**WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

**Virtual Campus**

**School of Behavioral and Social Sciences**

***Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused and distinctively Christian environment for professional success and service to God and humankind.***

**POLS 2301 - vc01 American Government[[1]](#footnote-1) Syllabus**

**Term: Spring 2014 (February 24 – May 17)**

**Instructor**: Dr. Richard E. Boyer

**Contact Information**: 760 749 7353  **Email**: boyerr@wbu.edu

**Office Hours**: Monday – Friday, 8am – 8 pm via Blackboard and WBU e-mail

**Class Time and Location:** asynchronously via Blackboard

**Catalog Description**: a survey course covering such topics as the national and state constitutions, institutional structures and processes, political parties, elections, civil liberties and civil rights

**There is no prerequisite for this course**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Textbook** | **Author** | **Year** | **Publisher** | **ISBN#** |
| *AM GOV 2013 -2014* | Losco/Baker | 2013 | McGraw Hill | 978-0-07-740993-7 |

**Textbook**:

**Optional Materials:**  None

**Course Outcome Competencies**: Students should be able to demonstrate knowledge of the:

* State and national constitutions,
* Major institutions of state and national government,
* National policymaking process,
* Electoral system, federalism, civil liberties and civil rights.

**Attendance and Active Participation**: attendance in an online course is defined as active participation in the course by logging onto the course in Blackboard and working on and/or completing assignments (i.e., discussion board, homework, quizzes, etc.) each and every week.  All absences must be explained to the instructor, who will then determine whether the omitted work may be made up. When a student reaches that number of absences considered by the instructor to be excessive, the instructor will so advise the student and file an unsatisfactory progress report with the campus dean. A student absent 25 percent or more of the online course, i.e., non-participation during 3 or more weeks of an 11 week term, may receive an F for that course.

**Service for the Disabled**: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university. The Coordinator of Counseling Services serves as the coordinator of students with a disability and should be contacted concerning accommodation requests at (806) 291- 3765. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations..

**Course requirements and** m**ethod of determining course grade:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Course Requirements** | | | **Grading Criteria** | |
| Subject of Evaluation | Percentage | Points | Course Grade | Percentage |
| Bio on Open-Discussion Forum | Extra | 5 Bonus | **A** | 90 - 100 |
| Discussion Board Assignments (CEs/REs) | 25% | 100 | **B** | 80 -89 |
| Homework (10 HEs) | 25% | 100 | **C** | 70 -79 |
| Quizzes | 25% | 100 | **D** | 60 -69 |
| Final Exam | 25% | 100 | **F** | Below 60 |
| Totals | 100% | 400 | **I** | Incomplete[[2]](#footnote-2) |

The University has a standard grade scale: A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F= below 60, W = Withdrawal, WP = withdrew passing, WF = withdrew failing, I = incomplete. An incomplete may be given within the last two weeks of a long term or within the last two days of a micro term to a student who is passing, but has not completed a term paper, examination, or other required work for reasons beyond the student’s control. A grade of “incomplete” is changed if the work required is completed prior to the last day of the next long (10 to 15 weeks) term, unless the instructor designates an earlier date for completion.  If the work is not completed by the appropriate date, the I is converted to an F.

**Instructor’s policy on Academic Dishonesty:** University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery or plagiarism. See current catalog for sanctions regarding academic misconduct.

**Tentative schedule:**

**Feb 24 - March 9** **Module 1**

1. Reading: Chapters 1 - 3 and Module 1 Lecture Notes
2. Bio: Post bio (with picture at student’s option) including student’s WBU campus on ***Bio Board***  by **March 2nd**
3. Homework: Answer Module 1 homework questions (HEs 1 – 3) by end of module
4. Quiz: Complete the Module 1 quiz by end of module

***Spring Break – March 10 -16}* *no assignments due; students may work in course at their option***.

**March 17 – April 6** **Module 2**

1. Reading : Chapters 4 - 7 and Module 2 Lecture Notes
2. Discussion Bd.: First-half of class post Current Event (CE) Module 1 Discussion Bd. by **March 30th**. The second-half of the class post (RE) to classmate’s CE by end of module on **April 6th**.
3. Homework: Answer Module 2 homework questions (HE 4) by end of module
4. Quiz: Complete the Module 2 quiz by end of module

**April 7 – April 17** **Module 3**

1. Reading: Chapters 8 – 10 and Module 3 Lecture Notes
2. Homework: Answer Module 3 homework questions (HE 5) by end of module
3. Quiz: Complete the Module 3 quiz by end of module

***Good Friday April 18th through Easter Monday, April 21st Easter Monday} no assignments due; students may work on the course at their option***.

**April 22 – May 10** **Module 4**

1. Reading: Chapters 11 –14 and Module 4 Lecture Notes
2. Discussion Bd.: Second-half of class’ post Current Event (CE) on the Module 2 Discussion Bd. by **May 3rd** and first-half of the class post reply (RE) on the Module 2 Discussion Bd. by end of module
3. Homework: Answer Module 4 homework questions (HEs 6 - 8) by end of module
4. Quiz: Complete the Module 4 quiz by end of module

**May 10 – May 17** **Module 5**

1. Reading: Chapters 15 –16 and Module 4 Lecture Notes
2. Homework: Answer Module 5 homework questions (HEs 9 & 10) by end of module
3. Quiz: Complete the Module 5 quiz by end of module
4. Final Exam: Complete the two-hour traditional final exam (closed-book, no assistance, etc.) consisting of questions from Module 1 - 5 quizzes by end of course

1. Syllabus was revised on February 24th changing course structure from four module to five modules, which in turn changed module dates, and assignment due dates. The syllabus may be revised in the future to make adjustments for unforeseen circumstances as deemed necessary by the instructor. Notice of revisions will be posted as an announcement in the course on Blackboard. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. An incomplete (I) is only for a student who is passing, but has not completed required work for reasons beyond the student’s control. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)