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Zero Textbook Cost Syllabus for PAF 1250 (Citizenship and Public Affairs)

Aaron M. Zack

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General Course Information:

Baruch College

PAF 1250- ETR (48765): Citizenship and Public Affairs

T/Th 2:30- 3:45

Room

Instructor: Aaron M. Zack

Email:

Required Materials:

Textbook: American Government from OpenStax, ISBN 1938168178, www.openstax.org/details/american-government

Your textbook for this class is available for free online. If you prefer, you can also get a print version at a very low cost. Your book is available in web view and PDF for free. You can also choose to purchase on iBooks or get a print version via the campus bookstore or from OpenStax on amazon.com. You can use whichever formats you want. Web view is recommended -- the responsive design works seamlessly on any device. If you buy on Amazon, make sure you use the link on your book page on openstax.org so you get the official OpenStax print version. (Simple printouts sold by third parties on Amazon are not verifiable and not as high-quality.)

The Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Federalist Papers can all be accessed online at The Avalon Project website: <http://avalon.law.yale.edu>

The videos and Tommy Boggs article are freely accessible online.

In addition, supplemental materials will be posted online using Blackboard. Students should regularly read political coverage in a national newspaper such as The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, or The Washington Post. The Financial Times is another good news source.

Each student will receive a \$15 stipend for printing.

Course Objectives:

This course is a critical introduction to American political institutions and behavior. Attention is given to constitutional theory and principles, the constitutional system, political institutions (congress, the presidency, the judiciary, the bureaucracy), and political participation (public opinion, the mass media, elections, political parties, groups and interests.)

Grading:

Class Participation and Attendance: 15%

Class Presentation: 10%



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Examination 1, Sep 28: 25%

Examination 2, Oct 31: 25%

Final Examination: Date TBD, 25%

Course Policies:

Class attendance is required. The only acceptable excuse for missing a class is a documented medical or family emergency. The participation and attendance portion of the grade will be determined by both factors.

There will be no work given for extra credit. No makeup exams will be given, except at the instructor's discretion in the event of a true medical emergency. I will give a grade of INC for the course only under the direst of circumstances, such as a documented medical or family emergency.

Since a paper is not being assigned, plagiarism should not be an issue. Nonetheless, students should be familiar with the college's plagiarism policies.

Each student will give a 10- 15 minute class presentation on a topic to be determined in consultation with the instructor. If there are too many students to assign individual presentations, you will present in teams. The schedule for the presentations will be set during the first 4 classes of the semester. This will be discussed at greater length in class.

Broad Reading and Topical Schedule (The reading and class discussions will likely depart from the specified dates depending upon the interest in a particular subject, which will require more extensive discussion and time. For that reason, among others, it is important that students attend every class. Note that the Chapters which correspond to the topics might differ depending upon the edition of your textbook):

Aug 29: Introduction and Class Organization; Sovereignty

Aug 31/ Sep 5/7/12: The Declaration of Independence and The Constitution

American Government Chapter 2

The Declaration of Independence; The Constitution of the United States; Amendments to the Constitution; Federalist Number 10; Federalist Number 51.

Sep 14/19: Federalism

American Government Chapter 3

Sep 26/28/ Oct 3/Oct 5: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

American Government Chapters 4 and 5

Sep 28: Exam 1

Oct 10/12: Congress

American Government Chapter 11

Oct 17/19: The Presidency

American Government Chapter 12

Film: 'Clouds Over Cuba'

Oct 24: The Bureaucracy

American Government Chapter 15

Oct 26/31/ Nov 2/7: The Federal Judiciary

American Government Chapter 13

Hamilton, Federalist #78

Oct 31: Exam 2

Nov 9/14: Elections

American Government Chapter 7

Nov 16: Groups and Interests

American Government Chapter 10

"Tommy Boggs and the Politics of Health Care Reform" (Blackboard)

Nov 28/30/ Dec 5: Economic Policy

Film: 'IOUSA'

Dec 7/12: National Security Policy

'War Comes to America' (Blackboard)

Film: 'Nuclear Tipping Point'

Final Exam Date: TBD