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 Spring 2014

Instructor: Lori Klein Office: 208 Ganus Building

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 3:00-5:00 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 January 13

The Role of Government January 15

 Politics, Power, & Other Dirty Words/Constitution 101 January 17

January 20th – No class on Dr Martin Luther King Jr. holiday

The Constitution **Read Chapter 2**

                                                A Brief Historical Interlude… January 22

 1. If Angels Governed Angels… Checks & Balances January 24

                                                2. Federalism January 27

3. Judicial Review – Marbury and beyond January 29

                                                4. Limited Government; A Living Document January 31

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

***is to be taken in the Testing Center between January 24 - 29.***

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

***is to be taken in the Testing Center between January 30 - February 4.***

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

***is to be taken in the Testing Center between February 5 - 10.***

**Review for Test One February 3**

**TEST ONE** February 5

Return and Review Test One (Patriots’ Day) February 7

 The Legislative Branch **Read Chapter 9**

1. Constitution/History February 10

2. I'm Just a Bill…How Congress Works February 12

February 13 – Col. Carl Grossman, ASI Speaker

3. Power and Politics…How Congress Really Works February 14

                                                4. Apportionment (Maps) February 17

5. Appropriations (Money) February 19

The Executive Branch **Read Chapter 10**

                                                1. Constitution/History February 21

                                               2. Presidential Hats February 24

3. Cabinets/The Executive Office of the President February 26

**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** February 28

Return and Review Test Two March 3

The Judicial Branch **Read Chapter 12**

1. Constitution/History and the Federal Courts System March 5

                                                2. The Supreme Court March 7

**SPRING BREAK!!!**

3. Judicial Activism March 17

March 18 – Dr. Ben Carson, ASI Speaker

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

1. Constitution/History March19

2. Political Parties **Read Chapter 7, pages 138-157** March 21

3. Polls and Elections **Read Chapter 8** March 24

**TEST THREE** March 26

Return and Review Test Three March 28

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

1. The Media **Chapter 6, pages 121-135** March 31

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

 ***is to be taken in the Testing Center between March 31 and April 4.***

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

 3. Lobbyists (Finish Chapter 7 readings) April 4

4. Pressure from State and Local Gov’t **Chapter 5** April 7

**TEST FOUR** April 9

Return and Review Test Four April 11

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

1. Constitution/History and the Parable of the Sheep April 14

2.  The SPRAP Five: 1st Amendment Protections April 16

3.   The Balance of the Bill of Rights April 18

4. The Struggle for Civil Rights; Colin, Karen and Condi April 21

 5. Strange Math: Expanding on the Bill of Rights April 23

6. Christians in Government April 25

**TEST FIVE** and Post Test April 28

Return and Review Test Five April 30

Review Session for Final Exam May 2

Final Exam Schedule:

MWF 1:00 class - Monday, May 5th at 1:00-3:00

MWF 2:00 class - Tuesday, May 6th at 1:00-300

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.**