POLS 205

***American National Government***

Tentative Class Schedule

**Isaiah 33**
22 For the LORD is our judge,
the LORD is our lawgiver,
the LORD is our king;
it is he who will save us.

Harding University Fall 2014

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Contacts/Office Hours: You can reach me, yea verily, in a multitude of ways: Office phone: 279-4375; Home: 279-0628; Courtney, our ever competent and helpful Departmental Secretary: 279-4427; Facebook; e-mail - lklein@harding.edu ; my website - <http://www.harding.edu/lklein> and the always popular note under the door. I will make my best effort to be in my office for drop-ins on Wednesdays from 4:00-5:00 and on Tuesday and Thursday from 3:45-4:45. I will also be keeping office hours by appointment this semester.

Text: James Q. Wilson’s American Government, Brief Version, Wadsworth/Cengage, 11th edition. ISBN-10: 1133594379 ISBN-13: 9781133594376 This text is available from Cengage as an eBook.

Tentative American National Government Schedule

Unit **Reading Assignment**/Topics Covered Date

Why Politics? **Read Wilson, Chapter 1**

Introductions, Pre-Test and Class Syllabus - Highlighters August 18

The Role of Government August 20

 Politics, Power, & Other Dirty Words/Constitution 101 August 22

The Constitution **Read Chapter 2**

                                                A Brief Historical Interlude… August 25

 1. If Angels Governed Angels… Checks & Balances August 27

                                                2. Federalism August 29

3. Judicial Review – Marbury and beyond September 1

                                                4. Limited Government; A Living Document September 3

***Constitution Quiz One, which covers the original seven Articles***

***is to be taken in the Testing Center between August 27 – September 1.***

***Constitution Quiz Two, which covers Amendments 1-10 - The Bill of Rights***

***is to be taken in the Testing Center between September 2- September 5.***

***Constitution Quiz Three, which covers Amendments 11-27***

***is to be taken in the Testing Center between September 9- September 12.***

**Review for Test One September 5**

**TEST ONE** September 8

Return and Review Test One (Patriots’ Day is Sept. 11) September 10

 The Legislative Branch **Read Chapter 9**

1. Constitution/History September 12

2. I'm Just a Bill…How Congress Works September 15

3. Power and Politics…How Congress Really Works September 17

ASI Speaker Col. Lee Ellis September 18

                                                4. Apportionment (Maps) September 19

5. Appropriations (Money) September 22

The Executive Branch **Read Chapter 10**

                                                1. Constitution/History September 24

                                               2. Presidential Hats September 26

3. Cabinets/The Executive Office of the President September 29

**Please notice: There is no in class presentation on the Bureaucracy, but there are test questions from the**

**following assigned pages. This is outside of class learning. Read pages 289-301 from Chapter 11,**

**and the summary on page 302.**

**TEST TWO** October 1

Return and Review Test Two October 3

The Judicial Branch **Read Chapter 12**

1. Constitution/History and the Federal Courts System October 6

                                                2. The Supreme Court October 8

**FALL BREAK!!! October 10**

3. Judicial Activism October 13

Elections **Pay attention to the readings, they get a little tricky.**

1. Constitution/History October15

2. Political Parties **Read Chapter 7, pages 138-157** October 17

3. Polls and Elections **Read Chapter 8** October 20

**TEST THREE** October 22

Return and Review Test Three October 24

Under Pressure  **There is a LOT of reading for this unit. Don’t fall behind!**

1. The Media **Chapter 6, pages 121-135** October 27

2. Interest Groups **Chapter 7, pages 157-173** October 29

 3. Lobbyists (Finish Chapter 7 readings) October 31

***The Extra Credit Constitution Quiz, which covers the entire Constitution***

 ***is to be taken in the Testing Center between November 3 and November 7.***

4. Pressure from State and Local Gov’t **Chapter 5** November 3

**TEST FOUR** November 5

Return and Review Test Four November 7

Civil Rights & Civil Liberties **Read Chapters 3 and 4**

1. Constitution/History and the Parable of the Sheep November 10

2.  The SPRAP Five: 1st Amendment Protections November 12

ASI Speaker Eric Greitens November 13

3.   The Balance of the Bill of Rights November 14

4. Strange Math: Expanding on the Bill of Rights November 17

 5. The Struggle for Civil Rights; Colin, Karen and Condi November 19

6. Christians in Government November 21

**THANKSGIVING BREAK !!! November 22-30**

**(Please note that you have a test on the Monday after the break.)**

**TEST FIVE** and Post Test December 1

Return and Review Test Five December 3

Review Session for Final Exam December 5

Final Exam Schedule:

MWF 12:00 class - Wednesday, December 10th at 1:00-3:00

MWF 2:00 class - Tuesday, December 9th at 1:00-300

MWF 3:00 class - Monday, December 8th at 3:30-5:30

I want you to be well prepared to understand the topics which are being presented and discussed in class; therefore it is very important that you keep up with the readings. Read the assigned chapters before the scheduled lectures on the topics and you will have an excellent foundation for learning in the classroom. If you read them during the time we are discussing the topic in class, they will provide reinforcement for what we are learning. If you read them before the test as a review, they will provide a comprehensive overview of the topic. I don’t care when you read ‘em. Just read ‘em! **There will always be test questions taken only from the readings. Do your readings or gnomes will come in and eat your grades up.**