POLI 2051: Introduction to American Government

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Office Hours: virtual, by appointment

Final exam:
December 810

Aim of the Course:

This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of African government and politics and critically engage the class with issues and themes related to the American political system. We will examine the fundamental components of American government including represetation, political institutions, mass participation, and the policymaking process. Students will end the course familiar with the decision making process in the American political system.

Integrated learning allows students to make simple connections among ideas and experiences and across disciplines and perspectives. The LSU Integrative Learning Core (ILC) curriculum is designed to develop student abilities to transfer their learning to new situations, and demonstrate a sense of self as a learner. A fundamenWDO JRDO RI WKH ,/& LV WR IRVWHU intellectual capacities associated with integrative learning in preparation for high competence and functionality in their postbaccalaureate careers. This course fulfills the BOR Area of Social/Behavioral Sciences and provides students experience with the ILC proficiency of Inquiry and Analysis.

Structure of the Course:

The course will be divided into two units, with an exam given at the end of each unit. To reinforce information and to ensure students are keeping up to date with the course materials, quizzes will be given on eleven occasions throughout the course. All quizzes and tests are online via moodle or email. Quizzes may be in different formats each week (multiple choice, forum posts, etc). No makeup quizzes or exams will be given. Finally, students will complete one video project due October 30th. Since the format of this course is asynchronous, lecture videos will be uploaded on Mondays and quizzes will open the following Friday. Treat these videos as you would regular class attendance. That is, watch them early each week as if you were attending the class at a set time. Students are responsible keeping up with all information and DQQRXQFHPHQWV ZLWKLQ WKH OHFWXUH YLGHRV , ZLOO W video with topical discussions and announcements. Weekly lessons are a combination of lectures and discussions.

Grading:

The class is out of 400 points total

2 exams (100 points / 25% each)
11 quizzes, drop the lowest (10 points / 2.5% each)
1 video project (100 points / 25%)

Grading scale:
A+ = 100-97 / A = 96-93 / A- = 92-90
B+ = 89-87 / B = 86-83 / B- = 82-80
C+ = 79-77 / C = 76-73 / C- = 72-70
D+ = 69-67 / D = 66-63 / D- = 62-60
F = 59 and Below

Text:

The Struggle for Democracy: 2018 Elections and Updates Edition (ISBN 978-0135202760)
Additional readings will be posted to Moodle.

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