

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

GOVT 141 - 007
American Government
Fall 2010
11:30-12:30, TTHF2
Combs – CB 410
Morehead State University
3 Credit Hours
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Office Hours:
Wed. 1-2pm
Tues. & Thurs. 10:30-11:30am
Or By Appointment
COURSE WEBSITE:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GOVT141/>

COURSE OBJECTIVE

The objective of this course is to allow students to gain a more comprehensive understanding of American government, especially the institutions and processes that are responsible for the formation and execution of public policy. Upon completion of this course you should be able to understand contemporary political events more fully.

Required Field Experience Hours: N/A

"Community Engagement: A Light to and from the Mountains"

The Professional Education Unit at Morehead State University delivers rigorous, high quality programs that prepare professionals informed by best national and international scholarship, plus research, literature, and experiences specific to Appalachia- preparing professionals to improve the schools, quality of life, and the communities in which they live and serve. This statement is not only the strategic mission for the College, but it also incorporates the conceptual framework that guides all our activities

Conceptual Framework Outcomes (CFOs): The Unit and the faculty within individual programs assess the degree to which its graduates:

1. Master the content knowledge, professional and the twenty-first century skills needed to make an optimal contribution to "whole" student learning in education settings.
2. Are competent in the collection and use of data to inform decision-making and to demonstrate accountability for student learning.
3. Demonstrate professional dispositions.
4. Are culturally competent and understand the regions from which they have come utilizing knowledge and experiences to effectively "bridge the gaps" (economic, achievement, and geographic) ensuring optimal learning for all students.
5. Engage in authentic field experiences in collaboration with committed school-based partners and are empowered to improve the quality of education throughout this region and beyond.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). By the end of this course, the candidate will be able to:

1. increase their content knowledge of US government;

2. strengthen their research capabilities, comprehension, and analytical skills through reading and written assignments;
3. develop their communication skills through discussion sessions and classroom presentations;
4. sharpen their writing skills through written examinations and analytical reaction papers.

NCATE/ EPSB Accreditation Alignment of CFOs and SLOs.

Program: Social Studies					
GOVT 141 U.S. Government					
Aligned with Assessment (point values)	Kentucky Teacher Standards (KYS)	Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA)	Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB)	National Council for Social Studies Education (NCSSE)	NCATE
Short Papers (20% of grade) CFO: 1,2 SLO: 1,2,4	1, 3	6	Diversity	1,2 3, 4,5,6, 9,10	1, 4
Examinations (60% of grade) CFO: 1,2 SLO: 1,2,3,4	1	6	Diversity	1,2 3, 4,5,6,7, 8,9, 10	1
Quizzes & Class Participation (20% of grade) CFO: 1,2 SLO: 1,2,3	1, 3, 8	6	Diversity	1,2 3, 4,5,6,7, 8,9, 10	1

Program: Social Studies		GOVT
141 U.S. Government		
Assessment (point value)	Description	
Short Papers 20% of grade	Students will write two short papers of between 3 and 5 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt Times New Roman font, with 1 inch margins. The subject of each paper will be: <i>The Exchange on the Binding of Generations</i> between Jefferson and Madison,	

	and <i>Harrison Bergeron</i> by Kurt Vonnegut. In the former, the student is to summarize the positions of each writer, to discuss and reflect the issues raised by their arguments, and then to argue on behalf of one side. In the latter, the student is to discuss and reflect upon the issues raised by the short story, and then to apply their reflections to their understanding of the character of American government. Students will be graded on grammar, style, and ability to analyze the material. Late papers will be penalized 10%.
Examinations 60% of grade	Twice during the semester an exam will be given covering the lecture material and readings in the required texts. Midterm and final examinations will be rescheduled only under extreme circumstances and only if the student contacts me in advance.
Quizzes and class participation 20% of grade	At least twenty times during the semester, students will be graded on class participation through unannounced quizzes or in class discussion of the assigned readings for the day. No make up quizzes will be administered.

TEXTS

1. Cummings & Wise, Democracy Under Pressure, 10th ed.
 2. Hamilton, Madison, and Jay, (Rossiter ed.), The Federalist Papers.
 3. Wilson, James Q. Bureaucracy.
 4. Nichols, Mary P. and David K. Nichols. Readings in American Government.
 5. Supplementary materials distributed in class or on reserve.
- Students will be expected to have read all assigned material prior to the class period for which it was assigned. Students will be expected to keep up with the news.

EVALUATION

Mid-term exam	200 points	A= Above 630
Term paper	100 points	
Quizzes	50 points	B= 560-629
Comprehensive final exam	300 points	
Class participation	50 points	C= 490-559
-----		D = 420-489
Total	700 points	F = Below 420

Students will be expected to attend class and excessive absences will result in a lowering of the course grade. To receive credit for this course, students must complete all examinations and maintain reasonable class attendance. Examinations will be rescheduled **ONLY** under extreme circumstances and **ONLY** if the student contacts me in advance. All written work will be graded for content and for correct English usage, spelling, and punctuation.

ATTENDANCE

Class attendance is required. As previously noted, attendance weighs heavily in the class participation grade. One cannot participate if one is absent.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Plagiarism, or presenting another's works or ideas as one's own, is a form of stealing. Falsification of footnotes is considered to be evidence of plagiarism. The instructor reserves the right to examine any source used by the student before giving a grade on written work, and to give an "incomplete" in the course if necessary, to allow time to obtain sources. Plagiarism will result in at least an "F" for the course. Cheating includes the buying, stealing, or otherwise fraudulently obtaining copies of examinations or assignments for the purposes of improving one's academic performance. During examinations or in-class work, it includes receiving oral information from others and referring to unauthorized notes or other written information. Copying from others is a form of cheating. Cheating will result in at least an "E" for the course.

Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism or helping others to commit these acts will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty will result in severe disciplinary action including, but not limited to, failure of the student assessment item or course, and/or dismissal from MSU. If you are not sure what constitutes academic dishonesty, read The Eagle: Student Handbook or ask your instructor. The policy is located at:

<http://www.morehead-st.edu/units/studentlife/handbook/academicdishonesty.html>.

For example: Copying information from the Internet is plagiarism if appropriate credit is not given.

It is expected that all students will uphold the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. A useful review of some basics about what constitutes plagiarism may be found at <http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/>. After this review, you can test yourself at http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/plagiarism_test.html. These web pages are not a comprehensive explanation of academic integrity. A fuller explanation of academic integrity is attached to this syllabus.

If you have any questions regarding this policy or how to avoid academic dishonesty, or if you have concerns about the academic integrity of others, please talk to me about it. Morehead State University's policy on academic integrity may be found on in the 2009-2010 Undergraduate Catalog, which is available online at <http://www.moreheadstate.edu/registrar/>.

DISABILITIES POLICY

Professional staff from MSU Academic Services Center (ASC) coordinates efforts to address accessibility needs and class accommodations with instructors of students who have learning or physical disabilities. Faculty will cooperate with the ASC staff to accommodate the needs of students taking departmental courses. (<http://www.moreheadstate.edu/acs/>)

In compliance with the ADA, all students with a documented disability are entitled to reasonable accommodations and services to support their academic success and safety. Though a request for services may be made at any time, services are best applied when they are requested at or before the start of the semester. To receive accommodations and services the student should immediately contact the Disability Services Coordinator, Evangeline Day, at: 204-E ADUC, 606-783-5188, or e.day@moreheadstate.edu.

CAMPUS SAFETY

Emergency response information will be discussed in class. Students should familiarize themselves with the nearest exit routes in the event evacuation becomes necessary. You should notify your instructor at the beginning of the semester if you have special needs or will require assistance during an emergency evacuation. Students should familiarize themselves with emergency response protocols at: <http://www.moreheadstate.edu/emergency>

EXTRA CREDIT OPTIONS

Students will be given the opportunity to write a research paper for extra credit. The type of project undertaken will determine the amount of extra credit, but the maximum extra credit a student can receive during the course is 25 points. Students must contact me at least one week prior to the due date for the extra credit project, which means that no extra credit project can be undertaken unless it is two weeks prior to the last class meeting (prior to Nov. 22). All work must be completed and turned in by the last class meeting.

QUIZZES & DISCUSSION SEMINARS

Students will be given quizzes over the readings periodically throughout the semester. There will also be a discussion group that meets on alternating Fridays and the Graduate Assistant, Ms. Davis, will conduct these sessions as well as study sessions during the semester.

READING ASSIGNMENTS

Students are expected to read the indicated materials prior to the class for which they are assigned and to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned materials.

TERM PAPER

Students will be required to write an essay of not less than five typed pages. Before the class meeting of September 30, students will be required to submit their research design. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with the professor to discuss their research designs prior to submission. The research design is graded pass/fail and returned to students with comments. The research design consists of: an outline of the thesis to be demonstrated, the kinds of evidence the student proposes to employ in support of the thesis, and an annotated bibliography listing at least five works the student hopes to utilize. The essays are due on the class meeting of November 23, and any late papers will be penalized for each day late. No late papers will be accepted beyond the final exam.

WEATHER CONSIDERATIONS

The sometimes inclement weather necessitates some planning for the event of class cancellations. Any time the University cancels classes, obviously we will not hold our class meeting. However, there may be instances when the University has made no indication and you may have some doubt. In such cases where class has actually been canceled, the Government Department secretary can be contacted prior to 4:30 or you can contact me at home anytime for clarification. The MSU snow plans will give you some guidance and can be found in the official schedule books. Additional information on the weather plan is available from MSU's Office of Public Safety at (606) 783-2035 and on the MSU website at: <http://www.moreheadstate.edu/news/01032002-08.html>.

SCHEDULE

The following is a tentative schedule of assignments. It should be noted that they may be altered as time and events require. All assignments are to be read before the class for which they are assigned. Students are also required to read the coverage of international, national, and state news in a daily paper every day and select an article for discussion every week. Quizzes will cover current events and readings. The examinations will cover all readings, class notes, and current events.

August	24	Introduction
	26	Government and the People Chpt.1 Cummings & Wise Leo Strauss, "What Is Liberal Education"
	31	The Constitutional Framework Chpt.2 Cummings & Wise <u>Federalist # 2</u>
September	02	The Constitutional Framework Chpt.2 Cummings & Wise Jefferson and Hamilton, "Debate Over the Constitutionality of the Bank"
	03	The Constitutional Framework Chpt.2 Cummings & Wise

September	07	The Constitutional Framework Chpt.2 Cummings & Wise
	09	The Constitutional Framework Chpt.2 Cummings & Wise <u>Federalist # 51</u>
	14	The Constitutional Framework Chpt.2 Cummings & Wise David Walker, "The Rebirth of Federalism"
	16	The Federal System Chpt.3 Cummings & Wise Martin Diamond "The Federalist's View of Federalism" J.C. Calhoun "A Disquisition on Government"
	17	DISCUSSION
	21	The Federal System Chpt.3 Cummings & Wise <u>Federalist # 10</u>
	23	Public Opinion Chpt.6 Cummings & Wise de Tocqueville's <u>Democracy In America</u> (110-123)
	28	Public Opinion Chpt.6 Cummings & Wise
	30	Interest Groups Chpt.7 Cummings & Wise *** Research Designs due ***
October	01	DISCUSSION
	05	Interest Groups Chpt.7 Cummings & Wise
	07	<u>Mid-Term Examination</u>
	12	The Media and Politics Chpt.8 Cummings & Wise Political Parties Chpt.9 Cummings & Wise
	14	*** FALL BREAK – NO CLASSES ***
	19	Political Campaigns & Candidates Chpt.10 Cummings & Wise
	21	Voting Behavior and Elections Chpt.11 Cummings & Wise
	22	DISCUSSION
	26	The President Chpt.13 Cummings & Wise <u>Federalist # 70</u>
	28	The President Chpt.13 Cummings & Wise
November	02	The Congress

- Chpt.12 Cummings & Wise
- 04 **The Congress**
Chpt.12 Cummings & Wise
- 05 **DISCUSSION**
- 09 **The Bureaucracy**
Chpt.14 Cummings & Wise
James Q. Wilson - Bureaucracy
- 11 **The Bureaucracy**
Chpt.14 Cummings & Wise
James Q. Wilson - Bureaucracy
- 16 **Justice**
Chpt.15 Cummings & Wise
Federalist # 78
- 18 **Justice**
Chpt.15 Cummings & Wise
- 19 **Civil Liberties and Citizenship**
Chpt.4 Cummings & Wise
M.L.King Jr. "Letter from Birmingham Jail"
Politically Correct Articles:
Schlesinger, Foreman, Wiemer, Krauthammer
A.Walker "What Can the White Man ...Say to the Black Woman?"
- 23 **The Struggle for Equal Rights**
Chpt.5 Cummings & Wise
*****Term papers are due*****
***** THANKSGIVING BREAK *****
- 30 **State & Local Government**
Federalist #39
*****Last day to begin any extra credit projects*****
- December 02 **State & Local Government**
de Tocqueville Democracy In America (301-317)
- 07 **Review and Conclusion**
J.Thurber "Rabbits Who Caused All the Trouble"
Bertrand Russell "On Being Modern-Minded"
- 09 **Review and Conclusion**
Jean-Paul Sartre "Americans and Their Myths"
H.L. Mencken "Democracy Is Idiotic"
- ***All assignments, projects, and examinations MUST be completed*****
- 10 **DISCUSSION**
- 13 **FINAL EXAM**
MONDAY 12/13/2010
Final Exam
12:45pm-2:45pm