Political Science 100
Introduction to American Government

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Text:
Readings are posted in canvas, in the Learning Area and in the modules.
Access canvas at canvas.uncg.edu

Readings
A. Foundations of American Democracy
   (read through Module: Foundations of American Democracy on Canvas)

1. American Political Culture
   Learning Area, lesson 1
   Politics in Action #1 (group activity)  Tuesday Sept. 6

2. The Constitution
   Learning Area, lesson 2
   The Federalist Papers, No. 10, 51
   Politics in Action #2 Tuesday Sept. 13
   Readiness Assessment Test (RAT) Sept. 13 in class (covers lessons 1 and 2)

3. Federalism
   Learning Area, lesson 3
   Politics in Action #3, Tuesday Sept. 20

4. Political Participation
   Learning Area, lesson 4
   Politics in Action #4, Tuesday Sept. 27
   RAT Sept. 27 in class (covers lessons 3 and 4)

Test 1: Tuesday Oct. 4 Bryan 221 and Curry 304

B. Elections and the Linkage Institutions
   (read through Module: Elections and the Linkage Institutions on Canvas)

5. Voting and Elections
   Learning Area, lesson 5
   Politics in Action #5, Tuesday Oct. 11
6. **POLITICAL PARTIES**

   Learning Area, lesson 6
   Politics in Action #6, Thursday Oct. 20
   RAT, Oct. 20 in class (covers lessons 5 and 6)

7. **INTEREST GROUPS**

   Learning Area, lesson 7
   Politics in Action #7, Thursday Oct. 27

8. **MASS MEDIA**

   Learning Area, lesson 8
   Politics in Action #8, Thursday Nov. 3
   RAT, Nov. 3 in class (covering lessons 7 and 8)

**TEST 2: Tuesday November 8 Bryan 221 and Curry 304**

   **C. THE GOVERNING INSTITUTIONS**
   (read through the Module: Governing Institutions on Canvas)

9. **CONGRESS**

   Learning Area, lesson 9
   Politics in Action #9, Thursday Nov. 15
   RAT, Nov. 15 in class (covering lesson 9)

10. **THE PRESIDENCY AND EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

    Learning Area, lesson 10
    Politics in Action #10, Thursday Nov. 22

11. **THE COURTS**

    Learning Area, lesson 11
    Politics in Action #11, Thursday Dec. 1
    RAT, Dec. 1 in class (covering lessons 10 and 11)

**FINAL: Tuesday December 13 NOON Graham 313**

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**: Political Science 100 is a survey of our political culture, constitutional development and the structure and functions of our national government and informal institutions, such as parties. The uniqueness of the American system will be emphasized.
**CLASS ATTENDANCE:** Your attendance is crucial to the success of your group. The group part of the readiness assurance test (RAT) cannot be made up. Your absence from the group Politics in Action activities will also negatively effect your grade. If you feel that you have extenuating circumstances, please let me know.

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the UNCG Academic Integrity Policy, available at: [http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/](http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/) Submission of your first assignment is acknowledgement that you have read, understood and abided by the policy. Failure to do so will be punished.

**GRADES:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 tests each 20%</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual readiness assurance tests</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group tests</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reports on group projects</td>
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The tests will be multiple choice with one essay question. They will be given on Canvas in the computer labs.

The individual readiness assurance tests (RATs) will be given in class. You may use your laptop, tablet or phone (Please download the Canvas by Instructure mobile app) After completing these tests, your group will take the same test as a group. You will receive the grade that your group scores on the test.

There are 11 Politics in Action group activities. These can be found at the end of each lesson in the Learning Area. These activities will be done in class as a group. A 1-2 page report of the activity will be submitted for each person. These will be due at 5PM the day after the Politics in Action is completed in class. Part of your grade will come from your group members’ assessment of your work. Each one of these reports should include at least one paragraph about the group: Who was a valuable contributor? Who had great ideas? Who was unprepared? Who was absent? You need to mention each member of the group. The rest of the paper should be a summary of the group discussion as well as what you learned from this activity. No submissions will be accepted over a week late. Each report will be worth 10 points. Failure to evaluate each of your group members will be a 5 point deduction. Grammatical errors and typos will also be automatic deductions.

You are responsible for keeping up with your grades on Canvas. If there is a problem with your grade, it is your responsibility to let me know.

No make-ups, late assignments or whining accepted after Reading Day, Tuesday Dec. 6