SYLLABUS

Spring 2013
Political Science 206
American National Government

Instructor: Jon R. Bond
Office: Allen Bldg. 2071
Phone: 845-4246
Hours: Monday 10:00-11:30; Wednesday 2:00-3:30 (in my office)
Monday & Wednesday (after class in the classroom)
E-mail: jonbond@polisci.tamu.edu
Other times by appointment


I. The Subject: Objectives and Methodology
This is a course about American National Government.
A. Course goals:
   1. Develop an understanding of the institutions and political processes of the American political system; and
   2. Encourage critical thinking about political events; and
   3. Introduce students to the discipline of Political Science and how political scientists study politics scientifically.
B. Learning Outcomes. Each student should:
   1. Learn the concepts and terms relevant to the study of American politics;
   2. Understand and apply the major concepts and theories in the study of American politics; and
   3. Understand the promise and performance of American democracy.
C. Method of instruction: assigned reading, lectures emphasizing and expanding on material in assigned reading, and class discussion.

II. Required Text
[I have arranged for my students to get the textbook directly from the publisher at a discounted price of $76.00 at the following website: www.cengagebrain.com/micro/tamupols206. Shipping is free and you can get 7-day free access to the eBook while the book is being shipped. In addition, I have posted pdf files of chapters 1 and 2 on e-learning in case you have difficulty getting the book. You also have an option to purchase an eBook of the 10th edition $47.99 for 6-months access.

The discounted price for the book is available only at this website. If you choose to get a used book from another source, be sure it is the 10th edition (ISBN-10: 0-495-91374-X). Previous editions are out of date and do not contain material included in the 10th edition.]

III. Grades
A. Exams and Weights:
   EXAM 1 (55 questions)  55 points  27.5%
   EXAM 2 (65 questions)  65 points  32.5%
   EXAM 3 (80 questions)  80 points  40.0%
   200 points

Exams are multiple-choice with questions from both lectures and assigned reading.

B. Grading Scale:
   A  180-200 pts  (90-100%)
   B  160-179 pts  (80-89%)
   C  140-159 pts  (70-79%)
   D  120-139 pts  (60-69%)
   F  0 - 119 pts  (0-59%)

C. There is NO extra credit in this class
IV. Miscellaneous Policies:

A. Attendance: You decide for yourself whether to attend class or not. I believe class attendance is important and students who do not attend class tend to make low grades. Although, I will take attendance on a regular basis, there is **No Extra Penalty or Reward Associated with Attendance.** If you choose not to attend, you are still responsible for everything discussed in class.

B. Missed Work and Make-up Policy: You are eligible to make-up missed exams if and only if you satisfy all of the following conditions (*Texas A&M University Student Rules*, sects 7.1-7.3, [http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07](http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07)):

1. You must have a **University Recognized Excused Absence** (sect. 7.1),
2. You must provide the required documentation (sect. 7.1 & 7.2), and
3. You must notify your instructor in writing (acknowledged e-mail message is acceptable) prior to the date of exam or **by the end of the second working day after** the exam is given (sect. 7.3). If you are unable to notify me personally, you should have someone call or e-mail for you. If I am not in, you can leave a message at the Political Science Department office (845-2511).

To be clear, you are eligible to take a make-up exam if and only if (1) the absence is on the University list as excused, (2) you provide the necessary documentation, and (3) you notify me by the end of the second working day after the exam. If the reason for the absence is not listed in section 7.1 of the University rules or if you fail to provide timely notification and documentation, the absence is **not** excused and make-up work is **not** available. No exceptions.

Except for the final exam, which is given at the assigned time during finals week, exam dates listed on the Assignment page are tentative. Exact exam dates will be announced in class at least one week in advance. The “regular make-up exam” is multiple-choice and is offered in my office at 4:00 p.m. the second working day after the exam is given (e.g., for exams given on a Wednesday, the make-up is the following Friday at 4:00). Students with excused absences who cannot attend the regular make-up are eligible for alternative make-up work to be determined in consultation with the instructor. The typical alternative is an essay exam. The make-up for students with excused absences for the final is on the day after the end of finals week.

C. Special Problems and Changing Grades: The only reason for changing a grade is if I make an error in computation. Special circumstances (e.g., “I’m on probation and need a “C” to stay in school,” “I must have an “A” to keep my scholarship,” etc.) may be important to you. But to be fair to all students, I will not change a grade for any reason except errors in computation.

D. Class disruption: Disrupting class is a serious violation of Texas A&M University rules and regulations. Cell phones are disruptive if they “beep” during class. If you bring your cell phone to class, please be sure it is turned off. I will take appropriate action to remove any disruptions from the class.

E. Cheating: The Aggie Code of Honor states: “**An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do.**” Accordingly, cheating will not be tolerated. If I can prove cheating, I will apply the severest penalty permitted given the circumstances. If I suspect cheating but cannot prove it, I will require you to take another exam.

F. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Disabilities Services in Cain Hall, Room B118. e-mail: disability@tamu.edu; phone: (979) 845-1637.

G. The **handouts used in this course are copyrighted.** By “handouts,” I mean all materials generated for this class and distributed in class or posted on the class homepage, which include but are not limited to syllabi, quizzes, exams, in-class materials, and lecture outlines. You may reproduce copyrighted material for your own personal use, but you do not have the right to sell or distribute the handouts to anyone else, unless I expressly grant permission. Violating U.S. Copyright laws is an Honor Code violation.
V. Assignments:
I have divided the course into 13 topics. We will spend between 1 and 4 class periods on each topic. You should do the assigned reading for a topic before we discuss it in class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic #</th>
<th>Topic Title</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Read the syllabus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Part One: Constitutional Framework**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic #</th>
<th>Topic Title</th>
<th>Reading Assignment from Bond &amp; Smith, <em>Promise &amp; Performance of American Democracy, 10th ed. 2012</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The Promise of Democracy</td>
<td>Chap. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The American Constitution</td>
<td>Chap. 2; <em>U.S. Constitution &amp; Federalist #51</em> (appendix)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Federalism</td>
<td>Chap. 3; Federalist #10 (appendix)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Civil Liberties &amp; Civil Rights</td>
<td>Chaps. 4 &amp; 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exam 1 over Topics 1-4**
55 multiple choice questions
Approximate Date: February 20

**PART TWO: CONNECTING CITIZENS TO GOVERNMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic #</th>
<th>Topic Title</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Interest Groups</td>
<td>Chap. 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Political Parties</td>
<td>Chap. 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Nomination &amp; Election of the President</td>
<td>Chap. 10 (skip pp. 358-370 on congressional elections)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Public Opinion &amp; Socialization</td>
<td>Chap. 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Voting Behavior &amp; Participation</td>
<td>Chap. 11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exam 2 over Topics 5-9**
65 multiple choice questions
Approximate Date: April 3

**PART THREE: OFFICIAL DECISION MAKING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic #</th>
<th>Topic Title</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Congress</td>
<td>pp. 358-370 in Chap. 10, &amp; Chap. 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>The Presidency</td>
<td>Chap. 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>The Bureaucracies</td>
<td>Chap. 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>The Federal Judiciary</td>
<td>Chap. 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Final Exam over Topics 10-13**
80 multiple choice questions
**Monday, May 6**
**3:30-5:30**
**BLOC 102**

*(Final Exam Make-up time for students with documented excused absences is Thursday, May 9 from 9:00-11:00 a.m., Allen 2071)*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final Exam Day</th>
<th>Final Exam Time</th>
<th>Class Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 3, Friday</td>
<td>7:30-9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>MW 5:45-7:00 p.m. or later MW 6:20-7:35 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 3, Friday</td>
<td>10 a.m.-noon</td>
<td>MWF 8:45 a.m. MWF 8:35-9:25 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 3, Friday</td>
<td>12:30-2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>TR 9:35-10:50 a.m. TR 10:20-11:35 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 3, Friday</td>
<td>3-5 p.m.</td>
<td>TR 11:10 a.m.-12:25 p.m. TR 11:55 a.m.-1:10 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 6, Monday</td>
<td>8-10 a.m.</td>
<td>MWF 9:10-10 a.m. MWF 9:45-10:35 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 6, Monday</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>MWF 12:40-1:30 p.m. MWF 1:15-2:05 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 6, Monday</td>
<td>1-3 p.m.</td>
<td>TR 8:45-10 a.m. TR 8:45-10 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>May 6, Monday</strong></td>
<td><strong>3:30-5:30 p.m.</strong></td>
<td><strong>MW 4:10-5:25 p.m.</strong> MW 4:45-6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 7, Tuesday</td>
<td>8-10 a.m.</td>
<td>MWF 10:20-11:10 a.m. MWF 10:55-11:45 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 7, Tuesday</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>MWF 3:30-4:25 p.m. MWF 3:35-4:25 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 7, Tuesday</td>
<td>1-3 p.m.</td>
<td>TR 3:55-5:10 p.m. TR 4:40-5:50 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 7, Tuesday</td>
<td>3:30-5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>MWF 1:50-2:40 p.m. MWF 2:25-3:15 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 8, Wednesday</td>
<td>8-10 a.m.</td>
<td>TR 12:45-2 p.m. TR 1:30-2:45 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 8, Wednesday</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>MWF 11:30 a.m.-12:20 p.m. MWF 12:05-12:55 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 8, Wednesday</td>
<td>1-3 p.m.</td>
<td>TR 2:20-3:15 p.m. TR 3:05-4:20 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 8, Wednesday</td>
<td>3:30-5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>TR 5:30-6:45 p.m. or later TR 6:15-7:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When a student is scheduled for three final examinations in one day, the student may request rescheduling of one of the examinations through his/her dean. The dean, department head, and faculty member will make every effort to accommodate the student when such a request is made. Please see Texas A&M University Student Rules, http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule08.

My policy is to treat three final examinations scheduled in one day as an excused absence. I will need to see a copy of your class schedule to verify the three regularly scheduled finals on one day. Final Exam Make-up time for students with documented excused absences is Thursday, May 9 from 9:00-11:00 a.m., Allen 2071.
Pols 207-506
State and Local Government Syllabus
Tuesday and Thursday, 9:35-10:50, Blocker 102

Professor Harvey J. Tucker  
Allen 2084  
Office Hours: before and after class in the classroom  
Office hours in Allen 2084 by appointment  
Spring 2013  
Texas A&M University  
845-8589

Texts
Harvey J. Tucker and Norman R. Luttigeg, *Comparing the States and Communities*, Revised 8th edition, Fall 2011, available for purchase only at the MSC Bookstore in G. Rollie White. The Fall 2011 printing corrects errors and updates some information from earlier printings. There is more than 90% overlap in all printings of the Revised 8th edition.
A booklet of lecture materials is available for purchase at the MSC Bookstore in G. Rollie White only.

Learning outcomes
By the end of this course, students should be able to:

(1) Demonstrate social and cultural competence
a. Define, understand, and use concepts and terms relevant to the study of state and local government in the United States;
b. Comprehend origins and evolution of state political systems with a special emphasis on Texas including a study of political institutions, constitutions, and federalism;
c. Understand the opportunities for citizens to participate in government at the state and local level by understanding differences in mechanisms and patterns of participation thus making them more responsible citizens.

(2) Demonstrate critical thinking
a. Appreciate that political actors and analysts do not share a common vocabulary and sometimes use unique definitions;
b. Identify biased or incomplete use of empirical information.

Course Web Site
http://elearning.tamu.edu/

Email Communications
Send email to H-TUCKER@TAMU.EDU. To receive a response, each email message must have Pols 207-506 and your name (as listed by the University Registrar) in the message subject line and must be sent from a TAMU email address. The TAMU email address helps identify TAMU students. Pols 207-506 and student names in the message subject line help identify students enrolled in the class and help me keep track of messages. Email communications must meet the spelling, grammar and punctuation standards of formal business communications. Do not expect an answer to questions answered on this course syllabus. Expect inquiries about and requests for alternatives to the grading criteria below to be posted online and/or forwarded to the dean of your academic college.
During class, you can send emails about the lecture to tucker207@pols.tamu.edu.

Reading Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>TOPICS</th>
<th>CHAPTERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 15-24</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>1 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 29-31</td>
<td>American Federalism</td>
<td>3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 5-7</td>
<td>Government Finance</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 12</td>
<td>TEST 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 14-19</td>
<td>Participation in Politics</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 21-26</td>
<td>Parties and Interest Groups</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 28-March 5</td>
<td>Local Government</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 7-19</td>
<td>State Legislatures</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>TEST 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 26-28</td>
<td>State Executives</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2-4</td>
<td>State Courts</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>State and Local Policy</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>Walk</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 16</td>
<td>State and Local Policy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 23</td>
<td>TEST 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>No lecture; review of test 3 answer key only</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>Test 3 Makeup, 12:30-1:30 PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tests and Eligibility to Take Tests

Students are responsible for material covered in assigned readings and in classroom lectures and discussions. There will be three tests during the semester and no final exam. Each test will emphasize material covered since the previous one. The tests are scheduled for February 12, March 21 and April 23. Tests will not be administered before scheduled dates. These three scheduled tests will be administered during class time in the classroom. They will consist of 42 multiple-choice questions. Test scores will be calculated as Number correct/40 and recorded to one decimal place. Students must bring gray 8½ by 11 inch Scantron forms, number 2 pencils, and one of these picture identification cards: a TAMU student ID card with legible name and photo, driver's license or passport. Students will have 60 minutes to complete tests.

Students enrolled in the class are eligible to take scheduled tests if they are in the classroom with required picture identification, Scantron form and number 2 pencils before the end of the class period. Students who miss tests and do not document absences approved by university policy will receive grades of zero.

Excused Absences

University attendance policy as defined in Student Rules 7 will be strictly followed http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07. Only the excused absences explicitly listed in Rule 7.1 and 7.2 are acceptable. For injuries or illnesses, students must provide written confirmation of a visit to a health care professional from the professional. It must specify the date and time of the visit and also specify that the medical service was for an acute injury or illness that made it necessary for a student to be absent from class.

Rule 7.3 specifies deadlines for notifying instructors and providing documentation satisfactory to instructors. The notification deadline is by end of the second working day after the absence. Notifications after absences must include an explanation of why prior notice could not be sent. The deadline for providing documentation that is satisfactory to the instructor is within one week of the last date of the absence. Students who delay sending documentation run the risk of missing this deadline if the documentation is not satisfactory.

Students may submit documentation of an excused absence for (1) participation in an activity appearing on the university authorized activity list, (2) observance of a religious holy day or (3) acute injury of illness requiring absence from class either to me or to the associate dean for undergraduate programs, or the dean’s designee, of their colleges. For participation in university authorized activities, I accept documentation from a sponsoring university official. For observance of a religious holy day, students should send me an email communication stating the name of the religious holy day. I will reply by email if I need additional information. For acute injuries or illnesses, the only documentation I accept is written confirmation of a visit to a health care professional from the professional. It must specify the date and time of the visit and also specify that the medical service was for an acute injury or illness that made it necessary for a student to be absent from class. Students who choose to submit documentation to me must scan or photograph (cell phone) their documentation of excused absences and email them to me from their TAMU email accounts by the required deadlines. Make sure the digital file is of sufficiently large size and high quality that it can be read clearly when opened. I will let students know if I need to see the original documents or if I need further explanation or information.

Rule 7.2 indicates the associate dean for undergraduate programs, or the dean’s designee, of the student’s college may verify a student’s absence as excused for the absences listed in Rule 7.1. Although Rule 7.2 refers to a letter from the dean or designee to take to instructors, I will accept emails and telephone calls in lieu of letters. A communication from a dean or designee verifying an absence as excused per Rule 7.1 is always satisfactory documentation. A communication asking “please treat an absence as excused” is not satisfactory documentation. The deadline for providing satisfactory documentation from a dean or designee is within one week of the last date of the absence.

I will send emails to authorizing students to take makeup tests after I receive documentation specified above by deadlines.

Makeup Tests

Makeup tests are available only for students with excused absences that have been approved by the instructor or students’ deans and who have been authorized by the instructor to take a makeup. The makeup for Test 1 will be 9:35-10:35 AM February 26. Resort to room 2029 of the Allen Building; if the location must be changed, there will be
information posted outside room 2029. The makeup for Test 2 will be 9:35-10:35 AM April 4. Report to room 2029 of
the Allen Building; if the location must be changed, there will be information posted outside room 2029. The makeup for
Test 3 will be held in the classroom during the first hour time scheduled by the university for final exams in courses that
meet TR 9:35: Friday, May 3, 12:50-1:30 PM. Make-up tests will have 42 multiple-choice questions on the same material
as the tests they substitute for, but not necessarily the same questions. The same materials required for original tests are
required for makeup tests.

Grading
Scores from the three tests will be averaged to determine final course grades. Semester averages of 89.5 and higher
will receive grades of A; 79.5 to 89.4 grades of B; 69.5 to 79.4 grades of C; 59.5 to 69.4 grades of D; lower than 59.5
grades of F. Students who want to criticize or challenge test questions on a test must do so immediately after all students
have completed the test. If there are problems with test questions, editing or reproduction, they will be taken care of with
adjustments to scores for individual tests.

There are no options for grading other than those listed above. There is no curving. There are no additional tests, no
special projects, and no grades for attending lectures, no extra credit opportunities whatsoever. The professor must assign
the same course grade to every student who has the same test scores. The professor does not have the authority to award
grades on a basis other than described in this syllabus. TAMU Student Rule 48 http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule48 lists
university officials who are authorized to give students grades other than those awarded by course instructors.

Reporting of Test Grades
Test scores and individual error reports tests will be posted on ELearning.tamu.edu. Students may review answer
keys and their individual error reports before and after class or at the makeup test opportunity as follows: Test 1, February
14 and 19; Test 2 March 26 and 28; Test 3 April 25. Students must bring printed versions of individual error reports and
one of the three picture ID cards listed above to review answer keys. Makeup tests on May 3 will be graded in the
classroom before test takers leave and will be reported to test takers. If you need assistance with ELearning, contact
TAMU Instructional Technology Services at 862-3977 or its@tamu.edu.

Student Responsibilities
Students are expected to have completed all assigned reading before class lectures. Those who do will find the
lectures easier to understand. While some lecture material will review assigned readings most will not. Students are
encouraged to ask questions about the assigned readings when germane topics are covered in lectures.

Classroom Behavior
Texas A&M University regards attendance as an individual student responsibility. You are expected to attend all
classes. Attendance will play no role in course grades. If you attend class you should behave appropriately in the
classroom. After the lecture begins, this means, among other things, not conversing with other students, not reading, not
working puzzles, not telephoning, not texting, not using your computer for anything other than taking notes on the lecture,
and not sleeping. Your fellow students and instructor regard these as disruptive behavior discussed in Student Rule 21,

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil
rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with
disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you
believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Disability Services in Cain
Hall B118, call 843-1637, or e-mail disability@tamu.edu.

Aggie Honor System Office
It is the mission of the Aggie Honor System Office to serve as a centralized system established to respond fairly to
academic violations of the honor code at Texas A&M University. Prohibited academic misconduct is defined and
discussed on their web site: http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor/definitions.php.