

AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
Bluefield State College
POSC 200—FALL 2014
CRN: 11014
Section: 003
WEBBD

Colin S. Cavell, Ph.D.
Class MTWR: 08:00-09:15 a.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: 25% for Attendance & Participation*; 25% for the Midterm Exam; 25% for the Research Paper; and 25% for the Final Exam. A Guidelines sheet will be distributed 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.

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:

American Government. 2008-2014. USHistory.org. Philadelphia, PA: The Independence Hall Association (IHA). (<http://www.ushistory.org/gov/>). [Accessible online via the course BLKBD page].

Hamilton, Alexander, James Madison and John Jay. 1787. *The Federalist Papers*. Washington, DC: The Library of Congress. *Thomas* website (<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/histdox/fedpapers.html>). [Accessible online via the course BLKBD page].

Hardison, Robert, ed. 1787-8/April 15, 2006. *The Anti-Federalist Papers*. . (<http://www.barefootworld.net/antifederalist.html/>). [Accessible online via the course BLKBD page].

Recommended Text:

Wilson, James Q. and John J. DiIulio, Jr. *Study Guide, Advanced Placement Edition, American Government, Eleventh Edition*. 2008. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin Company (http://college.cengage.com/polisci/wilson/am_gov/11e/assets/students/study_guide/wilson_11e_sg_all.pdf). [Accessible online via the course BLKBD page].

*****This class is web-enhanced and students will be able to access supplemental materials on the BSC BlackBoard website.*****

October 13 [Monday]: Classes begin for Fall 2013 Semester

Oct. 13 [Monday]: Introduction to United States National Government: Main Themes; Democracy and American Politics

Main Themes: Nature of government; 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: American Government, Ch. 1 “The Nature of Government,” and “Articles of Confederation & Perpetual Peace,” “The Declaration of Independence” (on course BlackBoard page)

Oct. 14 [Tuesday]: The Nature of Government

Readings: American Government, Ch. 1 “The Nature of Government,” and “Articles of Confederation & Perpetual Peace,” “The Declaration of Independence” (on course BlackBoard page); Hardison, The Anti-Federalist Papers, “No. 1: GENERAL INTRODUCTION: A Dangerous Plan Of Benefit Only To The "Aristocratick Combination"”

Oct. 15 [Wednesday]: The Nature of Government

Readings: American Government, Ch. 1 “The Nature of Government,” and “The U.S. Constitution” and Madison, Federalist “No. 10” and Hamilton, Federalist “No. 78”

Oct. 16 [Thursday]: The Foundations of American Government

Readings: American Government, Ch. 2 “The Foundations of American Government,” and “The U.S. Constitution” and Madison, Federalist “No. 10” and Hamilton, Federalist “No. 78”

Oct. 20 [Monday]: The Foundations of American Government

Readings: American Government, Ch. 2 “The Foundations of American Government”

October 21 [Tuesday]: Federalism

Readings: American Government, Ch. 3 “Federalism”

Oct. 22 [Wednesday]: Federalism

Readings: American Government, Ch. 3 “Federalism”

Oct. 23 [Thursday]: American Political Attitudes and Participation

Readings: American Government, Ch. 4 “American Political Attitudes and Participation”

Oct. 27 [Monday]: American Political Attitudes and Participation

Readings: American Government, Ch. 4 “American Political Attitudes and Participation”

Oct. 28 [Tuesday]: How Do Citizens Connect With Their Government?

Readings: American Government, Ch. 5 “How Do Citizens Connect With Their Government?”

Oct. 29 [Wednesday]: How Do Citizens Connect With Their Government?

Readings: American Government, Ch. 5 “How Do Citizens Connect With Their Government?”

Oct. 30 [Thursday]: Congress: The People’s Branch?

Readings: American Government, Ch. 6 “Congress: The People’s Branch?”

Nov. 3 [Monday]: Congress: The People’s Branch?

Readings: American Government, Ch. 6 “Congress: The People’s Branch?”, and Madison, Federalist “No. 51” (on course BlackBoard page); Hardison, The Anti-Federalist Papers, “No. 10: On The Preservation Of Parties, Public Liberty Depends”

Nov. 4 [Tuesday]: The Presidency: The Leadership Branch?

Readings: American Government, Ch. 7 “The Presidency: The Leadership Branch?”, and Madison, Federalist “No. 51” (on course BlackBoard page)

Nov. 5 [Wednesday]: The Presidency: The Leadership Branch?

Readings: American Government, Ch. 7 “The Presidency: The Leadership Branch?”

Nov. 1-9: MIDTERM EXAM [online]

Nov. 10 [Monday]: The Bureaucracy: The Real Government

Readings: American Government, Ch. 8 “The Bureaucracy: The Real Government”

Nov. 11 [Tuesday]: The Bureaucracy: The Real Government

Readings: American Government, Ch. 8 “The Bureaucracy: The Real Government”

Nov. 12 [Wednesday]: The Judicial Branch

Readings: American Government, Ch. 9 “The Judicial Branch”; Hardison, The Anti-Federalist Papers, “No. 54: Apportionment And Slavery: Northern And Southern Views”

Nov. 13 [Thursday]: The Judicial Branch

Readings: American Government, Ch. 9 “The Judicial Branch”; Hardison, The Anti-Federalist Papers, “No. 54: Apportionment And Slavery: Northern And Southern Views”

Nov. 17 [Monday]: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Readings: American Government, Ch. 10 “Civil Liberties and Civil Rights”

Nov. 18 [Tuesday]: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Readings: American Government, Ch. 10 “Civil Liberties and Civil Rights”

Nov. 19 [Wednesday]: Policy Making: Political Interactions

Readings: American Government, Ch. 11 “Policy Making: Political Interactions”

Nov. 20 [Thursday]: Policy Making: Political Interactions

Readings: American Government, Ch. 11 “Policy Making: Political Interactions”

Nov. 24-27 [Monday-Thursday]: Thanksgiving Break [College closed; no classes]

Dec. 1 [Monday]: State and Local Governments

Readings: American Government, Ch. 12 “State and Local Governments”

Dec. 2 [Tuesday]: State and Local Governments

Readings: American Government, Ch. 12 “State and Local Governments”

Dec. 3 [Wednesday]: Comparative Political and Economic Systems

Readings: American Government, Ch. 13 “Comparative Political and Economic Systems”

Dec. 4 [Thursday]: Comparative Political and Economic Systems

Readings: American Government, Ch. 13 “Comparative Political and Economic Systems”

Dec. 8 [Monday]: Comparative Political and Economic Systems; **In-Class Presentations Due** (In-Class Presentations MUST be completed by today)

Readings: American Government, Ch. 13 “Comparative Political and Economic Systems”

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

Dec. 9 [Tuesday]: Comparative Political and Economic Systems; **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 email a copy to the course BlackBoard page, and upload an electronic copy to Turnitin (follow submission instructions on course BlackBoard page).

Readings: American Government, Ch. 13 “Comparative Political and Economic Systems,” and “The Declaration of Independence,” “The Constitution of the United States” (on course BlackBoard page)

Dec. 10 [Wednesday]: Comparative Political and Economic Systems

Readings: American Government, Ch. 13 “Comparative Political and Economic Systems,” and “The Declaration of Independence,” “The Constitution of the United States” (on course BlackBoard page)

Assignment: Complete all readings & submit all work.

Dec. 11 [Thursday]: Conclusion: **(Last day of classes. All course work MUST be completed by this date. No submissions will be accepted after this date.)**

Dec. 5-14: FINAL EXAM [online]

Dec. 15: Final grades due to Registrar electronically