

US Political Systems

FALL 2010

Section 10

INSTRUCTOR: Kevin Sexton	LOCATION: Carnahan 202
MEETING DAYS: Mon., Wed., & Friday	MEETING TIME: 1:30pm – 2:20pm
Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 11:00am - 12:00pm	Office: Carnahan 211K Office Phone: 651-2751 EMAIL: kpsexton@semo.edu
Course Webpage: http://cstl-cla.semo.edu/sexton	
PRIMARY TEXT Patterson, Thomas E., The American Democracy, 9th ed., Boston: McGraw Hill.	

ATTENDANCE:

Regular, punctual attendance in class is both expected and required by Southeast Missouri State University. If you have questions as this issue see the Undergraduate Bulletin. Attendance records will be kept. It should be noted that your instructor feels very strongly that your attendance in class will greatly affect your ability to be successful in this class.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

The instructor will enforce **ALL** University rules, regulations and policies pertaining to academic honesty, including, but not limited to, CHEATING and PLAGIARISM. For your information, these rules are summarized in the Undergraduate Bulletin. Students caught cheating on any graded activity will receive a zero for that activity. Any student caught cheating on more than one activity will result in the student receiving a failing grade for the semester.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:

All writing assignments for this class will be submitted via the internet-based service known as *TURNITIN*. In addition, all students enrolled in this class must read and adhere to the policies and requirements for writing assignments as they are outlined in the handout titled "Afterall This Is A University Studies Class." This handout is available on the class website.

CLASSROOM CIVILITY:

You are expected to adhere to University Policy on civility at all times when in the class. This issue is addressed in the *University Bulletin* and the *Student Code of Conduct*. You will **turn off** all cell phones and other communication devices that would interrupt the business of the class and keep all distracting devices off your desks, out of your hands and stored in your book bags. **I WILL NOT TOLERATE USE OF PHONES OR OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN CLASS WITHOUT PRIOR PERMISSION.**

EMAIL:

Each student in this class is **REQUIRED** to have an active Southeast Email Address. The email address that is assigned to you by the University will be the only account that I will send emails to, and it will be your responsibility if you fail to get necessary course information because you have not activated, or do not check your Southeast Email Address. If you have not activated your Southeast Email Address, you must do so before the 2nd class meeting.

Reasonable Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

If you have a diagnosed disability or believe that you have a disability that might require "reasonable accommodation" on the part of the instructor, please contact the Learning Enrichment Center, University Center, Room 302, 651-2273 or TDD 651-5927. As a part of the Americans with Disabilities Act, it is the responsibility of the student to disclose a disability prior to requesting reasonable accommodation.

GRADES:

Semester grades will be assigned on the basis of a scale computed from the total number of points accumulated in the course. The expected scale is as follows: 100-90%(A), 89- 80%(B), 79-70%(C), 69-60%(D), 59% and under (F). Minor changes to this scale may be made by the instructor.

There will be an approximate total of 1000 points available for this course. The point distribution will be as follows: (these assignments, and the total points available subject to change)

450 points ----- First Three 150 Point Exams
250 points ----- Final Exam
15 points ----- Course Review Assignment
40 points ----- Interest Group Assignment
100 points ----- Ten Quizzes
35 points ----- Various Assignments During the Semester
110 points ----- Elected Officials Assignments
1000 points

EXTRA CREDIT:

Individual extra credit opportunities WILL NOT BE GIVEN.

EXAMS:

The first three exams, will be worth 150 points each & the final exam will be worth 250 points. All four exams will include a variety of question types, including but not limited to, multiple choice, matching and short answer.

All exams will be taken outside of class using the UTest module of the University's Online Instructor Suite.

MAKE-UPS/LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Make up exams will be given only in extreme circumstances. Prior arrangements are REQUIRED when possible.
2. Assignments must be turned in, IN PERSON on the day they are due, unless otherwise noted by Mr. Sexton. This means emailed assignments will have their score reduced, unless there are EXTREME circumstances (according to Mr. Sexton's definition) or you have made PRIOR arrangements with Mr. Sexton.
3. Assignments received by the instructor after they have been discussed in class will receive a grade of ZERO.
4. The grades of late assignments and exams not yet discussed in class will be reduced in proportion to their lateness.

Anyone who remains in this course will be assumed to:

1. Have received a complete copy of this course syllabus.
2. Have read and understood the contents of this course syllabus.
3. Have agreed to the rules and conditions set out in this course syllabus.

Quote or Thought For This Semester

"I've got a great ambition to die of exhaustion rather than boredom."

- Angus Grossart

With that said, let's make this semester a season of your life in which you got excited about a subject you may have thought of as boring. I promise each and every student in this class is affected by the political system we have. I want to help you identify how our system affects you and how you can, in turn, affect that system.