

Department of Political Science
TR 2:10 – 3:30
Bournes Hall 118

Professor Loren Collingwood
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Office: 2229 Watkins Hall
Office Hours:
T 9:00-11:00,
and by appointment

Political Science 10 American Politics Spring 2013

Description

This course introduces students to American politics and government. Beginning with the Constitution and founding of the United States, we move through the topics of federalism, civil rights, and civil liberties. Next, the course examines the role of the people, specifically how public opinion operates in American society, how the media shape attitudes, and how political parties court voters and seek office. Finally, we turn to the three main branches of the U.S. government and examine their roles: Congress, the Executive, and the Judiciary.

Teaching Philosophy

I begin with the premise that each student enrolled in this course is highly intelligent and capable and we have high expectations for both your academic commitment and personal behavior. You are responsible for your success in this course and the course is designed such that if you work hard you will do quite well. The course has all the ingredients necessary to engage and challenge you.

We expect students to refrain from engaging in any distracting or disruptive behavior such as, but not limited to, using cell phones, texting, surfing the web, taking pictures, and talking to classmates. I will not tolerate any disruptive behavior and will refer egregious cases to Student Judicial Affairs.

Required Texts:

Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, Tolbert, and Spitzer. 2013. *We The People* 9th ed. New York, NY: W.W. Norton.

Please note: Copies have been placed on reserve at Rivera library. Please be careful with them.

Course Requirements

First, students must attend lectures and come to class having completed the assigned readings. While attendance is not recorded, it is required. Please consult the course website for updates and assignments: <http://www.collingwoodresearch.com/posc-10.html>

Second, students must be enrolled in a discussion section. If you have any questions about the lecture or reading materials, or if scheduling, personal problems, or questions about grading arise, please contact your TA immediately.

Each section meets on a weekly basis and attendance is mandatory. The TAs conduct section and will determine your section grade based on participation and two quizzes.

There will be an in-class midterm examination on April 30, 2013. The term paper is due by 5pm on Friday June 7, 2013. Topics for the paper will be delivered midway through the course and specific instructions will be discussed in section meetings.

Grading

Grading for the course is based on two exams, a paper (12 point font, 1 inch margins, double spaced, 5 pages), and your discussion section grade.¹ The total number of points is 100.

Midterm Exam: 20

Final Exam: 30

Term Paper: 30

Discussion Section Grade: 20 (Based on participation (10) and two quizzes (5 each))

Grading Scale

A = 94 – 100 %

A- = 90 – 93 %

B+ = 87 - 89 %

B = 84 - 86 %

B- = 80 – 83 %

C+ = 77 – 79 %

C = 74 – 76 %

C- = 70 – 73 %

D+ = 67 – 69 %

D = 64 – 66 %

D- = 60-63 %

F = 59% and below

Late Assignments are NOT ACCEPTED without both prior approval from your TA and documented evidence of a University Approved Excuse (e.g., medical emergency, etc.).

Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct

This section is taken from the Academic Integrity Brochure for Students (<http://conduct.ucr.edu/>).

“At the University of California, Riverside (UCR) honesty and integrity are fundamental values that guide and inform us as individuals and as a community. The academic culture requires that each student take responsibility for learning and for producing work that reflect their intellectual potential, curiosity, and capability. Students must represent themselves truthfully, claim only work that is their own, acknowledge their use of others’ words, research results, and ideas, using the methods accepted by the appropriate academic disciplines and engage honestly in all academic assignments. Misunderstanding of the appropriate academic conduct will not be accepted as an excuse for academic misconduct. If a student is in doubt about appropriate academic conduct in a particular situation, he or she should consult with the instructor in the course to avoid the serious charge of academic misconduct.”

¹ Students needing assistance with their writing should visit the Writing Center (<http://arc.ucr.edu/tutoring/tutoringservices.html>). Note that one must make an appointment prior to visiting so plan to write your paper at least a week in advance of the due date.

Plagiarism is the “copying of language, structure, or ideas of another and attributing (explicitly or implicitly) the work to one’s own efforts. Plagiarism means using another’s work without giving credit. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Copying information from computer-based sources, i.e., the Internet
- Allowing another person to substantially alter or revise your work and submitting it entirely as your own.”

Other forms of academic dishonesty include cheating by “copying from another student’s examination, quiz, ... or homework assignment.” Note that the definition of cheating also includes “submitting for academic advancement an item of academic work that you have previously submitted for academic advancement” without prior authorization from the faculty member supervising the work. “Unauthorized collaboration” is also considered inappropriate.

If I suspect you have committed an act of academic misconduct, I will discuss it with you and file a report with the Student Conduct & Academic Integrity Programs (SCAIP). You may receive a zero on the assignment and an “F” for the course. Further disciplinary action may also be taken by SCAIP. If you ever have a question about plagiarism or other academic conduct, please ask me *before* you turn in any work that may be problematic.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a physical, psychiatric, emotional, medical, or learning disability that may impact your ability to carry out assigned coursework, I urge you to contact the staff in Student Special Services (<http://specialservices.ucr.edu/>), who will review your concerns and determine, with you, what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation are confidential.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **April 30:** Midterm exam in class.
- **June 7:** Paper due by 5pm **AND** submitted to SafeAssignment
- **June 13:** Final exam 11:30-2:30.