POLS 1100-03  
American National Government  
Spring Semester, 2015

3 Credit Hours  
Course Meets Tuesday/Thursday 1:00 pm-2:20 pm  
Instructor: Douglas Bennett  
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Note: The instructor is available by telephone, email, or appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to introduce you to the philosophical and political foundations of the U.S. Constitution, the functions of the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the federal government and the process by which law and policy is established. We will also examine political, cultural and partisan influences on policy making as well as exploring significant political and cultural developments in U.S. history.

COURSE OBJECTIVE: Upon completion of the course you will have an firm understanding of the structure and function of the Federal Government in the United States as well as an appreciation for the relationship between the three branches of the Federal Government. You will also develop significant insights into political, cultural and policy trends throughout U.S. history.

REQUIRED TEXT: We The People, Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, Tolbert and Spitzer. W.W. Norton, Publisher. ISBN-978-0-393-92110-6

INSTRUCTIONAL METHOD: The course will be taught using the Socratic Method whereby the instructor poses questions and facilitates class discussion based on the text, supplemental readings and current political events. Because precise verbal and written communications skills are essential to informed political debate, students are expected to participate verbally and in written form.

GRADES: Four quizzes will be given, each counting for 10% of final grade. A midterm and final exam will be given, each counting for 20% of final grade. Attendance and class participation are essential, and will count for 20% of final grade.

CELL PHONES: Cell phone use in class is not allowed. All cell phones are to be turned off. Speaking or texting diverts attention from the material under discussion, and is an unnecessary distraction to both class members and the instructor.

DEPARTMENT STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC RIGOR

The Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice is committed to academic rigor. Students should expect to be challenged in every course. Students are accountable for their performance, which will be reflected in the grade they earn in accordance with the standards set forth in the syllabus for each class. Students are expected to think critically, read and engage course materials, apply and synthesize ideas, and express themselves well orally and in writing.
STATEMENTS REQUIRED IN COURSE SYLLABI

Per SUU Policy 6.36

Academic integrity policy: Scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent. You are expected to have read and understood SUU Policy # 6.33 and the current issue of the student handbook regarding student responsibilities and rights.

ADA statement: Students with medical, psychological, learning or other disabilities desiring academic adjustments, accommodations or auxiliary aids will need to contact the Southern Utah University Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD), in Room 206F of the Sharwan Smith Center or phone (435) 865-8022. SSD determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of services.

Emergency Management statement: In case of emergency, the University's Emergency Notification System (ENS) will be activated. Students are encouraged to maintain updated contact information using the link on the homepage of the mySUU portal. In addition, students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Emergency Response Protocols posted in each classroom. Detailed information about the University’s emergency management plan can be found at http://www.suu.edu/emergency

HEOA Compliance statement: The sharing of copyrighted material through peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing, except as provided under U.S. copyright law, is prohibited by law. Detailed information can be found at http://www.suu.edu/it/p2p-student-notice.html.

Information contained in this syllabus, other than the grading, late assignments, makeup work, and attendance policies, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.