

Contact Information

You will be assigned to one of the instructors. Click on the Groups to find your instructor.

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Course Objectives

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Explain the distinctive and “unusual “ features of America’s democracy.
2. Explain the importance of the Constitution as a foundation for the system.
3. Analyze the voting trends and participation in our elections.
4. Discuss the roles of our informal linkage institutions (parties, interest groups and the mass media) in our democracy.
5. Describe the legislative process.
6. Discuss the importance of the courts in America’s system. .

These goals will be accomplished through the class reading, written essay, class discussion, and other assignments.

Required Texts

Magleby, Light, *Government By the People, 2009 Brief Edition*.

General Description of Course Activities

Weblinks. Part of students reading will be accomplished by weblinks inserted as part of the course text. Students are expected to read all the assigned weblinks. Some assignments will be directly related to the weblink reading.

As a start, check out this link of presidential campaign ads since the age of television:

<http://livingroomcandidate.movingimage.us/index.php>

Discussion forums. Discussion Forms will provide a major part of the class. Students are expected to answer questions and respond to the posts of other students.

Online journals. Online journals will allow you to respond to assignments one-on-one with the instructor.

Media (movies, videos, or other outside assignments). Video lectures and other videos provide part of the course content. The textbook is packaged with an interactive CD.

Other projects. The course includes several interactive learning objects. Students are expected

to complete all interactive projects.

Papers. Several short papers will be assigned. Short is defined as 2-3 pages in a 10 or 12 point font, with one inch margins. Please also sign the UNCG Honor Code on every paper. You may simply write: I have abided by the UNCG Honor Code and digitally sign your name. You are expected to familiarize yourself with the Academic Integrity Policy, which is available here: <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/violation/>

Tests and/or self-tests. There will be three essay tests. Students will be expected to take the information they have gained and apply it in a thoughtful manner. Essays will be graded on content, thought and clarity.

How Graded

Each test will count 20%(200 points) of your final grade. Participation in the online discussions , the journals and completing the media survey will be 20%. (200 points) Each paper will be worth 10%. (100 points) Substantial deductions will be taken for late work.

Start Date	Unit/Lesson	Readings and Assignments
May 20-May 22	Lesson 1: American Political Culture	Read: Magleby, O'Brien, ch. 3, 4 DF1: U.S. Voting Rates DF2: American Paradox Read DeTocqueville web sites Interactive Project: Be a Modern DeTocqueville in America DF3: Survey Results
May 23-25	Lesson 2: the Constitution	Read: Magleby, O'Brien, ch. 1 , Federalist Papers 10 and 51 DF4: Articles of Confederation Journal 1: Convention Debates Journal 2: Federalist Papers
May 26-May 27	Lesson 3 : Federalism	Read: Magleby, O'Brien, ch. 2 DF5: Full-faith and Credit Clause DF6: "My Property" vs. "Your Rights" Short Paper (2-3 pgs): Hurricane Katrina and Federalism, due May 28

<p>May 28- June 1</p>	<p>Lesson 4: Participation</p>	<p>Read: Magleby, O'Brien, ch. 6, pp.168-178 Interactive Project: Who Votes? DF 7: Who Votes and Why</p> <p>DF 8: Education and Voting</p> <p>DF 9: Age and Voting</p> <p>DF 10: Women in Politics</p> <p>DF 11: Influence of Political Culture</p> <p>Get ready for test #1 covers Chapters 1-4 and 6 (to p. 178) in your textbook and the course content. TEST Saturday, May 30- Monday June 1</p>
<p>June 2- June 4</p>	<p>Lesson 5: Voting and Elections</p>	<p>Read: Magleby, O'Brien, ch. 6, pp. 178-215</p> <p>Interactive Activity: Who Wins the Election?</p> <p>DF 12: Campaign Finance Reform</p> <p>DF 13: American Voters</p>
<p>June 5-7</p>	<p>Lesson 6: Political Parties</p>	<p>Read: Magleby, O'Brien, Ch. 5, pp. 128-146 DF 14: Politics in the U.S. DF 15: Time for a Change?</p>
<p>June 8-10</p>	<p>Lesson 7: Interest Groups</p>	<p>Read: Magleby, O'Brien, ch. 5, pp.146-167 DF 16: A Link between Donation and Legislation?</p> <p>DF 17: Protest</p>
<p>June 11-12</p>	<p>Lesson 8: Mass Media</p>	<p>Read: Magleby, O'Brien, ch. 7 Survey and Analysis: TV News vs.</p>

		the Newspaper DF 18: Videomalaise
	Get ready for test	TEST, June 13-15
June 16-17	Lesson 9: Congress	Read: Magleby, O'Brien, ch. 8 Interactive Project: Congress Declares War Short Paper: Pending Legislation, due June 18 DF 19: Congress vs. the President in Declaring War
June 18-19	Lesson 10: the Presidency and Executive Branch	Read: Magleby, O'Brien, ch. 9, 10 DF 20: Presidential Personality
June 20-22	Lesson 11: the Courts	Read: Magleby, O'Brien, Ch. 11 DF 21: Judges
June 23-24	FINAL	