PSI 101: American Politics
3 credits
Instructor: Kathleen Babcock
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Foundational Area of Knowledge: Community and Identity
Description: Students will gain a greater understanding of themselves and the communities in which they live and work, and how identity is formed through the interaction of the individual and larger society
Learning Outcomes: Students will work to:
   1) Explore dimensions of human experience with regard to perceptions of self
   2) Understand how individuals interact to form communities and social structures
   3) Analyze the practical and ethical implications of interactions between individuals and those social structures


Course Description: An analysis of political institutions and behavior

Learning Outcomes: The student will
a) understand the basic principles of the American democratic system.
b) be acquainted with the underlying theories which form American ideologies
c) gain a historical perspective on the Constitution
d) develop a knowledge of basic Constitutional organization
e) develop knowledge of the three branches of government, their purpose, and obligations.
f) become acquainted with social, economic and foreign policy in today’s America.

Learning Strategies: Learning strategies will include lectures, discussions, videos, debates, readings, assignments, and presentations by students.

Course Policies:
1) Grading Scale: 90-100=A, 80-89=B, 70-79=C, 60-69=D, 59 and below=F
2) Attendance Policy: In an 8 week course, attendance is very important. This class is participatory and collaborative so missing classes will not only have a negative effect on your learning experience, but those of your classmates. Missing one class will result in a reduced grade. If you miss more than one class it is very unlikely you will be able to pass this course. If you need to miss a class for any reason, please contact me prior to class to arrange to make up the work.
3) Late assignments: Late papers will not be accepted unless discussed with the instructor prior to class. Late papers will receive a reduced grade.
4) Methods of assessment:
Quizzes and tests=50% of grade.
   (3 quizzes worth 10% each and 1 final worth 20%).
Papers/Presentations and in class essays=40% of grade.
   (2 in class essays worth 10% each and 1 research paper/presentation worth 20%).
The research paper/presentation will consist of a 4-6 page double spaced paper
and a 10-15 minute presentation with an additional 5-10 minute video component.
Debates=10% of grade.
   (1 debate worth 10%).

POINTS ALLOCATION
Quiz 1 100 points
Quiz 2 100 points
Quiz 3 100 points
Final Exam 200 points
Essay 1 100 points
Essay 2 100 points
Paper/Presentation 200 points
Debate 100 points
TOTAL 1000 points

Topics for lecture, paper/presentation topics, discussion, debates, videos, and readings:

I The Foundations of a New American Democracy
   A. Democracy in the United States
   B. Establishing a Constitutional Democracy
   C. Federalism
   D. American Political Culture
II The Ingredients of the New American Democracy
   A. Public Opinion
   B. Individual Participation
   C. Interest-Group Participation in American Democracy
   D. Political Parties
   E. The Media
III Campaigns and Elections
   A. Electing the President
   B. Choosing the Congress
IV The Government
   A. The Congress and Its Work
   B. The Presidency: Powers and Practice
C. The Bureaucracy
D. The Courts

V. Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
   A. Civil Liberties
   B. Civil Rights

**Academic Integrity Policy:** The Doane College Academic Integrity Policy will be adhered to in this class. All projects and tests will represent your own work. Any use of others’ ideas and words without proper citation of sources is plagiarism and will result in penalties to be determined by the instructor and/or dean of undergraduate studies.