

Tuesday & Thursday 8 to 9:20 am

Office Hours: I am on campus to teach from 8 am to 9:20 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I can meet you after class each day. Afterward I leave for my other job, and, from there I go on to teach evening classes for Rutgers at two satellite campuses. Contact me by email or see me after class for an appointment and I'll accommodate you.

Course Description: The course is intended to give students a basic understanding of politics and the field of Political Science. The course familiarizes students with the vocabulary of politics, the types of policy governments initiate and the concepts used to study politics. The course examines the link between ideologies and governmental structures in several foreign countries and the U.S. My lectures draw upon both historical and current examples of public policy problems to augment the material in the textbooks.

Required text:

W. Phillips Shively, **Power and Choice**, An Introduction to Political Science (Random House). 13th edition
Wasserman, Gary, **The Basics of American Politics**, (Longman), 14th edition

I have been using these texts for many years so you can probably buy used editions easily and save money. You can also buy or rent online versions at CourseSmart. The chapters of used, earlier editions may not line up exactly with the order listed in my syllabus, so if you use them, be sure to study based on the chapter topics and not just the chapter number.

Attendance: Class attendance is required and **you are expected to arrive at class on time**. Students who have more than three absences may have their grade lowered by one half step (i.e. from B to C+). Three "tardys" count as one absence. I will take roll at the beginning of class. I will also have a tardy roll book. Students who come to class late will be marked absent. ***It will be up to the tardy student (not me) to notify me after class that they have arrived late and to be switched from absent to tardy.***

Please do not send me email messages to advise me of the reasons for absences or tardiness or to make me aware of such possibilities in the future. I teach three courses and do not keep track of excuses. I will not answer such emails. You have three grace absences if you need them, but they are not "freebies". In keeping with Rutgers policy, religious holidays are not counted as absences.

Grades: Final grades are based on two written examinations (a midterm and a final), and four quizzes. **There is no extra credit.** There is one mandatory assignment to be completed away from class which is due on 11/13/12. These components will be apportioned as follows:

Midterm (25%), Final (20%), Four Quizzes (50%), Class Participation (5%)

Quizzes: Students may drop one quiz. I will give five quizzes. Quiz dates are listed in the syllabus. The quizzes are taken directly from the book publisher - so if you keep up with the readings, you should do well. **There are no makeup quizzes.**

Midterm and Final Exams: You will be expected to write short, conceptual answers to several questions, using a Blue Book. You will be given a study guide two weeks in advance of these examinations. If you do not take the examinations on schedule you must complete a makeup examination and will be assessed a ten point penalty (i.e. 90 downgraded to 80). Makeup exams will be given without penalty for the following three situations **only**:

- Illness: Provide written evidence from a physician that you were physically unable to attend class.
- Business Trip or Military Commitment – Provide a note from your supervisor or commanding officer that explains the circumstances surrounding the absence.
- Death in Family: Provide copy of obituary.

I find that freshmen who take this course are usually adjusting to university life and are learning how to succeed. I spend some time early in the semester to explain how the demands of a university level course differ from a high school course. Students who attend my classes on time, read the textbooks, take notes, participate regularly and take all the quizzes and exams do well. In such cases the average grade runs between a B and a B+. Students who do not attend regularly and keep up with the material do not do as well.

Semester Schedule

Week	Topic
1:Sep 4	Introduction. Class Assignments, Expectations, What Is Politics? Readings: Shively, Chapter 1, Wasserman, Chapter 1
2:Sep 11	Ideologies and Their Impact on Governments. Readings: Shively Chapter 2
3: Sep 18	What Are States and Nations? Readings: Shively, Chapter 3 Quiz#1 (Covers Weeks 1 and 2), Thur. 9/20
4:Sep 25	What Governments Do. Readings: Shively, Chapter 4
5:Oct 2	Economic Policy Readings: Shively Chapter 5 (Midterm Study Guide Issued 10/4)
6:Oct 9	Democracy and Autocracy Readings: Shively Chapter 7 Quiz #2 (Covers Weeks 3, 4 and 5), Tue 10/9
7:Oct 16	Political Culture and Political Socialization Readings: Shively Chapter 8 Midterm Examination (Covers Weeks 1-6), Tue 10/16
8:Oct 23	Constitutions and Laws Readings: Shively, Chapters 9
9:Oct 30	The U.S. Constitution and Federalism Readings: Wasserman, Chapter 2, Quiz #3 (Covers Weeks 6, 7, 8), Thur 11/1
10:Nov 6	Legislatures – Parliamentary Government Readings: Shively, 14
11:Nov 13	Legislatures – the U.S. Congress (Special assignment due in Sakai Drop Box on 11/13. I will explain in class) Readings: Wasserman, Chapter 4
12:Nov 20	Presidential Systems of Government Readings: Shively, Chapter 15, Wasserman, Chapter 3 Quiz#4 (Covers Weeks 9, 10, 11, Tue 11/20)
13:Nov 27	Elections and Campaigns Readings: Shively, Chapter 10
14:Dec 4	Judicial Systems Readings: Wasserman, Chapter 5, Shively, Chapter 17, Quiz#5 (Covers Weeks 12, 13, Tue 12/4)
15:Dec 11	Last Day of Class, Course Wrap-up Final Examination Date and Time to be Announced