX No

If yes, list the assignments that will be constant across sections:

Inclusion in the core is contingent upon the course being offered and taught at least once every other academic year. Courses will be reviewed for renewal every 5 years.

The department understands that instructors will be expected to provide student work and to participate in university-wide assessments of student work. This could include, but may not be limited to, designing instruments such as rubrics, and scoring work by students in this or other courses. In addition, instructors of core courses may be asked to include brief assessment activities in their course.

Dept. Signature: _____

POLS 1336: American Government I

Classroom: AH Auditorium 2

Fall 2012

Staff

Instructor: Dr. Kent Tedin, Professor of Political Science

Office 432 PGH

Office Hours: 2:30-4 PM Tuesdays or by appointment

e-mail: ktedin@uh.edu.

Do not e-mail professor Tedin using Blackboard; He won't get the e-mail

Teaching Assistant: David Llanos

e-mail: dllanosx@gmail.com

Do not e-mail David Llanos using Blackboard; He won't get the e-mail

Office: 426 PGH

Office Hours: 10:30-11:30 on Wednesdays or by appointment

Learning Objectives

1. Students will gain familiarity with the fundamental institutions and processes of American and Texas government.
2. Students will become knowledgeable consumers of news about politics.
3. Students will have an appreciation of the implications of the policy choices that are made by elected and appointed officials.

Required Texts

POLS 1336, *American Democracy Now* (McGraw-Hill, 2012). This is an electronic book that you download to your computer. For instructions on how to buy the textbook required for this class please read the document titled "**Buy Course Book**" posted in blackboard. You have free use of the book for 30 days before you have to pay for it. But you must buy the book in 30 days, as it contains your access code to take the quizzes. It is not possible to pass the course without taking the quizzes. If you have any problems buying the book, or need to buy through the bookstore because you have financial aid, contact the book publisher's representative julianne.peterson@mcgraw-hill.com. Neither the course instructor or teaching assistant can help you with problems purchasing the book (should they arise). You must contact the publisher's representative

Supplemental Readings

There are supplemental readings for some of the weekly topics. They are indicated on the syllabus as "supplemental readings." The supplemental readings are on Blackboard. To locate them, click on "Supplemental Readings" on Blackboard. The appropriate readings will be listed in a subfile by topic and by date. For example, the first supplement reading will be in a subfile called: "September 11-13 Federalism."

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

In order to receive accommodation on exams and assignments, students must make arrangements with my teaching assistant, David Llanos, during the first two weeks of the semester. In addition, I recommend that students with disabilities learn about their rights and responsibilities from the Center for Students with Disabilities. This center provides a wide variety of academic support services to all currently enrolled UH students who have any type of mental or physical disability of either temporary or permanent nature. These services include assistance with course accommodations, adaptive equipment, individualized exam administration, taped textbooks, wheelchair repair, library needs, registration, handicapped parking, accessible housing and transportation, as well as many other needs. If you feel that you may need assistance of this nature, you may wish to call the Center at 713-743-5400.

Course Rules

Rule 1: Except for issues involving missed exams, contact the course teaching assistant (David Llanos at dllanosx@gmail.com). If you contact Professor Tedin, he will simply forward your e-mail to David Llanos, which will delay answers to your questions.

Rule 2: Cell Phones. Turn off your cell phones when you come to class.

Rule 3: Class Etiquette. This is a large class. Please do not carry on conversations with your neighbors during the lecture. Please do not read the newspaper during class or other material during the lecture. The class ends at 12:50. The instructor promises not to hold you past 12:50. In return it is expected that you will not slam books closed or carry conversations with neighbors or engage in activities that make it impossible to continue the lecture between 12:40 and 12:50. Students who in any way disrupt the class will be dropped from the class by the instructor. If the student is passing the course, you will be dropped passing.

Rule 4: Additional Work. Students may not do additional work to improve their grade other than that offered on the syllabus. If this option is available for one student, it must be offered to everyone.

Rule 5: Students cannot take any exam earlier than the scheduled date.

Rule 6: Posting Grades. Grades will be sent to students by e-mail.

Rule 7: Dropping the Course. Students may drop the course passing up until the official university drop date. The last date to drop the course passing is Friday, November 2nd.

Rule 8: The course syllabus is available on Blackboard. The quizzes for the course are on Blackboard. All course material is on Blackboard, and is nowhere else.

Rule 9: The power points used for the lectures will be sent to you by e-mail after the lecture on the topic is complete. They cannot be sent before the lecture.

Rule 10: Once a student starts taking the quiz, he/she has two hours to finish it (but three hours for the first quiz as it is longer). The score is posted after the quiz deadline, not immediately.

after it is finished. If there is a technical problem with the quiz, report it to the course teaching assistant, David Llanos, immediately. Do not put it off.

Rule 11: These are course rules. If you cannot meet them, please drop the course as there will not be exceptions.

USING “LearnSmart” AS A STUDY AID

The book publisher has a software module called “LearnSmart” that provides a series of exercises and practice questions that many will find useful in preparing for the exams. If you wish to use LearnSmart the instructions are on Blackboard. Just click on “LearnSmart” and the relevant material will be provided. Please be aware that not every chapter has a “learnSmart” module available, but most chapters do have these modules. LearnSmart is a study guide. It is not an exercise for which students receive course credit.

Tests

There will be three exams and a weekly quiz. Each exam will contain 60 multiple choice questions. The exams will be given in regular classroom (AH 2) at the regular class time (11:30-1). There will be weekly quizzes, as listed below in the “Course Outline.” The quizzes will normally be 10 questions, but the first quiz will also include 15 additional questions over the course syllabus (a total of 25 questions). The first quiz must be completed by 11:30 PM Friday, September 7th. Each exam is worth 25% of the course grade. The quizzes will be worth 25% of the course grade. The due date for completing each quiz is listed below in the “Course Outline.” The quiz will be posted five days before the final date for the quiz to be taken (see course outline for this date). In summary, the components of your grade will be: 25% for exam 1, 25% for exam 2, 25% for the final exam, and 25% for the weekly quizzes.

MISSED EXAMS: The instructor will only allow makeup exams without penalty only for **clearly documented legitimate** reasons. Vacation travel is not a legitimate reason. The rules are: (1) If you cannot take an exam for a legitimate reason, you must e-mail professor Tedin 24 hours in advance stating the legitimate reason for not taking the exam; (2) missed exams without prior notice to Professor Tedin will require documentation. Minus a 24 hour advance notice, only a documented medical or a family emergency will be justification for a makeup exam without penalty. The student must contact professor Tedin no later than one week after the missed exam; (3) if you missed the exam for no legitimate reason you can take the makeup exam, but your grade for the missed exam will be lowered by one letter; that is, if you get a “B” on the missed exam your grade will be “C” for the missed exam. If you miss an exam and want to take the makeup, you must contact Dr. Tedin by e-mail before Monday December 3rd, 2012. All makeup exams will be given on Tuesday, December 11 at 11:30 AM in AH 2.

Quiz PROCEDURES AND RULES: There will be a weekly quiz over the assigned reading for the upcoming lecture that will count for 25% of the total course points. To take the quiz, go to Blackboard. The due date for the quizzes to be taken is shown below in class outline. The quiz will be posted at least five days before the final due date to take the quiz as shown on the syllabus. The quiz points are basically “free points.” You can look the answer up in the book. Once a student starts taking the quiz, he/she has two hours to finish it (three hours

for quiz one). The score is posted after the quiz deadline, not immediately after it is finished.
IMPORTANT: The first quiz must be taken by Friday, September 7 at 11:00 PM. Any student who does not take the quiz by that date, without the instructor's approval, will be dropped from the course on the following Monday. If there is a technical problem with the quiz, report it to the course teaching assistant, David Llanos immediately. *Do not put it off if you want to take the quiz.*

Extra Credit Project: Students can receive extra credit for participating in a questionnaire-based political science project. Students can participate in the project by clicking on a Blackboard link labeled "political science project." You will be informed by e-mail when the project is to start and when it is to stop. The total exercise will usually not take more than two or three hours, and often less. The project will have been approved by the Human Subjects Committee of the University of Houston. Those who satisfactorily complete the project will have 10 points added to their added to their quiz scores. There are 125 quiz questions over the semester. If you get 80 right, your final score for the quiz component of the grade will be raised from 80 right to 90 right out of 125 total questions (or from 64% to 72% correct). This 72% will count for one quarter of your grade. Please note, this addition may or may not affect a student's grade. It can, however, only improve the grade or leave the grade unchanged.

Grading Curve (average percent for all 3 exams and weekly quizzes)

80-100%	A	61-68%	C
79%	A-	60%	C-
78%	B+	59%	D+
71-77%	B	56-58%	D
70%	B-	55%	D-
69%	C+	54% & lower	F

Course Outline

August 28-30: Introduction and Main Themes

READ: *American Democracy Now*, pp. 1-14, chapter 2, Appendix A

Supplemental Reading: "The Negative Consequences of Uncivil Discourse"

September 4-6: The Constitution

READ: *American Democracy Now*, chapters 3, 4, 5, pp. 71-88

Supplemental Reading One: "How Much as Citizens United Changed Game"

Supplement Reading Two: Texas Constitution

QUIZ1: Must be completed by 11:30 PM Friday, September 7.

September 11-13: Federalism

READ: *American Democracy Now*, Chapter 7

Supplemental Reading: Richard Murray, "Power in the City: Patterns of Political Influence in Houston Texas"

QUIZ2: Must be completed by 11:30 PM Monday, September 10th

September 18-20 Political Culture

READ: *American Democracy Now*, pp. 15-30

Supplemental Reading I: "American Political Culture"

Supplement Reading II: "Texas Society"

QUIZ3: Must be completed by 11:30 PM Monday, September 17th

September 25-27: Individual Participation

READ: *American Democracy Now*, Chapter 13, pp 412-417

QUIZ4: Must be completed by 11:30 PM Monday, September 24th

FRIST EXAM: TUESDAY OCTOBER 2

September October 4-11 Civil Liberties

READ: *American Democracy Now*, Chapter 6

QUIZ5: Must be completed by 11:30 PM Wednesday, October 10

October 16-18: The Media

READ: *American Democracy Now*, Chapter 17

Supplemental Reading: "The News Media and Negative Campaigns"

QUIZ6: Must be completed by 11:30 PM Monday, October 15th

October 23-25: Public Opinion

READ: *American Democracy Now*, Chapters 8,9

QUIZ7: Must be completed 11:30 PM Monday, October 22

SECOND EXAM: THURSDAY OCTOBER 25

October 30-November 1: Interest Groups

READ: *American Democracy Now*, Chapters 10, pp. 418-429

Supplemental Reading: "Providing Public Goods: Alternative Policy Approaches"

QUIZ8: Must be completed by 11:30 PM Monday, October 29

November 6-8: Political Parties

READ: *American Democracy Now*, Chapters 11, 19

QUIZ9: Must be completed by 11:30 PM Monday, November 5

November 13-15: Congressional Elections

READ: *American Democracy Now*, pp. 278-283, Chapters 15

QUIZ10: Must be completed by 11:30 Monday, November 12

November 20-December 6: Presidential Elections

READ: *American Democracy Now*, Chapters 13, 14, 20

Supplemental Reading: "How Much as Citizens United Changed Game"

QUIZ11: Must be completed by 11:30 PM Monday, November 19

FINAL EXAM: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 11:00 AM IN AH 2

(The final exam is not comprehensive. It covers only the material between October 30 and December 6)