



# Lincoln University

## **POL SCI 10 United States Government.**

### **COURSE SYLLABUS Department of Business and Economics Spring, 2013**

**Credit:** 3 units (45 lecture hours)  
**Instructor:** Dr. Alexander Anokhin  
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**Office Hours:** By arrangement

**Required textbook:** Introduction to Comparative Politics, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition, Mark Kesselman, Joel Krieger, William A. Joseph  
ISBN-10: 1111831823  
ISBN-13: 9781111831820  
(Previous editions are OK)

**Revised:** January 06, 2013

#### **Catalog Description**

This course is an introductory survey of the institutions and processes of government in the United States. Although we examine the basic structure of state governments, the major emphasis is on the Federal Government. The course includes a close reading of the United States Constitution. Building upon knowledge of the Constitution, we will look at the most important political institutions as they work in the real world. Institutions studied include Congress, the Presidency, the courts and the national security apparatus. We also try to identify the interaction between political structure, ideology, public opinion, the press, money and the press of external events. (3 units)

#### **Course Description**

The first half of the course will present students with a firm theoretical framework for understanding the world of politics. Through lenses of

various ideologies and schools of thought we will examine such broad concepts as freedom, power, nation, institutions, culture, inequality, and democratization. The second half of this course will borrow heavily from the practical application of the comparative politics subfield. We will study various political regimes that exist in the modern world with a special emphasis on the institutions, political actors and political processes of the United States of America.

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Understand and evaluate the merits of political arguments.
2. Formulate a coherent and well justified opinion on various issues.
3. Identify relevant features of political regimes that present opportunities and/or create threats to business activities.
4. Acquire improved analytical and communicative skills.

### **Procedures and methodology**

Lecture method is combined with in-class discussions, case studies and home assignments of various kinds. Core concepts identified from the textbook will be augmented with supplementary sources (made available to students on the class website) and applied to the real life situations during class activities.

### **Class Rules**

Class attendance is required. Attendance will be taken each class at a time chosen by the instructor.

All quizzes, exams, assignments and projects must be completed and handed in on time. Late submissions will result in lower grade (each day of delay costs 5% points). Submissions of home assignments will be conducted via the course website only.

Most days of class, there will be a credit time or a short in-class writing assignment.

Make-up quizzes or exams may be allowed only in extraordinary circumstances.

Plagiarism is not tolerated and will result in F for the assignment, quiz, or exam.

### **Exams**

The exams will consist of questions based on lectures, assigned chapters and supplementary reading.

### **Course Project**

Every student must complete a research project for an in-class presentation. Specific format and research topics will be determined later and discussed in class. Research projects must comply with the Lincoln University guidelines.

## Assessment Criteria

All assignments, quizzes, projects and exams are evaluated using the indicated system:

94-100	A	73-76	C
90-93	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	60-66	D
80-82	B-	0-59	F
77-79	C+		

## Tentative Weights

Attendance	5%
Homework	20%
Project	20%
Mid-term Exam	25%
Final Exam	30%

## Course Outline

	Topic
1	Introduction. Political Science: A Very Brief History
2	Freedom, Power, Ideology
3	Liberalism
4	Conservatism
5	Socialism, Marxism and Communism
6	Democratization Revolution
7	Review Midterm Exam
8	United States: The Constitutions and Political
9	United States: Political Institutions United States: Liberty/Equality and Current Issues
10	Britain France
11	Germany Japan
12	India Russia
13	China Iran

14	Course Project Presentation
15	Review Final Exam