Instructor Contact:
Professor: Dr. Gary V. Wood
Office: Buller Hall 128
Hours: M/W 2:00-4:00; T/R 11:30-1:30 or by appointment
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Course Description: A study of American political institutions and behavior, primarily on the national level. May be applied to the history major.

Required Text:

Course Objectives: We shall examine the foundations and development of American government. This will comprise a study of the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, the constitution of the state of Michigan, the three branches of the national government, federalism, political parties, bureaucratic institutions, public opinion, the media, the electoral process and the role of civic engagement and the rights of citizens in the United States and Michigan. In addition, this course seeks to familiarize students with the vocabulary of politics, equipping them to understand and explore the ways in which democratic ideas and institutions are adapted to nations with diverse histories and cultures.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Exams: There will be three exams, each weighted equally. Exams will be composed of a combination of true and false statements, multiple-choice answers, and short essay questions. The exams are not cumulative. In fairness to other students, late exams will be given only in the event of a documented medical disability or a death in the student’s immediate family. Present such documentation the first time you broach the subject with me. Conflicts with work schedules, school schedules, vacations or non-emergency family matters are not valid reasons for missed exams.

2. Quizzes: There will be twelve quizzes given, one per week. Each quiz will be worth ten points. The purpose of the quizzes is to encourage attendance and to test your daily reading and learning. Since your two lowest quizzes will not be counted, no make-up quizzes will be given.
3. Class Participation: Class participation includes attendance, punctuality, preparedness, attentiveness, and contribution to class discussion. One class period a week will be devoted to Socratic questioning regarding reading assignments.

4. Book Review: Students are expected to read one book (250 pp. minimum) on the topic of American politics and write a critical review, to be turned in as indicated on the course outline.

**Grading:**
Exams: 3 Exams worth 60 points each. 180 points
Quizzes: 10 quizzes worth 10 points each. 100 points
Book Review: 50 points
Class Participation: 20 points
TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE: 350 points

Grading Scale: A 93-100%, A- 90-92%, B+ 87-89%, B 83-86%, B- 80-82%, C+ 76-79%, C 70-75%, C-65-69% D 55-64%

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance is required. More than five absences will result in forfeiture of the 20 point participation component, as will excessive tardiness, early departure, un-preparedness, disruption, and inattention.

**Class Policies:**

**Student Responsibility:** Email is the official form of communication at Andrews University. Students are responsible for checking their Andrews University email, Moodle, and iVue alerts regularly.

**Professionalism:** To prepare students for the professional world, certain behaviors/activities are not allowed in the classroom.

- Cell Phones, Personal Laptops, and Recording devices: **Cell phones should be turned off before entering the classroom.** Students who choose to text during class will be marked absent for the day. Picture-taking during class is not allowed. Recording devices are allowed only if pre-approved by instructor, and if approved, under no circumstance are recordings—visual or verbal—to be posted on a public website.
- Laptops should not be used for surfing the web or watching movies during class. It is disrespectful and unprofessional to use these devices inappropriately during class.
- Late Assignments are unacceptable unless prearranged with instructor.
- Tardiness; is disruptive and disrespectful to the class and instructor.
- Eating in class: Please do not bring food or beverages to class. Water is permitted.
Disability Accommodations:

If you qualify for accommodation under the American Disabilities Act, please contact Student Success in Nethery Hall 100 (disabilities@andrews.edu or 269-471-6096) as soon as possible so that accommodations can be arranged.

Academic Integrity:

In harmony with the mission statement, Andrews University expects that students will demonstrate the ability to think clearly for themselves and exhibit personal and moral integrity in every sphere of life. Thus, students are expected to display honesty in all academic matters.

Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) the following acts:

- Falsifying or presenting falsified documents
- Plagiarizing
- Misusing copyrighted material and/or violating licensing agreements
- Using media from any source or device including the internet in ways that mislead, deceive, or defraud
- Presenting another person’s work as one’s own
- Using materials other than those specifically allowed by the teacher or program during a quiz or examination
- Stealing, accepting, or studying from stolen quizzes or examination materials
- Obtaining information from another student or any other source during a regular or take home test or quiz
- Assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty such as falsifying attendance records or providing unauthorized course materials

Emergency Protocol:

Andrews University takes the safety of its student seriously. Signs identifying emergency protocol are posted throughout buildings. Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting that specific location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during any evacuation or sheltering emergency.
COURSE OUTLINE:

The following is a tentative schedule. Reading assignments and dates may be adjusted, but assigned material should be read prior to class.

August
22 Chapter 1: Introduction
24 The Characteristics of American Democracy
26 The Declaration of Independence

29 Chapter 2: The Articles of Confederation and the Constitutional Convention
31 Continued

September
02 The Principles and Articles of the Constitution
05 Labor Day- Holiday
07 Federalist 10
09 Chapter 3: Federalism

12 Chapter 5: Civil Liberties
14 First Amendment Guarantees: Religion, Speech, Press, and Assembly
16 The Rights of Criminal Defendants and the Right to Privacy

19 Chapter 6: Civil Rights
21 The Civil War Amendments
23 Civil Rights and the Supreme Court

26 Exam 1
28 Chapter 7: Public Opinion
30 Chapter 8: Political Participation

October
03 Chapter 9: Political Parties
05 The Functions and Basic Structure of American Political Parties
07 The Modern Transformation of Party Organization and Third-Partyism

10 Columbus Day- Holiday
12 Chapter 10: Elections and Campaigns
14 The Campaign Process

17 Chapter 11: Interest Groups
19 Continued
Chapter 12: The Media

Exam 2: Covering Chapters 7-12

Federalist 51: Institutions of Government and the Separation of Powers

Chapter 13: Congress

Continued Discussion of the Congress

Chapter 14: The President

The Separation of Powers and Its Critics: Presidential vs. Parliamentary Systems of Governance

Chapter 15: The Federal Bureaucracy

Continued Discussion of the Bureaucracy

Chapter 16: The Judiciary

Continued Discussion of the Judiciary

Chapter 17: Politics and Public Policy

Thanksgiving Break

Continued

Papers Due: Review for Final Exam

FINAL EXAMINATION: MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 10:30-12:30AM