

**AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT**  
**Bluefield State College**  
**POSC 200—FALL 2014**  
**CRN: 10548**  
**Section: 002**  
**BLKBD**

**Colin S. Cavell, Ph.D.**  
**Class: 24/7 online**  
**Office Hours: TBA**  
**VOICE: 304.327.4034 (W)**

**Course Room No.: Cyberspace**  
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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: 25% for Attendance & Participation\*; 25% for the Midterm Exam; 25% for the Research Paper; and 25% for the Final Exam. A Guidelines sheet is available on the course BlackBoard page outlining the requirements 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.

Caveat Emptor (i.e. Buyer Beware): This online distance learning course is intense and requires a commitment by you, the student, to keep up with the readings and the work. By taking this course, you are making a **commitment** to purchase the required texts, **keep up with the chapter readings**, submit your **Research Paper** by the required due date, and take the **Chapter Quizzes** and submit answers to the **Class Discussion Questions** as they arise, in addition to completing the **Midterm Exam** and **Final Exam** by the dates indicated.

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. For an online course, this means that you must regularly login to the online course page, complete chapter quizzes and exams, and answer chapter discussion questions, etc.

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."

— Tracey Anderson, Ed.D., BSC Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness

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

**August 18-22:** Introduction to United States National Government: Main Themes; Democracy and American Politics; 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”

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 1 and answer the Chapter 1 Class Discussion Question.

**August 25-29:** The Constitution

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

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 2 and answer the Chapter 2 Class Discussion Question.

**Assignment:** Online Book Quiz

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

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

**Sept. 2-5:** Federalism: States and Nation

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

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 3 and answer the Chapter 3 Class Discussion Question.

**Sept. 8-12:** The Structural Foundations of American Government and Politics & Public Opinion

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Chs. 4 & 5; Ketcham, “Opposition to Executive Salaries,” “Opposition to a Unitary Executive,” “Electing Representatives,” “Debate on Method of Electing Senators”

**Assignment:** Complete Quizzes for Chapters 4 & 5 and answer the Chapters 4 & 5 Class Discussion Questions.

**Sept. 15-19:** The News Media

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Ch. 6; Ketcham, “Electing Representatives,” “Debate on Method of Electing Senators,” “Debate on Veto of State Laws,” “The New Jersey Plan,” “Debate on the New Jersey Plan”

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 6 and answer the Chapter 6 Class Discussion Question.

**Sept. 22-26:** Interest Groups and Business Corporations

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Ch. 7; Ketcham, “Debate on Veto of State Laws,” “The New Jersey Plan,” “Debate on the New Jersey Plan,” “Plan for National Government,” “Opposition to the New Jersey Plan”

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 7 and answer the Chapter 7 Class Discussion Question.

**Sept. 29-Oct. 3:** Social Movements

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

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 8 and answer the Chapter 8 Class Discussion Question.

**Oct. 6-10:** 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”

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 9 and answer the Chapter 9 Class Discussion Question.

**Oct. 8-12:** MIDTERM EXAM [online]

**Oct. 13:** Mid-Semester grades due to Registrar electronically

**Oct. 13-17:** 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”

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 10 and answer the Chapter 10 Class Discussion Question.

**Oct. 20-24:** Congress

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

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 11 and answer the Chapter 11 Class Discussion Question.

**Oct. 27-31:** The Presidency & The Executive Branch

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Chs. 12 & 13; Ketcham, “Method of Ratification,” “Election of the Executive,” “Election of the Executive”

**Assignment:** Complete Quizzes for Chapters 12 & 13 and answer the Chapters 12 & 13 Class Discussion Questions.

**Nov. 3-7:** The Courts

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

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 14 and answer the Chapter 14 Class Discussion Question.

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

**Nov. 10-14:** Civil Liberties: The Struggle for Freedom

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

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 15 and answer the Chapter 15 Class Discussion Question.

**Nov. 17-21:** Civil Rights: The Struggle for Political Equality

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

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 16 and answer the Chapter 16 Class Discussion Question.

**Nov. 24-26:** Domestic Policies

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

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 17 and answer the Chapter 17 Class Discussion Question.

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

**Dec. 1-5:** Foreign Policy and National Defense; **Research Papers Due** (Research Papers must be submitted today) (**Last day of classes. All course work MUST be completed by this date. No submissions will be accepted after this date.**)

**Assignment: Research Papers Due today.** Email me a copy of your Research Papers and submit a 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,” “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 Quiz for Chapter 18 and answer the Chapter 18 Class Discussion Question.

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

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

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