PSI 101-7 American Politics

Winter Flex 2014 - Doane College, Grand Island

Instructor: Peter Kortum

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Office Hours: By appointment

Location: College Park - Doane College – Grand Island

Class Meetings:
Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (January 5, 2014)
Monday thru Friday from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. (January 6-10, 2014)
Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (January 11, 2014)

Course Description: An analysis of American political institutions and behavior.

This course fulfills the Doane Plan political science requirement. This course is required for a Public Administration Major.

Credits: 3 hours

Course Objectives:

The student will:

a) Understand the historical foundations of American politics.
b) Understand the differences between Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
c) Be acquainted with the influence on American politics from the media and interest groups.
d) Be acquainted with current policy issues within the American political system.
e) Develop critical thinking skills necessary to evaluate and analyze the issues in American politics.

Methods of Instruction:

1. Lecture
2. In class debates and discussion
3. Video of relevant political topics
4. Presentations by students with accompanying class discussion.

Grading and Assessment of Student Performance:

Student participation is an integral part of this class. We learn from you and you will learn from the group. Grading points will be a combination of class participation, miscellaneous assignments, open book exams, and a final paper.

A list of all assignments and grading information will be provided during the first session.

Academic Integrity: 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 or sources is plagiarism and will result in penalties to be determined by the instructor and/or the dean of undergraduate studies.

Attendance Policy: In the event a student needs to miss a class, any assignments that were due will need to be turned in by the opening of the next scheduled class. The student will be allowed to earn, through an extra assignment, the participation points lost for the absence.

Each of the weeknights (Monday through Friday) will count as a single class session. The weekend meetings (Saturday and Sunday) will be counted as two class sessions for each day.

If a student misses more than one class session, additional assignments will be required to confirm to the instructor that the student thoroughly understands all of the learning objectives. The additional assignments will be extensive. It would be much better to attend class.

Papers/Assignments: Due date as assigned, otherwise, no credit.

Advance Assignment: Prior to our first meeting complete the following:

- Read Chapter 1. *Understanding American Politics*.
- Read Chapter 2. *The Constitution and the Founding*.
- Complete an open book test on Chapter 2. This test will be sent to you in advance, at the close of registration.
- Read Chapter 8. *Interest Groups*. 