

SYLLABUS

11:15-12:05 MWF

G-033 Jordan Hall

I. Office Hours: I have a teaching schedule which allows me to be off campus on Tuesday and Thursday. You can reach me on my email account: *judithw@clermson.edu*. I would like to meet any of you at these hours on Monday, Wednesday or Friday:

MWF 10:00-11:00am
1:00pm-2:00pm
3:30pm-4:00 pm

II. Purposes: This course is about how people behave politically and about the designs of the American political system. The purpose is to help you gain and display an understanding of American politics and the process of government that help shape our public policies.

III. Text: Coleman, Goldstein, Howell, Understanding American Government & Politics
J. David Woodard, The American That Reagan Built

IV. Course Requirements:		<u>Grading Scale</u>
Midterm Exam	25%	90-100 = A
Quizzes	25%	80-89 = B
Class Participation	10%	70-79 = C
Final Exam	40%	60-69 = D
		59 and below = F
	100%	

Attendance: I will use a seating chart to keep track of who comes to class. Regular attendance and participation is expected. I remind you of this statement in the 'Academic Regulations' for this class: "The last day before, and the first day after, official holidays are considered to be the same as any other day on which classes are scheduled." Unexcused absences will result in a lowering of your class participation grade. **Three absences will result in a lowering of your overall class grade.** Please let me know if you must be absent from class before the class meeting. Any student tardy for class should inform the instructor *after the lecture* so that he/she will not be counted absent. In the event you miss a test: (1) Let my office know *before* the exam what your situation is, and (2) Within one week of your return provide me with a written, signed explanation of your reasons for missing the exam. Makeup tests will be given for excused absences the last week of class. No "extra-credit" work is given in this class. In the unlikely event that I am late to class, students should remain fifteen minutes before leaving. Please take care of your biological needs before class. While you do not need the professor's permission to leave class, constant movement is a distraction to both the teacher and the students. The university has cut maintenance costs by reducing custodial care across campus, so I am asking that all eating and drinking be done outside of class. *All cell phone, blackberries and iphones should be turned off during class.* You should bring the textbook or required reading to class for the Friday discussion meetings.

Computer Use: It is the policy of the university to encourage student to bring laptop computers to class for note-taking. I support the university policy, however if any students use the wireless

network to answer emails or surf the internet during class I will take actions to lower the class grade of that student.

Assignments: The reading assignment should be completed before the class each week. Short exams will be given to evaluate student familiarity with the material on any class meeting, including the Friday discussion classes. These grades will constitute your pop test grade for the course.

V. Frequently Asked Questions:

1. *Is the final cumulative?* Yes.
2. *What about absences?* Three absences (excused or unexcused) will lower your class participation grade and lower your course grade. Four absences (excused or unexcused) will result in a lowering of your semester grade.
3. *What about tardiness?* It's OK to be late to class once or twice, but continued tardiness will result in a lowering of your grade.
4. *Should I study the book or the notes more for the test?* Both should be studied equally.

As members of the Clemson University community, we have inherited Thomas Green Clemson's vision of this institution as a "high seminary of learning." Fundamental to this vision is a mutual commitment to truthfulness, honor and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of others. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of a Clemson degree. Therefore, we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form.

“When, in the opinion of a faculty member, there is evidence that a student has committed an act of academic dishonesty, the faculty member shall make a formal written charge of academic dishonesty, including a description of the misconduct, to the Associate Dean for Curriculum in the Office of Undergraduate Studies. At the same time, the faculty member may, but is not required to, inform each involved student privately of the nature of the alleged charge.”

Students with disabilities who need accommodations should make an appointment with Arlene Stewart, Director of Student Disability Services, to discuss specific needs within the first month of classes. Students should present a Faculty Accommodation Letter from Student Disabilities Services when they meet with instructors. Student Disability Services is located in G-20 Redfern (telephone number: 656-6848; e-mail: sds-l@clemson.edu). Please be aware that accommodations are not retroactive and new Faculty Accommodation Letters must be presented each semester. In order to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), faculty must follow instructions contained in letters issued by the office of Student Disability Services. All questions should be directed to Dr. Arlene Stewart (656-6848).

VI. Teaching Assistants:

Thomas Austin	taustin@clemson.edu	CUID 0,1	Brackett 211
Alix Barrett	sbarrett@clemson.edu	CUID 7,8,9	Brackett 212
Flynn Jameson	cjameso@clemson.edu	CUID 2,3	Brackett 213
Lauren Clarkin	clarki@clemson.edu	CUID 4,5,6	Jordan 033

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1:	Aug. 19	Introduction
Week 2:	Aug 24-28	Culture CGH, Chapters 1 & 2 Woodard, Chapter 1
Week 3:	Aug. 31-Sept. 4	Constitution CGH, Chapter 3 Woodard, Chapter 2
Week 4:	Sept. 7-11	Federalism CGH, Chapter 4 Woodard, Chapter 3
Week 5:	Sept. 14-18	Civil Liberties/Rights CGH, Chapter 5 Woodard, Chapter 4
Week 6:	Sept. 21-25	Public Opinion CGH, Chapter 6 Woodard, Chapter 5
Week 7:	Sept. 28-Oct. 2	Interest Groups CGH, Chapter 10 Woodard, Chapter 6
Week 8:	Oct. 5-9	Political Parties CGH, Chapter 9 Woodard, Chapter 7
Fall Break		October 12-13
Week 9:	Oct. 14-16	Campaigns & Election CGH, Chapter 7 Woodard, Chapter 8
Midterm Exam		Friday, October 16th
Week 10:	Oct. 19-23	The Media CGH, Chapter 8 Woodard, Chapter 9
Week 11	Oct. 26-30	Congress CGH, Chapter 11 Woodard, Chapter 10
Week 12:	Nov. 2-6	President CGH, Chapter 12 Woodard, Chapter 11

Week 13:	Nov. 9-13	Bureaucracy CHG, Chapter 14 Woodard, Chapter 12
Week 14:	Nov. 16-20	Courts CGH, Chapter 13 Woodard, Chapter 12
Week 15:	Nov. 23-24	Domestic Policy CGH, Chapter 15 Woodard, Epilogue

Thanksgiving Holidays November 25-27

Week 16:	Nov. 30-Dec. 2	Foreign Policy CGH, Chapter 15
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Final Exams December 7-11