Syllabus – PSI 243 Contemporary Political Issues

Doane College, Grand Island

Credits: 3 hours

Instructor: Peter Kortum E-Mail: peter.kortum@doane.edu Phone: 402-705-9674

Day & Time: Wednesday - 6:00 P.M. Location: College Park - Grand Island

Course Description:

A course in policy analysis. Includes selected policy issues facing government.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

1. Gain an understanding of contemporary political issues facing government.
2. Develop the critical thinking skills necessary to evaluate and formulate persuasive positions to assigned political issues.
3. Develop the skills necessary to recognize the themes that are present within each political issue.

Learning Strategies and Instructional Methods:

This course will attempt to achieve the course learning outcomes through reading material, video, lecture, in class debate, writing assignments, and student presentations.

No Text. Topics will be chosen by the class and instructor.

Advance Assignment: Prior to our first meeting read the list of current topics that are found on the following site.

http://www.isidewith.com/polls

Prioritize the topics by your own interest #1 through #20.

This list needs to be turned in at the start of the first class.
Grading and Assessment of Student Performance:
Grading points (100 maximum) will be a combination of class participation, miscellaneous assignments, and a final paper with an in-class presentation.

This class is heavily weighted on participation and weekly presentations. Attendance is critical to student success in this class. All projects are due as assigned with no credit given for late assignments.

Participation – 35 points
Miscellaneous Assignments - 35 points
Final Paper/Presentation – 30 points

Grading:

- 90-100 = A
- 85-89 = B+
- 80-84 = B
- 75-79 = C+
- 70-74 = C
- 65-69 = D+
- 60-64 = D
- 59 or less = F

Course Policies:
The Doane College Academic Integrity policy will be adhered to in this class. All projects and exams will represent you or your group’s 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.

In the event a student needs to miss a class, any assignments that were due will need to be turned in via email by 6:00 P.M. on the date of the class missed. The student will be able to earn class participation points for their first missed class by completing an additional assignment to be presented at the next class.

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 are due as assigned, otherwise, no credit.