

**AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT**  
**Bluefield State College**  
**POSC 200—FALL 2014**  
**CRN: 10668**  
**Section: 001**  
**WEBBD**

**Colin S. Cavell, Ph.D.**  
**Class TR: 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.**  
**Office Hours: TBA**  
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Survey of the American political system, with emphasis on the Constitution, governmental structure, the political process and selected policy outcomes.

Grading Policy: 20% for Attendance & Participation\*; 20% for the Class Presentation or, alternatively, Participation in the Soliya Program; 20% for the Midterm Exam; 20% for the Research Paper; and 20% for the Final Exam. A Guidelines sheet will be distributed outlining the requirements for your Class Presentation, participation in the Soliya Program, and for your Research Paper.

Grading Scale: 90-100=A; 80-89=B; 70-79=C; 60-69=D; 0-59=F. These numerical scores correspond to the following evaluations: "A" = Excellent; "B" = Good; "C" = Satisfactory (NOTE: A grade of "C" or better is required in major courses); "D" = Poor (passing, except in major courses); "F" = Earned Failure (removed only by repeating the course; upon successfully passing the course, the first grade is "excluded" from grade point average. The second grade is "included" in the recalculation of the grade point average); and "I" = Incomplete.

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of POSC 200, students should be able to read and provide an immanent critique of texts; to articulate arguments and examine their flaws; be familiar with the basics of logical, ethical, and dialectical reasoning; be familiar with essays, both pro and con, regarding the 1787 US Constitution; understand the reasoning behind the separation of legislative, executive, and judicial powers in the US Constitution; understand the reasoning behind the idea of checks and balances in the US Constitution; be familiar with characters associated with and the culture and history of the US republic; be familiar with the constitutional history of the US experiment in self-government; understand the differences between a secular and theistic form of living; understand the historical evolution of human culture, including struggles over rights and responsibilities; be familiar with the horrendous tragedies as well as accomplishments of the US experiment in self-government; empathize with the plight of the European Pilgrims, the Native Americans, the enslaved Africans, women, et al. who struggled to overcome adversity in their quest for freedom; understand the effects of race, gender, class and other divisions on society and the effect of constitutional provisions to either enhance or dissipate such divisions; articulate some conception of human freedom and adopt a stance towards it; and be able to envision a defensible future.

Academic Integrity Policy: Academic integrity is expected of all students. This means that all work for this class must be undertaken and completed by you alone without collaboration from others. Any dishonesty in the performance of course work, such as plagiarism or cheating in other forms, will be reported. In the event the student is charged with some form of dishonesty, the Student Discipline Policy will be followed. The full text of the BSC Academic Honesty Policy can be found at: <http://www.bluefieldstate.edu/academics/academic-honesty-and-proctoring>. In addition, students should be aware that research paper assignments must be submitted to [Turnitin](#) for the purpose of checking for plagiarism. Submitted assignments will be included in the BSC dedicated database of assignments at Turnitin.

Attendance Policy\*: Attendance in class is mandatory. It is the student's responsibility to sign the attendance sheet each day of class; failure to sign the attendance sheet—even if in attendance—will be counted as an absence. "When the number of clock hours of willful absences exceeds the number of semester hours of credit, the instructor will notify the Registrar that the student has exceeded the permissible number of absences and should be withdrawn from class." Students with Excused Absences must submit to me a hard copy of the campus publication *The Bulletin* announcing your allowed absence in order to get credit for the day(s) of your absence. "It is the responsibility of the student to...provide supporting documents for institutional and unavoidable absences" (*Bluefield State College Academic Catalog 2012-2014*, p. 55). As well, you are expected to follow the syllabus and accordingly be prepared for each day's class. This means that you must read the pre-assigned readings before class so that you will be prepared to discuss and debate in class the subject matter scheduled for that day and answer questions related to the issues being covered.

\* Absence from class may be made up by preparing a **two-page, typed** (i.e. using maximum 12 point font size and maximum double-spaced text with one-inch margin on all sides), **summary** on the missed material scheduled to be covered the day(s) of your absence. The summary must be in your own words and must **not** be copied material from the text(s), the internet, or any other source(s). **All summaries must be turned in to me by the last day of classes if you want credit for your absences.**

Cell Phone Policy:

Turn off all cell phones during class or put on vibration. If you absolutely must answer your phone, leave the classroom before answering your phone and return only after you have completed your conversation.

Withdrawal Policy: Academic Withdrawal from the course prior to the deadline date for withdrawal as published within the academic calendar is accomplished by securing a "Change In Schedule" form and having it signed by appropriate persons. Blank copies of the change in schedule form are available in the offices of the Registrar, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Dean and the advisor. After obtaining the required signatures, the student must submit, prior to the deadline date, the change in schedule form to the Office of the Registrar.

Disability Services Statement: BSC is committed to full inclusion of all students. Students who, by nature of a documented disability, require classroom, equipment, testing or assignment accommodations should contact the Student Support Services at 304.327.4227 to request accommodations before the start of the semester. Your immediate attention to these arrangements is necessary to assure a positive learning experience.

Free Tutoring Services Available: BSC offers **free online tutoring for all BSC students** in the following subjects: Math; Accounting, Managerial; Accounting, Financial; Writing (all subjects); Grammar; Microeconomics; Macroeconomics; Statistics; Spanish. Chemistry, etc. This service is free and available 24 hours a day to all BSC students. Go to <http://www.smarthinking.com/> and follow these instructions.

Required Texts:

Greenberg, Edward S. & Benjamin I. Page. 2013. *The Struggle for Democracy, 2012 Election Edition*. New York, NY: Longman. [ISBN-10: 0205909043, ISBN-13: 9780205909049], 768 pages.

Hamilton, Alexander, James Madison and John Jay. 1787/2003. *The Federalist Papers*. New York: Penguin Books. [ISBN: 9780451528810], 688 pages.

Ketcham, Ralph, ed. 1787-8/2003. *The Anti-Federalist Papers and the Constitutional Convention Debates*. New York: Signet Classic. [ISBN 0-451-52884-0], 480 pages.

**\*\*\*This class is web-enhanced and students will be able to access supplemental materials on the BSC BlackBoard website, including chapter outlines, chapter PowerPoint summaries, etc.\*\*\***

Mandatory LiveText Assessment Statement:

"An active LiveText account is a required resource for this course because at least one assignment *must* be submitted electronically using this online platform. LiveText is used by Bluefield State to demonstrate the quality of our academic programs, and to improve teaching and learning. As a student, you have the option to use your account for secure online storage of your academic work, and to create digital documents such as electronic portfolios or reflective journals, which can be shared with prospective employers or other audiences.

If you do not already have a LiveText account, one will be emailed to your Bluefield State email account. You will be expected to activate the account immediately. LiveText will be a required resource in many different courses throughout your program, and you can use the same account for any course that requires it for a full five years, so **you only need one account**. If you already have an active LiveText account, you do not need another one. After five years you can extend your membership if you continue to need it for additional coursework or would like to maintain it for your personal use."

**August 18 [Monday]:** Classes begin for Fall 2013 Semester

**August 19 [Tuesday]:** Introduction to United States National Government: Main Themes; Democracy and American Politics

**Main Themes:** Nature of the American political system; republican governmental type; written constitution; tripartite separation of powers; role of media and civil society, and formulating governmental policy

**Explain Syllabus:** Go over class requirements, required books, class presentation, research paper, midterm and final exams.

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Ch. 1 and “Articles of Confederation & Perpetual Peace,” “The Declaration of Independence” (on course BlackBoard page); Ketcham, “James Madison to George Washington”

**August 21 [Thursday]:** Democracy and American Politics

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Ch. 1 and “Articles of Confederation & Perpetual Peace,” “The Declaration of Independence” (on course BlackBoard page); Ketcham, “James Madison to George Washington”

**August 26 [Tuesday]:** The Constitution

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Ch. 2 and “The U.S. Constitution” and Madison, Federalist “No. 10” and Hamilton, Federalist “No. 78”

**August 28 [Thursday]:** Online Book Quiz – No class

**Quiz:** Online books quiz (all three required course text books are necessary to pass this quiz)

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Ch. 2 and “The U.S. Constitution” and Madison, Federalist “No. 10” and Hamilton, Federalist “No. 78”

**Sept. 1 [Monday]:** Labor Day — College closed (No Classes)

**Sept. 2:** Federalism: States and Nation

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Ch. 3; Ketcham, “The Virginia Plan,” “Debate on Representation,” “Debate on Executive Power”

**Sept. 4:** Federalism: States and Nation (cont’d.)

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Ch. 3; Ketcham, “The Virginia Plan,” “Debate on Representation,” “Debate on Executive Power”

**Sept. 9:** The Structural Foundations of American Government and Politics

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Ch. 4; Ketcham, “Opposition to Executive Salaries,” “Opposition to a Unitary Executive”

**Sept. 11:** Public Opinion

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Ch. 5; Ketcham, “Electing Representatives,” “Debate on Method of Electing Senators”

**Sept. 16:** Public Opinion (cont'd.)

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Ch. 5; Ketcham, "Electing Representatives," "Debate on Method of Electing Senators"

**Sept. 18:** The News Media

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Ch. 6; Ketcham, "Debate on Veto of State Laws," "The New Jersey Plan," "Debate on the New Jersey Plan"

**Sept. 23:** The News Media (cont'd.)

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Ch. 6; Ketcham, "Debate on Veto of State Laws," "The New Jersey Plan," "Debate on the New Jersey Plan"

**Sept. 25:** Interest Groups and Business Corporations

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Ch. 7; Ketcham, "Plan for National Government," "Opposition to the New Jersey Plan"

**Sept. 30:** Social Movements

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Ch. 8 and Madison, Federalist "No. 51" (on course BlackBoard page); Ketcham, "Debate on Federalism"

**Oct. 2:** Social Movements (cont'd.)

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Ch. 8 and Madison, Federalist "No. 51" (on course BlackBoard page); Ketcham, "Debate on Federalism"

**Oct. 7:** Political Parties

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Ch. 9; Ketcham, "Debate on Federalism," "Length of Term in Office for Senators," "Debate on State Equality in the Senate"

**Oct. 8-12:** MIDTERM EXAM [online]**Oct. 13:** Mid-Semester grades due to Registrar electronically**Oct. 14:** Voting, Campaigns, and Elections

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Ch. 10; Ketcham, "Majority Rule: The Basic Republican Principle," "Election and Term of Office of the National Executive"

**Oct. 16:** Voting, Campaigns, and Elections (cont'd.)

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Ch. 10; Ketcham, "Majority Rule: The Basic Republican Principle," "Election and Term of Office of the National Executive"

**Oct. 21:** Congress

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Chs. 11; Ketcham, "The Judiciary, the Veto, and Separation of Powers," "Appointment of Judges"

**Oct. 23:** Congress (cont'd.)

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Chs. 11; Ketcham, “The Judiciary, the Veto, and Separation of Powers,” “Appointment of Judges”

**Oct. 28:** The Presidency

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Ch. 12; Ketcham, “Method of Ratification”

**Oct. 30:** The Executive Branch

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Ch. 13; Ketcham, “Election of the Executive”

**Nov. 4:** The Executive Branch (cont’d.)

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Ch. 13; Ketcham, “Election of the Executive”

**Nov. 6:** The Courts

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Ch. 14; Ketcham, “First Draft of the Constitution”

**Nov. 7:** Last Day to Drop with “W” or Withdraw from the College

**Nov. 11:** Civil Liberties: The Struggle for Freedom

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Ch. 15; Ketcham, “Qualifications for Suffrage”

**Nov. 13:** Civil Liberties: The Struggle for Freedom (cont’d.)

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Ch. 15; Ketcham, “Qualifications for Suffrage”

**Nov. 18:** Civil Rights: The Struggle for Political Equality

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Ch. 16; Ketcham, “Citizenship for Immigrants”

**Nov. 20:** Civil Rights: The Struggle for Political Equality (cont’d.)

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Ch. 16; Ketcham, “Citizenship for Immigrants”

**Nov. 25:** Domestic Policies; **In-Class Presentations Due** (In-Class Presentations MUST be completed by today)

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Ch. 17; Ketcham, “Executive Veto Power,” “Slavery and the Constitution”

**Assignment: In-Class Presentations Due today.** This is the last day for in-class presentations. Make sure to complete your presentation by this date..

**Nov. 27-30:** Thanksgiving Day Holidays — College closed (No Classes)

**Dec. 2:** Foreign Policy and National Defense; **Research Papers Due** (Research Papers must be submitted today)

**Assignment: Research Papers Due today.** Hand in a hard copy of your Research Papers to me in class and upload an electronic copy to Turnitin (follow submission instructions on course BlackBoard page).

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page, Ch. 18 & “The Declaration of Independence,” “The Constitution of the United States” (on course BlackBoard page); Ketcham, “Election and Powers of the President,” “Opposition to the Constitution,” “Signing the Constitution”

**Dec. 4:** Conclusion: **(Last day of classes. All course work MUST be completed by this date. No submissions will be accepted after this date.)**

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page, Ch. 18 & “The Declaration of Independence,” “The Constitution of the United States” (on course BlackBoard page); Ketcham, “Election and Powers of the President,” “Opposition to the Constitution,” “Signing the Constitution,” “The Federalist Paper No. 10,” “The Federalist Paper No. 51,” “The Federalist Paper No. 78,” “Party Leaders in the United States Congress, 1789-2013”

**Assignment:** Complete all readings & submit all work.

**Dec. 5-14:** FINAL EXAM [online]

**Dec. 15:** Final grades due to Registrar electronically