

**CLEMSON UNIVERSITY**  
**Department of Political Science**

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**American National Government**  
**POSC 101-003**

**Dr. Bob Smith**  
**Fall 2009**

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**CLASS:** Tuesday and Thursday (9:30am – 10:45 am)

**LOCATION:** Brackett Hall Room 113

**OFFICE HOURS:** TTh 1:00-2:30 pm or  
by appointment

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** 230-C Brackett Hall  
Phone: 656-0213  
Email: [rws@clemson.edu](mailto:rws@clemson.edu)

**REQUIRED TEXTS:** *We the People 7<sup>th</sup>* Ed. by Benjamin Ginsberg, Theodore Lowi and Margaret Weir, 2009 WW Norton Publishers. ISBN: 978-0-393-93267-6 (pbk)

**OR**

*We the people 7<sup>th</sup>* Ed. E-Book at:  
<http://www.nortonebooks.com/disciplines/polisci.asp?Discid=14>

**AND**

*Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Political Issues 16<sup>th</sup>* Ed. by George McKenna and Stanley Feingold, 2009 McGraw Hill. ISBN: 978-0-07-812752-6 (pbk)

Students are required to read the *New York Times* on a daily basis. A subscription (at student rates) is available at the bookstore. Another option is students can subscribe to the free on line edition at <http://nytimes.com/> or review the paper at the library.

Articles and Handouts as assigned.

**REQUIRED**

**ANCILLARIES:**

This course will require students to purchase/utilize i'Clickers for attendance, class participation and team presentation feedback. See separate handout.

**OBJECTIVES:**

This course provides an introduction to American national government and politics with an emphasis on Constitution foundations, federalism, political institutions, political behavior, and political participation. A premium is placed on developing students' abilities in the area of critical thinking on a variety of contemporary political issues.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Attendance will be taken via iclicker (if all goes well) and it is important to obtain an iclicker for attendance and other participation. Life happens and students are allowed a total of two excused absences without penalty (just tell me). Students are expected to make up for any missed work and assignments missed on those days. However, more than two absences, excused or not, results in a ten percent course grade reduction. If a student misses four classes this will result in a one-letter grade deduction for the course. Family emergencies and special circumstances will be accommodated as necessary but supplemental course work may be assigned to compensate for lost class time.

**CLASS POLICY:**

All examinations, papers, homework and other assignments must be completed by the respective due dates. Late grade penalties will be imposed but there will be exceptions for family or personal emergencies.

**CLEMSON**

**ACADEMIC**

**STANDARDS:**

“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.”

Academic Integrity Statement  
Clemson University

This standard will be enforced to the maximum extent as consistent with all applicable rules and procedures governing academic integrity.

**COURSE  
REQUIREMENTS:**

Students are expected to complete all readings ahead of time, be prepared for in class assignments, complete all assigned homework, and contribute and participate in class. The same expectation holds for the instructor. Students will be graded on the following components:

**Term Paper (15%)** One double-spaced five- to seven-page short paper from the instructor's topics list is required. College level writing and grammar is expected. The paper is due **11/24**.

**New York Times Quiz (10%)** A total of **five** quizzes will be administered throughout the course. Quizzes will cover major news events reported in the *New York Times*.

**We the People Quiz (15%)** A total of **three** quizzes will be administered throughout the course. The quizzes will cover the readings in the *We the People* textbook.

**Mid Term Exam (20%)** A mid-term examination will be administered based upon lecture material and readings covered to that point in class. The mid term will be given on **10/1** .

**Final Exam (20 %)** A final examination will be administered covering lecture material and readings from the mid term through the end of the semester. The final will be given during finals week (**12/7- 12/12**).

**Weekly Issue Summary (15%)** Each Thursday students are expected to turn in a double-spaced one-page memorandum covering the weekly political issue from the *Taking Sides* textbook. In addition, each student is required to make a 5 minute presentation/lead an on line discussion (as part of the grade) on **one** of the political issues of his/her choice from the *Taking Sides* textbook. Sign Up.

**Mr. Smith Goes to Washington Film Critique (5%)**  
Each student is expected to prepare a two-page film critique of this classic Frank Capra film to be shown on 9/22 and 9/24. **Due on 9/29**.

COURSE CALENDAR:

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>TOPIC /EXERCISE</u>	<u>READINGS/PREP</u>
8/20	Government and Americans	GLW Ch. 1
8/25	American Political Culture	GLW Ch. 1 <b>M&amp;F Issue 9</b>
8/27	Founding and the Constitution	GLW Ch. 2 <b>M&amp;F Issue 5</b>
9/1	Constitutional Debate/Roles <b>NY Times Quiz 1</b>	GLW Ch. 2
9/3	Federalism	GLW Ch. 3 <b>M&amp;F Issue 22</b>
9/8	Civil Liberties I <b>WTP Quiz 1</b>	GLW Ch. 4
9/10	Civil Liberties II	GLW Ch. 4 <b>M&amp;F Issue 11</b>
9/15	Civil Rights I	GLW Ch. 5
9/17	Civil Rights II	GLW Ch. 5 <b>M&amp;F Issue 13</b>
9/22	Mr. Smith Goes to Washington Film Fest Part I <b>NY Times Quiz 2</b>	
9/24	Mr. Smith Goes to Washington Film Fest Part II	
9/29	Public Opinion <b>Film Critique Due</b>	GLW Ch. 6
10/1	<b>Mid Term Administered</b>	
10/6	Media	GLW Ch. 7
10/8	Political Participation	GLW Ch. 8 <b>M&amp;F Issue 15</b>

10/13	Fall Break	
10/15	No Class-BlackBoard Discussion	<b><u>M&amp;F Issue 18</u></b>
10/20	Voting <b>WTP Quiz 2</b>	GLW Ch. 8
10/22	Political Parties	GLW Ch. 9 <b>M&amp;F Issue 10</b>
10/27	Campaigns and Elections <b>NY Times Quiz 3</b>	GLW Ch. 10
10/29	Money and Influence	GLW Ch. 10 <b>M&amp;F Issue 3</b>
11/3	Groups and Special Interests	GLW Ch. 11
11/5	Congress – Institution	GLW Ch. 12 <b>M&amp;F Issue 14</b>
11/10	Congress – Process <b>NY Times Quiz 4</b>	GLW Ch. 12
11/12	No Class-BlackBoard Discussion	<b><u>M&amp;F Issue 6</u></b>
11/17	Presidency <b>WTP Quiz 3</b>	GLW Ch. 13
11/19	No Class-BlackBoard Discussion	<b><u>M&amp;F Issue 4</u></b>
11/24	Bureaucracy <b>Term Papers Due</b>	GLW Ch. 14
11/26	Happy Thanksgiving	
12/1	Judiciary/Federal Courts <b>NY Times Quiz 5</b>	GLW Ch. 15
12/3	Course Review	<b>M&amp;F Issue 17</b>
12/7-12	<b>Finals Week</b>	

\* Key: GLW = Ginsberg,Lowi and Weir; M&F = McKenna and Feingold