

**AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT**  
**Bluefield State College**  
**POSC 200—FALL 2017**  
**CRN: 11739 & 11740**  
**Section: 001 & 002**  
**MOODLE**

**Colin S. Cavell, Ph.D.**  
**Class TR: 9:30-10:45 a.m.**  
**Office Hours: TBA**  
**VOICE: 304.327.4034 (W)**

**Course Room No.: B106 & HEC E22**  
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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 & Chapter Quizzes (10% + 10% = 20%); 20% for participation in the Soliya Connect 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 the Soliya Connect 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.

Institutional Learning Outcomes for General Studies:

**ILO1: Communication [AAC&U WRITTEN AND AAC&U ORAL COMMUNICATION]**  
 Students will communicate effectively both orally and in writing.

**ILO2: Information Literacy [AAC&U INFORMATION LITERACY]**  
 Students will select appropriate resources, prioritize information in terms of relevance and reliability, question and evaluate the complexity of the information environment, and use information in an ethical manner.

**ILO5: Social, Artistic, and Cultural Literacy [AAC&U GLOBAL LEARNING AND AAC&U CIVIC ENGAGEMENT]**  
 Students will analyze and compare diverse social and cultural patterns, texts, and performances and will evaluate them from a global perspective.

**ILO6: Scientific Literacy [AAC&U INQUIRY AND ANALYSIS]**  
 Students will understand and apply scientific concepts and develop science inquiry and research skills.

**ILO7: Critical and Ethical Reasoning [AAC&U CRITICAL THINKING AND AAC&U ETHICAL REASONING]**  
 Students will interpret, analyze, and construct ethical arguments.

(effective August 8, 2013)

Program Learning Outcomes:

*PO1: Examine the evolution and/or effects of cultures in terms of behaviors, experiences, and differences.*

*PO2: Understand and/or apply basic knowledge of principles and methods found in the social sciences disciplines.*

*PO3: Communicate effectively within a social science area of concentration.*

*PO4: Critique, analyze, and assess topics, ideas, and/or sources within the social sciences disciplines.*

*PO5: Evaluate, select, and apply an appropriate research methodology in the social sciences.*

*PO6: Apply ethics across the social science disciplines.*

Course Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of POSC 200, students should be able:

CLO1: to read and provide an immanent critique of texts;

CLO2: to articulate arguments and examine their flaws;

CLO3: be familiar with the basics of logical, ethical, and dialectical reasoning;

CLO4: understand the differences between a secular and theistic form of living;

CLO5: be familiar with the constitutional history of the US experiment in self-government;

CLO6: understand the historical evolution of human culture, including struggles over rights and responsibilities;

CLO7: be familiar with the horrendous tragedies as well as the notable accomplishments of the US experiment in self-government in its efforts to balance the principles of liberty with order;

CLO8: understand the value and role of human labor, money, and commodities;

CLO9: understand the reasoning behind the separation of legislative, executive, and judicial powers in the US Constitution;

CLO10: understand the reasoning behind the idea of checks and balances in the US Constitution;

CLO11: understand the differences between a unitary, a confederal, and a federal system of government;

CLO12: be able to understand the various conceptions of the purposes of government, the proper ordering of political relationships, the nature of class struggle, the basics of political economy, the contradictions between liberty and order, and the effects of race, gender, class, and other divisions on society and the effect of constitutional provisions to either enhance or dissipate such divisions;

CLO13: be able to articulate, either orally or in writing, a coherent, logical, and critically persuasive argument, embodying a defensible conception of human freedom, on a designated topic relating to American Government.

Teaching Procedures: This course will be taught in the classroom along with quizzes and exams posted online on the course Moodle page. Individual work is required, such as participating in your once-a-week two-hour Soliya discussion group session, submitting a research paper, and completing online chapter quizzes, including a midterm and final exam.

Interaction Plan: This course will require continuous communication between you, the student, and myself, the instructor, both in class and by utilizing the tools provided by the course Moodle page and related software, including as well the BSC email system. We shall follow the posted syllabus as our guide.

Caveat Emptor (i.e. Buyer Beware): This 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, attend your weekly Soliya discussion sessions, submit your **Research Paper** by the required due date, and take the **Chapter Quizzes**, in addition to completing the **Midterm Exam** and **Final Exam** by the dates indicated.

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.**

Quiz and Test Policy: You will have **three possible attempts** with each chapter quiz to make your highest score. On the Midterm and Final Exams, you will have **only one possible attempt** to make your highest score. Your chapter quizzes will become accessible on the date indicated online and you will have until the last day of classes [i.e. December 1, 2017] at 11:55 p.m. to take them. The Midterm and Final Exams will be accessible on the date indicated online and on the syllabus and **you will have only 120 minutes to complete each exam**. If you attempt to utilize the course textbook to answer the questions on the Midterm and Final Exams, you will likely run out of time. **Make sure to complete both the Midterm Exam and the Final Exam by the stipulated dates**. The Midterm Exam will cover chapters 1-9. The Final Exam will cover Chapters 10-18. Questions on the Midterm and Final Exams will come directly from the chapter quizzes.

Special Note About the Chapter Quizzes: Each Chapter Quiz contains at least thirty questions and, sometimes, more. However, do not be discouraged by this, because you will NOT be graded on how many answers you get wrong or right on the Chapter Quizzes but, rather, you will be graded simply on whether or not you took each Chapter Quiz at least once. Yes, you read that correctly. All you need to do in order to receive your 10% credit (i.e. half for the Quizzes and 10% for your class attendance, for a total of 20% for Attendance) for completing the Chapter Quizzes is to simply attempt to take each Chapter Quiz at least once. Make sure you click the “Submit” button at the end of each Chapter Quiz so that Moodle notifies me that you have taken the quiz. By completing the chapter quizzes, you will also be preparing yourself for the Midterm and Final Exams, as the questions on the exams will come directly from the chapter quizzes.

Cell Phone Policy: **TURN OFF** all cell phones during class or place on silent vibrate. If you must answer a phone call, then quietly leave the room to take your call. **DO NOT** play, utilize, or otherwise interact with your cell phone or any other electronic device during class. If caught in so doing, you will be expelled from the class session.

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.

ADA Accommodation: Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Student Support Services at 304-327-4097

in Basic Science 113 to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Services for Disabled Students: Based on documentation and recommendation of services from physicians and therapists, the following services can be provided to students with disabilities:

- extended test time
- proctored tests
- adaptive software
- note-takers
- sign-language interpreters
- and more (depending on the recommendation of therapist and/or physician).

Free Tutoring Services Available: BSC offers **Smarthinking 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. and Benjamin I. Page. 2015. *The Struggle for Democracy: The 2014 Elections & Updates Edition, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition*. New York, NY: Pearson. [ISBN: 9780133914740].

Hamilton, Alexander, James Madison and John Jay. 1787/2003. *The Federalist Papers*. New York: Penguin Books. [ISBN 10: 0451528816 : ISBN 13: 9780451528810]

Ketcham, Ralph, ed. 1787-8/2003. *The Anti-Federalist Papers and the Constitutional Convention Debates*. New York: Penguin Books. [ISBN 9780451528841]

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

**August 14 [Monday]:** Classes begin for Fall 2015 Semester

**August 15 [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, Soliya Connect Program participation, research paper, midterm and final exams.

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

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 1.

**August 17 [Thursday]:** Democracy and American Politics

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

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 1.

**August 22 [Tuesday]:** 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.

**August 24 [Thursday]:** 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.

**Aug. 29:** 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.

**Aug. 31:** Federalism: States and Nation (cont’d.)

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

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 3

**Sept. 4 [Monday]:** Labor Day Holiday — College closed (No Classes)

**Sept. 5:** The Structural Foundations of American Government and Politics

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

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 4.

**Sept. 7:** Public Opinion

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

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 5.

**Sept. 12:** Public Opinion (cont’d.)

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

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 5.

**Soliya Connect Program:** Student Registration Links Available

**Sept. 14:** 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”

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 6.

**Sept. 19:** 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”

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 6.

**Sept. 21:** Interest Groups and Business Corporations

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

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 7.

**Sept. 25 [Monday]:** **Soliya Connect Program:** Student Registration Links Available

**Assignment:** Make sure to sign up for the Soliya Connect Program by September 25, 2017.

**Sept. 26:** Social Movements

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

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 8.

**Sept. 28:** Political Parties

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page Ch. 9 and Madison, Federalist “No. 51” (in Selected Readings on course Moodle page); Ketcham, “Debate on Federalism,” “Debate on Federalism,” “Length of Term in Office for Senators,” “Debate on State Equality in the Senate”

**Assignment:** Complete Quiz for Chapter 9.

**Sept. 29- Oct. 6: Midterm Exam (online)** [Click on Quizzes and then on “Midterm Exam”. You will have 120 minutes to complete the exam and only one attempt. You must complete the Midterm Exam by 11:55 p.m. on October 6, 2017.]

**Oct. 9 [Monday]:** Mid-semester grades due to Registrar electronically

**Oct. 10:** 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. 12:** 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. 17:** Congress

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

**Oct. 19:** Congress (cont’d.)

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

**Oct. 24:** The Presidency

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

**Oct. 26:** The Executive Branch

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

**Oct. 31:** The Executive Branch (cont’d.)

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

**Nov. 2:** The Courts

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

**Nov. 3 [Friday]:** Last Day to Drop with “W” or Withdraw from the College

**Nov. 7:** Civil Liberties: The Struggle for Freedom

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

**Nov. 9:** Civil Liberties: The Struggle for Freedom (cont’d.)

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

**Nov. 14:** Civil Rights: The Struggle for Political Equality

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

**Nov. 16:** Domestic Policies

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

**Nov. 20-24:** Thanksgiving Day Holidays — College closed (No Classes)

**Nov. 25 [Saturday]:** **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 Moodle page).

**Nov. 28:** Foreign Policy and National Defense

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

**Nov. 30:** Foreign Policy and National Defense (cont’d.) & Conclusion

**Readings:** Greenberg and Page, Ch. 18 & “The Declaration of Independence,” “The Constitution of the United States” (in Selected Readings on course Moodle 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. 1 [Friday]:** Last day of classes. All course work MUST be completed by this date. No submissions will be accepted after this date.

**Dec. 2-8: Final Exam** [Click on Quizzes and then on “Final Exam”. You will have 120 minutes to complete the exam and only one attempt. You must complete the Final Exam by 11:55 p.m. on December 8, 2017.]

**Dec. 11 [Monday]:** Final grades due to Registrar by 12:00 Noon electronically.