POLS 114: Introduction to American Government and Politics
Spring 2016

Professor: Ken Mulligan, Ph.D.
E-mail: kmulliga@siu.edu
Telephone: 453-3335
Office: 3144 Faner Hall
Office Hours: Wed. 1-3 pm, Thurs. 10-12 pm, Fri. 10-12 pm & appt.

Teaching Assistants: Michelle Fletcher, Sara Browning, Kimberly Turner
E-mail: mimi.fletcher@siu.edu, fellowshipstudent1@siu.edu, turnerk@siu.edu
Office: 3168 Faner Hall, 3178 Faner Hall, 3172 Faner Hall
Office Hours: Thurs. 1-3 pm, Thurs. 12-2 pm, Mon. 10-11, 12-1

Access Course Materials via SIU Online.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture</td>
<td>11:00 am - 11:50 am</td>
<td>Mon./Wed.</td>
<td>151 Lawson Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Sect. 002</td>
<td>10:00 am - 10:50 am</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>3512 Faner Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Sect. 003</td>
<td>11:00 pm – 11:50 pm</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>2073 Faner Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Sect. 004</td>
<td>1:00 pm - 1:50 pm</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>2205 Faner Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Sect. 005</td>
<td>2:00 pm - 2:50 am</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>3512 Faner Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Sect. 006</td>
<td>9:00 am - 9:50 am</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>168 Agriculture Bldg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Sect. 008</td>
<td>11:00 am - 11:50 am</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>168 Agriculture Bldg.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to American government and politics at the national level. We will discuss the founding and institutions of the American government, the Constitution, civil liberties, civil rights, and political behavior including voting, elections, public opinion, and the media. Students attend lecture twice a week and discussion once a week. The discussion sections cover public affairs and political issues with the intention of applying what we are learning about U.S. government and politics to current issues and events.
Required Reading

The course requires one book and selected readings. The book has been ordered from the SIU bookstore and 710 bookstore. The citation for the book is as follows:


Other readings are available online as indicated on the electronic version of this syllabus or provided in your discussion section. Students are responsible for making themselves aware of these readings, obtaining them, and reading them prior to the class in which they are discussed.

Course Requirements and Grading

Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage of Overall Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Best Quizzes</td>
<td>15% (5% per quiz)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two Response Papers</td>
<td>10% (5% per paper)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informed Participation</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Requirement</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exams

Exam #1. 20% of final grade. The first exam will be held during the fifth week of the course. It will cover all the material from lectures, class discussions, and reading up to the day of the exam. The emphasis of the exam will be on material covered in the lectures and the textbook. There will be questions from the discussion sections. There may also be questions from the discussion section readings or videos. (Please see below for the policy on missed exams and arriving late to exams)

Exam #2. 20% of final grade. The second exam will be held during the 11th week of the course. It will cover all the material from lectures, class discussions, and reading since the first exam. (Please see below for the policy on missed exams and arriving late to exams)

Exam #3. 20% of final grade. The third (final) exam will be held on the day, and at the time, scheduled by the registrar (Please see the end of the syllabus for this, the day of the final exam). It will cover all the material from lectures, class discussions, and reading since the second exam. (Please see below for the policy on missed exams and arriving late to exams)
Top 3 Quizzes 15% of overall grade (5% per quiz)

Five quizzes will be administered in discussion sections over the course of the semester at the discretion of your teaching assistant. The material covered in quizzes will vary and include material from the discussion readings. Quizzes may be unannounced, where students are not informed about the timing of the quiz ahead of time. Each student's three best quiz scores will be incorporated into his or her final overall grade in the course. Missed quizzes will receive a failing grade. In the case of an excused absence from a quiz, grading of quizzes will be at the discretion of the teaching assistant and professor in communication with the student. (Please see below for the policy on missed exams, missed quizzes, missed assignments, and late assignments)

Two Response Papers 10% of overall grade (5% per paper)

Each student is responsible for signing up for and writing two short papers, each of which summarizes and critiques a reading assigned to a particular day of the discussion section. Details of these response papers will be provided early in the semester. Where a student has a response paper due on a specific day, a paper copy of the assignment (stapled in the top left corner) must be available to give to the student's teaching assistant in class at the beginning of the class. It must also be uploaded to SIU Online/Desire2Learn by midnight on the day it is due. Otherwise it is considered late. (Please see below for the policy on missed exams, missed quizzes, missed assignments, and late assignments) There will be an outline on D2L indicating how these response papers should be written and this will also be reviewed during the first week of discussion section.

Informed Participation 13% of overall grade

This class meets three times per week – twice in lecture and once for discussion. Informed participation is possible only if one is present in discussion sections. A poor attendance record will negatively impact this portion of one’s grade. The grades of students who fail to attend discussion sections will be adversely affected. Students who miss a lecture or discussion are responsible for finding out what they missed from other students in the class. Given the size of the class, the instructor and teaching assistant(s) regret that they cannot provide a private lecture of what was missed. Your teaching assistant will provide further details on expectations of attendance and discussion.

Please show up to lecture and discussion on time and stay for the duration of the class. Students will receive no attendance or participation points if found engaging in disruptive behavior, which includes holding conversations with other students, sleeping, reading the newspaper, doing homework, or any other similar activity. All cell phones, pagers, iPods, and other electronic devices must be turned off before class. Laptop computers are to be used for note taking only. Checking email or related activities during class is not permitted.

Students are responsible for reading the assigned material before class and discussion sections and coming to the discussion section prepared to discuss it.
**Research Requirement 2% of final grade**

Students will be introduced to academic social science research in one of two ways. First, students may write a seven-page paper on research design in the social sciences. Students who choose this option will be provided details on how to complete this assignment. Second, students may participate in up to six hours of academic research as research participants. Students who choose this second option will be provided opportunities to sign up for research participation and be provided detailed information on how to participate early in the semester. Students are free to choose either the first or second option (but not both). The choice is totally up to each student. Students will not be advantaged or disadvantaged for choosing one option over the other. Upon completing either option students will automatically receive an “A” on this research requirement.

**Grading**

Students’ exams, quizzes, response papers, research requirement, and overall grade in the course will be calculated according to the following scales. The reaction papers, research requirement, and participation grades will be awarded as the midpoint of the letter-grade range as indicated in the first column of the table below. Thus an “A” on a reaction paper, worth 5 percent of the overall grade, would be awarded a numerical grade of “96.5,” an “A-” would be scored as a “91.5,” etc. The exam and quiz grades, as well as the overall final grade, will be awarded according to the scale in the second column. Since SIU does not observe pluses or minuses in the awarding of final grades, pluses and minuses are not possible in the submission of final course grades. If your final grade is an “A-,” you will receive an “A,” if your final grade is a “B+” or “B-” you will receive a “B,” etc. Grades in this course are awarded based on merit, according to the requirements outlined above, in conjunction with the judgment of the professor and teaching assistant, and are not otherwise negotiable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment, Research Requirement, &amp; Participation</th>
<th>Exam and Final Grade Ranges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A 96.5</td>
<td>93 - 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A- 91.5</td>
<td>90 - 92.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+ 88.5</td>
<td>87 - 89.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B 85</td>
<td>83 - 86.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B- 81.5</td>
<td>80 - 82.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+ 78.5</td>
<td>77 - 79.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C 75</td>
<td>73 - 76.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C- 71.5</td>
<td>70 - 72.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D 65</td>
<td>60 - 69.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F 30</td>
<td>0 - 59.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Policy on Late Response Papers

Students are responsible for turning in a paper copy of their assignment, stapled in the upper left corner, at the beginning of the class in which it is due. Papers submitted via email will NOT be accepted unless explicit prior permission is granted by the teaching assistant. Late papers (those not ready to be handed in at the beginning of the class in which they are due) are penalized one full letter grade (e.g., from an “A” to a “B”) for each day that they are late. This means that an “A” assignment turned in five days late automatically receives a failing grade. If a response paper is to be turned in late the student must hand it in, during office hours, to one of the student workers in the political science office in Faner room 3081. The POLS 114 student must identify to the student worker the name of the POLS 114 student's teaching assistant. The student worker will then put in the mailbox of the student's teaching assistant. If this procedure is not followed then the paper will automatically receive a zero. Students who find themselves turning in their assignment or paper late would benefit from communicating with the teaching assistant before turning in their late assignment.

Policy on Missed Exams and Arriving Late to an Exam

Students must arrive at exams on time. Students who are more than 15 minutes late for an exam will not be permitted to take the exam. After 15 minutes, the exam is considered missed. All students MUST take the final exam. The final exam takes place on the day and time determined by the registrar. It cannot be taken early. Under no circumstances will students be excused from taking the final exam except with PRIOR approval. Students who miss the final exam will be allotted a grade of zero on the final exam. For the exams other than the final exam, missed exams will receive a grade of zero except in cases of sufficient, demonstrated, appropriate, and verifiable emergencies or tragedies or where the student has prior approval from the instructor or teaching assistant. If a TA or instructor view the emergency or tragedy as not sufficient, demonstrated, appropriate, or verifiable, the student automatically receives a zero on the exam. All such grades are awarded based on the considered discretion of the professor and/or teaching assistant and are not otherwise negotiable.

For exams other than the final exam, students who miss an exam due to an identified and verified emergency or tragedy must make contact with a TA or instructor no more than two days after the exam takes place. “Make contact” is defined explicitly as sending an email and receiving a response or talking live on the phone (not merely attempting to call) or meeting in person with a TA or the instructor. Students who miss an exam in this context but do not make contact a TA or instructor within two days automatically receive a zero on the exam. In cases of missed exams excused by the instructor or teaching assistant, and with their approval within two days of the missed exam, an alternative writing assignment may be assigned at the discretion of a TA and the instructor. Students who have prior approval for this must complete the assignment by the date specified by a TA or the instructor. In this context, late assignments are not permitted under any circumstances. If a student does not complete the assignment by the time and date specified, for whatever reason, the grade for the exam automatically becomes a zero, regardless of whether or not the student completed the assignment but handed it in late.
Contacting the Professor and Teaching Assistant(s)

Your professor and teaching assistant(s) prefer to address most questions after class, during office hours, by email, or telephone. All email communication must be appropriately written. This includes using proper grammar and identifying yourself by your first and last name. Cryptic or anonymous emails may not be answered.

Policy on Academic Honesty

All of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own, done exclusively for this course. Instances of suspected cheating or plagiarism (using someone else’s ideas or words without proper attribution) will be dealt with in accordance with the university’s policy on academic honesty. Please note that penalties for academic dishonesty are severe and ignorance is not an excuse for cheating or plagiarism.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities that have been documented by the SIU office of Disability Support Services will be accommodated according to university policy. For more information please visit the Disabilities Support Services website at http://disabilityservices.siu.edu or call the DSS office at (618) 453-5738.

Tentative Class Schedule

Please note that the schedule below is a guideline. Actual material covered in class may deviate from the schedule according to the progress of the class and discussion. Unless otherwise indicated orally during class and/or discussion, we will follow the order of the topics as listed in the schedule. It is the responsibility of students that they be aware of where we are in the progress of the course and where we deviate from this schedule. This will be made clear orally in class and/or discussion.

Week 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wed., 01/20</th>
<th>Introduction to the Course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>Balance of Power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Short Reading #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Short Reading #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Short Reading #3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Week 2

Mon., 01/25  Voting, Campaigns, and Elections
Reading:  Turner et al., ch. 8

Wed., 01/27  Voting, Campaigns, and Elections, Cont.
Discussion  The (Unusual) Presidential Candidacy of Donald Trump
Short Reading #1
Short Reading #2
Short Reading #3

Week 3

Mon., 02/01  Voting, Campaigns, and Elections, Cont.

Wed., 02/03  Foundations of American Politics
Reading:  1. Turner et al., Introduction
          2. Declaration of Independence (Turner et al., Appendix)

Discussion  Presidential Primaries (and Caucuses)
Reading

Week 4

Mon., 02/08  American Political Culture
Reading:  Turner et al., ch. 4

Wed., 02/10  The U.S. Constitution
Reading:  Turner et al., ch. 1

Discussion  Is America Exceptional?
Reading #1
Reading #2

Week 5

Mon., 02/15  The U.S. Constitution, Cont.
Reading:  Turner et al., ch. 2
          The U.S. Constitution (Turner et al., Appendix)

Wed., 02/17  EXAM #1

Discussion  No Discussion This Week
**Week 6**

**Mon., 02/22**  
The Constitution and Civil Liberties  
*Reading:* Turner et al., ch. 3 (first part, through privacy)

**Wed., 02/24**  
Civil Liberties, Cont.

**Discussion**  
Are College Students Today Intolerant of Free Speech?  
[Read Each Short Opinion](#)

---

**Week 7**

**Mon., 02/29**  
Civil Liberties, Cont.

**Wed., 03/02**  
Civil Rights  
*Reading:* Turner et al., ch. 3 (second part, from equality on)

**Discussion**  
Should Marijuana be Legalized?  
[Read Each Short Opinion](#)

---

**Week 8**

**Mon., 03/07**  
Congress  
*Reading:* Turner et al., ch. 9

**Wed., 03/09**  
Congress, Cont.

**Discussion**  
Congressional (Dis)Approval  
[Reading #1](#)  
[Reading #2](#)

---

**Week 9**  
Spring Break

---

**Week 10**

**Mon., 03/21**  
Presidency  
*Reading:* Turner et al., ch. 10

**Wed., 03/23**  
Presidency, Cont.

**Discussion**  
Presidential Power  
[Reading](#)
Week 11
Mon., 03/28   EXAM #2

Wed., 03/30   Judiciary  
*Reading:* Turner et al., ch. 12

Discussion  
Is the Supreme Court Too Powerful?  
*Read Each Short Opinion*

Week 12
Mon., 04/04   Judiciary, Cont.

Wed., 04/06   No Class Today

Discussion  
No Discussion This Week

Week 13
Mon., 04/11   Political Parties  
*Reading:* Turner et al., ch. 7 (second part)

Wed., 04/13   Political Parties, Cont.

Discussion  
The Power of Political Parties  
*Reading*

Week 14
Mon., 04/18   Public Opinion  
*Reading:* Turner et al., ch. 5

Wed., 04/20   Interest Groups  
*Reading:* Turner et al., ch. 7 (first part)

Discussion  
Does Polling Undermine Democracy?  
*Read Each Short Opinion*
Week 15

Mon., 04/25       The Media  
                  *Reading:* Turner et al., ch. 6

Wed., 04/27      Bureaucracy  
                  *Reading:* Turner et al., ch. 11

Discussion       Why Has Trust in the News Media Declined?  
                  *Read Each Short Opinion*

Week 16

Mon. 05/02       Domestic (Economic) Policy  
                  *Reading:* Turner et al., ch. 14

Wed. 05/04       Foreign Policy  
                  *Reading:* Turner et al., ch. 16

Discussion       No Discussion This Week

FINAL EXAM

Friday, 05/13    10:15 am in our regular lecture hall.

*Please note: According to university policy, the final exam day and time are set by the registrar and cannot be changed. Students cannot take the final exam early.*
IMPORTANT DATES *
Semester Class Begins: ..................................................01/19/2016
Last day to add a class (without instructor permission): ...............01/24/2016
Last day to withdraw completely and receive a 100% refund: ..........01/31/2016
Last day to drop a course using SalukiNet: ..............................04/03/2016
Last day to file diploma application (for name to appear in Commencement program): ..................................................02/12/2016
Final examinations: ..........................................................05/09–05/13/2016
Note: For outreach, internet, and short course drop/add dates, visit Registrar’s Academic webpage http://registrar.siu.edu/

SPRING SEMESTER HOLIDAYS
Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Birthday Holiday 01/18/2016
Spring Break 03/12—03/20/2016

WITHDRAWAL POLICY ~ Undergraduate only
Students who officially register for a session may not withdraw merely by the stopping of attendance. An official withdrawal form needs to be initiated by the student and processed by the University. For the proper procedures to follow when dropping courses and when withdrawing from the University, please visit http://registrar.siu.edu/catalog/undergraduatecatalog.html

INCOMPLETE POLICY~ Undergraduate only
An INC is assigned when, for reasons beyond their control, students engaged in passing work are unable to complete all class assignments. An INC must be changed to a completed grade within one semester following the term in which the course was taken, or graduation, whichever occurs first. Should the student fail to complete the course within the time period designated, that is, by no later than the end of the semester following the term in which the course was taken, or graduation, whichever occurs first, the incomplete will be converted to a grade of F and the grade will be computed in the student's grade point average. For more information please visit: http://registrar.siu.edu/grades/incomplete.html

REPEAT POLICY
An undergraduate student may, for the purpose of raising a grade, enroll in a course for credit no more than two times (two total enrollments) unless otherwise noted in the course description. For students receiving a letter grade of A,B,C,D, or F, the course repetition must occur at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Only the most recent (last) grade will be calculated in the overall GPA and count toward hours earned. See full policy at http://registrar.siu.edu/catalog/undergraduatecatalog.html

GRADUATE POLICIES
Graduate policies often vary from Undergraduate policies. To view the applicable policies for graduate students, please visit http://gradschool.siu.edu/about-us/grad-catalog/index.html

DISABILITY POLICY
Disability Support Services provides the required academic and programmatic support services to students with permanent and temporary disabilities. DSS provides centralized coordination and referral services. To utilize DSS services, students must come to the DSS to open cases. The process involves interviews, reviews of student-supplied documentation, and completion of Disability Accommodation Agreements. http://disabilityservices.siu.edu/

PLAGIARISM
Student Conduct Code  http://srr.siu.edu/student_conduct_code/
MORRIS LIBRARY HOURS
http://www.lib.siu.edu/about

SAFETY AWARENESS FACTS AND EDUCATION
Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here: http://safe.siu.edu

SALUKI CARES
The purpose of Saluki Cares is to develop, facilitate and coordinate a university-wide program of care and support for students in any type of distress—physical, emotional, financial, or personal. By working closely with faculty, staff, students and their families, SIU will continue to display a culture of care and demonstrate to our students and their families that they are an important part of the community. For Information on Saluki Cares: (618) 453-5714, or siucares@siu.edu, http://salukicares.siu.edu/index.html

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES
Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. We ask that you become familiar with the SIU Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) programs. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT’s website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Safety’s website at www dps.siu.edu (disaster down) and the Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency.

INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE
SIU contains people from all walks of life, from many different cultures and sub-cultures, and representing all strata of society, nationalities, ethnicities, lifestyles, and affiliations. Learning from and working with people who differ is an important part of education as well an essential preparation for any career. For more information please visit: http://www.inclusiveexcellence.siu.edu/

LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES
Help is within reach. Learning support services offers free tutoring on campus and math labs. To find more information please visit the Center for Learning and Support Services website:
Tutoring : http://tutoring.siu.edu/
Math Labs http://math.siu.edu/courses/course-help.php

WRITING CENTER
The Writing Center offers free tutoring services to all SIU students and faculty. To find a Center or Schedule an appointment please visit http://write.siu.edu/

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION & EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
Our office's main focus is to ensure that the university complies with federal and state equity policies and handles reporting and investigating of discrimination cases. For more information visit: http://diversity.siu.edu/

Additional Resources Available:
SALUKINET: https://salukinet.siu.edu/cp/home/displaylogin
ADVICESEM: http://advisement.siu.edu/
PROVOST & VICE CHANCELLOR: http://pvcaa.siu.edu/
SIU ONLINE: http://online.siu.edu/