

POLITICAL SCIENCE 100

INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

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TEXTS:

Magleby, et. al., **Government By the People**, Brief 7th edition

(You can save a few dollars if you buy a digital version at www.coursesmart.com)

READINGS

A. FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

1. AMERICAN POLITICAL CULTURE

Magleby , ch. 3. 4

*Alexis de Tocqueville, selection from Democracy in America at

<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/DETOC/preface.htm> and

http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/DETOC/ch2_02.htm

2. THE CONSTITUTION

Magleby , ch. 1

the Federalist Papers, No. 10, 51 (back of text)

3. FEDERALISM

Magleby , ch. 2

DVD(packaged with text) Federalism: Moment of Crisis, System Failure

4. POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Magleby , ch. 6, pp. 170-191

5. VOTING AND ELECTIONS

Magleby , ch. 6, pp. 191-213

DVD, Participation: Air Wars

B. THE LINKAGE INSTITUTIONS

6. POLITICAL PARTIES

Magleby , ch. 5, pp. 132-148

7. INTEREST GROUPS

Magleby , ch. 5, pp. 148-169

8. MASS MEDIA

Magleby , ch. 7

C. THE GOVERNING INSTITUTIONS

9. CONGRESS

Magleby , ch. 8

10. THE PRESIDENCY AND EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Magleby , ch. 9,10

11. THE COURTS

Magleby , ch. 11

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Political Science 100 is a survey of our political culture, constitutional development and the structure and functions of our national government and informal institutions, such as parties. The uniqueness of the American system will be emphasized.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Class attendance may not be taken everyday, although it will be taken at random. Class attendance and participation will be counted as 10% of your grade.

COURSE GRADES

class attendance and participation	10%
participation in and paper about fantasy Congress	15%
2 tests	Each 25%
final	25%

(ANY WORK HANDED IN LATE WILL BE PENALIZED)

Laptops are required for this course. We will be taking tests on the laptop and exploring other ways to make this a part of the educational process throughout the semester.

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the UNCG Academic Integrity Policy. This may be found at <http://studentconduct.uncg.edu/>. Violations will be punished harshly.