

**“The value of a college education is not the learning of many facts, but the training of the mind to think.” – Albert Einstein**

**Course Syllabus  
Saint Louis University  
1818 Advanced College Credit Program**

**American Politics – POLX-110-63**

**Waterloo (IL) High School  
American Problems/American Government – I  
Fall Semester – 2014**

Instructor: Jim Rader

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Primary Text Information: Government by the People (20<sup>th</sup> Edition) by Burns, Peltason, Cronin...

Secondary Text Information: Current Issues – Critical Policy Choices Facing the Nation and the World (2009 Edition) by Close Up Foundation

Class Objectives: To examine the political history and practices in the United States from the Colonial Era to the Present, while also focusing on state and local political practices and policies.

**Course Content**

Week 1-2: The U.S. Constitution  
Articles of Confederation, Problems of the first national Government, Philadelphia Convention, a “bundle” of compromises, ratification struggle.

Week 3: American Federalism  
Federalism, division of powers, powers reserved for the states, interstate relations, courts, and federal agencies

**1<sup>st</sup> ABSTRACT DUE**

- Week 4-5: Bill of Rights and Other Amendments  
Background, Amendment Process, 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment issues relating to schools,  
Bill of Rights, major court decisions  
Discuss Chicago Style of writing that will be expected for your research papers  
**2<sup>nd</sup> ABSTRACT DUE**
- Week 6: The Budget and the Economy  
The budget process, spending and revenue, the budget deficit, national debt, tax  
cuts, and regulation of corporate practices with emphasis on current issues  
**ROUGH DRAFT DUE**
- Week 7-8: The Executive Branch  
Presidential Powers, presidential roles, Electoral College, Cabinet and  
Executive Offices, Relations with other branches  
**3<sup>rd</sup> ABSTRACT DUE**
- Week 9-10: Congress  
Historical background, Powers of Congress, Influences on Congressional  
Behavior, and Impeachment process  
**MIDTERM EXAM**  
**4<sup>th</sup> ABSTRACT DUE**
- Week 11: Judicial Branch  
Major characters and decisions, Roles of the Courts, Current Judicial  
happenings  
**2<sup>nd</sup> ROUGH DRAFT**
- Week 12-13: Elections and Voting Behavior  
Historical background, voting restrictions, polls, political campaigns, and  
election analysis  
**5<sup>th</sup> ABSTRACT DUE**
- Week 14: Political Parties  
Evolution of political parties, party platforms  
**RESEARCH PAPERS DUE**
- Week 15: Domestic Issue – Health Care  
Universal Health Care, Medicare and Medicaid, Managed Care, and the Baby  
Boom Generation
- Week 16: Domestic Issue – Education  
School Choice, No Child Left Behind, AYP, Accountability, School Vouchers,  
State Standards, etc.

- Week 17: Domestic Issue – Immigration  
Historical immigration policy, motivation, and terrorism threat tied in with current legislation and concerns
- Week 18: Domestic Issue – Poverty  
Statistics, Welfare, Unemployment, and other local and federal government assistance programs and the history of those programs while discussing the effectiveness of such programs
- FINAL EXAM**

### **Significant Learning Activities:**

Students are required to read assigned chapters in the text and additional handouts and reading material. Students are urged to make use of the textbook and internet resources. Students should take notes on the instructor's lectures and during various video and PowerPoint presentations. Students will also be responsible for the completion of one research paper on a domestic political figure and five political abstracts based on articles the student may chose from an instructor approved source.

### **Major Assessments:**

Homework assignments based on chapter reading assignments (optional)  
Political Science Abstracts (domestic issues) – 5 required each semester  
Research Paper – Domestic Political Figure  
Unit Tests – Multiple Choice, Identification, and Essay  
Midterm Exam – Cumulative  
Final Exam – Cumulative

### **Late Work Policy:**

There is no such thing as late work in the age of technology. Assignments are due on the date that was given to you in advance. If you are sick or will be gone, you are to email me your assignment as an attachment to [jrader@wcusd5.net](mailto:jrader@wcusd5.net). If you do not email me the assignment, you may turn it in the following day for 50% of the points you earn on it. After that, it becomes a ZERO.

### **Final grades are determined by the following formula:**

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Average – 40%  
2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Average – 40%  
Final Exam – 20%

**The following are the grading scales that are used:**

Waterloo High School

92-100 A  
85-91 B  
73-84 C  
65-72 D  
0-64 F

Saint Louis University

93-100 A  
90-92 A-  
87-89 B+  
83-86 B  
80-82 B-  
77-79 C+  
73-76 C  
70-72 C-  
67-69 D+  
63-66 D  
60-62 D-  
0-59 F

**Course Content:**

Throughout this course, students may be exposed to graphic content of a historical/political nature. If a student or parent/guardian has any questions or concerns regarding this, please feel free to contact me via email or phone. If a student objects to viewing any of the videos shown in the class, they will be given an optional assignment so as not to lose participation points.

**\*\* The due dates and material to be covered are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. YOU are responsible for making sure that you make note of any changes made to this syllabus. If you have any questions, please feel free to see me.**

**\*\* The following is Saint Louis University's Academic Integrity Policy. This policy and repercussions will be upheld in ALL SLU courses regardless of the class being taught off campus.**

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

The following is a statement of minimum standards for student academic integrity at Saint Louis University.

The University is a community of learning, whose effectiveness requires an environment of mutual trust and integrity, such as would be expected at a Jesuit, Catholic institution. As members of this community, students, faculty, and staff members share the responsibility to maintain this environment. Academic dishonesty violates it. Although not all forms of academic dishonesty can be listed here, it can be said in general that soliciting, receiving, or providing any unauthorized assistance in the completion of any work submitted toward academic credit is dishonest. It not only violates the mutual trust necessary between faculty and students but also undermines the validity of the University's evaluation of students and takes unfair advantage of fellow students. Further, it is the responsibility of any student who observes such dishonest conduct to call it to the attention of a faculty member or administrator.

**Examples of academic dishonesty would be copying from another student, copying from a book or class notes during a closed-book exam, submitting materials authored by or editorially revised by another person but presented as the student's own work, copying a passage or text directly from a published source without appropriately citing or recognizing that source, taking a test or doing an assignment or other academic work for another student, tampering with another student's work, securing or supplying in advance a copy of an examination without the knowledge or consent of the instructor, colluding with another student or students to engage in an act of academic dishonesty; and making unauthorized use of technological devices in the completion of assignments or exams.**

Where there is clear indication of such dishonesty, a faculty member or administrator has the responsibility to apply appropriate sanctions. Investigations of violations will be conducted in accord with standards and procedures of the school or college through which the course or research is offered. Recommendations of sanctions to be imposed will be made to the dean of the school or college in which the student is enrolled. Possible sanctions for a violation of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, disciplinary probation, suspension, and dismissal from the University.

**\*\*If you are caught violating any of the academic integrity policies of SLU in this class, you will receive a zero on the assignment or test and further actions may be taken at the discretion of the instructor and/or Saint Louis University.**

