

# POL 201 American National Government

Fall 2009  
Lecture: M, W, F 10:00 – 10:50 a.m.  
Bio-Sci East 100

Professor Barbara Norrande  
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## Teaching Assistants

	Students with last names from A to E	Students with last names from F to Me	Students with last names from Mf to Z
TA	Nikkita Edmond	Tiffany Harper	Jay Wendland
Office	134 Social Science	134 Social Science	134 Social Science
Hours	Tuesday 2:00-3:00	Wednesday 11:00-12:00	Thursday 2:00-3:00
Phone	621-5509	621-5509	621-5509
E-mail	<a href="mailto:nje@email.arizona.edu">nje@email.arizona.edu</a>	<a href="mailto:tharper@email.arizona.edu">tharper@email.arizona.edu</a>	<a href="mailto:jwendlan@email.arizona.edu">jwendlan@email.arizona.edu</a>

The goal of this course is to make the student a more critical observer of American politics by providing a background in the political structures and processes of the United States. The course covers both institutions, such as the U.S. Congress, and the actions of ordinary citizens voting in elections. Basic trends in public policy also will be reviewed.

## Required Text and Website License

Coleman, Goldstein, and Howell, *Understanding American Politics and Government, 1e*  
Website license to [www.mypoliscilab.com](http://www.mypoliscilab.com)

There are only two ways to obtain the textbook and website license:

1. Buy the textbook at the University of Arizona bookstore in the student union. It comes packaged with a small pamphlet on the back which contains a license for the website.
2. Buy the e-book and site license from the publisher at the mypoliscilab website. If you buy the e-book be sure to select the Coleman, 1e. Do not buy the alternative edition, the brief edition, or the Texas edition.

All class homework will come from the mypoliscilab website. The website also has lots of study aids: pre-tests on chapter readings, post-tests on chapter readings, practice quizzes on the chapters, study guides, and flashcards. The last two pages of this syllabus have instructions for accessing and creating a password for the mypoliscilab website.

Lecture notes, class syllabus and other class materials are posted at <http://d2l.arizona.edu>. Posted lecture notes are only outlines, and students are expected to take their own comprehensive notes during class lectures.

## **Course Requirements**

### **A. Homework Assignments (10 percent of final grade)**

Students will complete 15 homework assignments from the mypoliscilab website. The course schedule near the back of the syllabus lists which assignments are required by which dates. Assignments are due at 9:45 a.m. on the date listed. Assignments submitted after that time will not be counted toward the homework grade. The exercise with the lowest score (or one missed exercise) will be dropped. All other homework scores will be weighted equally to comprise 10 percent of the final grade. No late homework will be accepted under any conditions.

The website contains a number of different possible homework assignments for each chapter. Make sure that you do the correct one (the one listed in the syllabus.) You will not get credit if you submit the wrong homework assignment. (You may do the extra homework assignments for your own benefit, but there is no extra credit for doing more homework assignments.) Also, before submitting the assignment, double check your answers and make sure all of your mouse clicks have registered. There are no do-overs for the homework.

To find the homework assignments, log onto the mypoliscilab website. Click on the Coleman 1e book, click on chapters, click on the appropriate chapter (e.g., Chapter 2, Political Culture), click on Multimedia, and a listing of different types of assignments will appear. Click on the assignment that is listed in the class syllabus. You will complete a short exercise and then there is a 10-point quiz on the homework. It is this 10-point quiz that is the homework grade.

### **B. Written essay (20 percent of final grade)**

Students will write a five-page (1200 words) essay on “Freedom of Speech in the U.S.” The exact content requirements are listed below. The paper assignment will be a graded original version with an optional rewrite. All students will submit version 1 of the paper on September 30. These initial versions will be graded and returned to the student on October 28. Students have the option of rewriting their papers to improve their grades. Version 2 of the paper is due November 18. Hand in the graded copy of Version 1 when submitting Version 2. For those students writing only the first version of the paper, version 1 will count for 100 percent of the essay grade. For students writing both versions of the paper, version 1 will comprise 50 percent of the paper grade and version 2 will comprise 50 percent of the paper grade. Students who do not write the first version of the paper will receive 50 percent credit for a paper turned in by the due date for the second version of the paper.

Students must submit each paper in two ways. First, to demonstrate that the paper was completed and turned in on time, students must submit the paper to the DROPBOX feature on D2L by the due date and due time (9:45 a.m.). The DROPBOX feature will time stamp the electronic copy of the paper. Students must submit a paper copy of the essay in class on the day it is due. This paper copy will be used for grading. **NO E-MAIL VERSIONS OF PAPERS**

**WILL BE ACCEPTED. DO NOT SUBMIT PAPERS UNDER PROFESSOR NORRANDER'S OR THE TA'S OFFICE DOORS. THEY WILL NOT BE GRADED.**

Papers may be submitted to the D2L DROPBOX **EARLY** and the paper copy may be turned in **EARLY**. Early paper copies of the essay can be handed in by the student during an earlier class session or placed in Professor Norrande's mailbox located in Social Science Building, room 315.

Late essays will be severely penalized, and no excuses will be accepted for late papers. Version 1 papers submitted after 10 a.m. on September 30 through noon on October 7 will receive half credit. No version 1 paper will be accepted after 12:01 p.m. on October 7, and students will receive a 0 score for version 1. Version 2 papers submitted after 10 a.m. on November 18 through noon on November 25 will receive half credit. No version 2 paper will be accepted after 12:01 p.m. on November 25.

**Essay Content**

The paper will cover two aspects of freedom of speech. First, you will use information from your textbook to describe how the Supreme Court has handled cases on free speech and the types of rulings it has made on various aspects of free speech. (As a guideline, this should comprise approximately half of your essay.) Second, you will look at a recent Supreme Court case to see how the Court has ruled on a free speech issue for college students. (As a guideline, this should comprise the other half of your paper.) The case that you will look at is *Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System v. Southworth*, 529 U.S. 217 (2000). You must access the case description from the Oyez Project website. This website has a summary of the case. It also has audio recordings of the oral arguments of the case and the announcement of the case decision, with the latter being particularly useful. The Oyez Project website also has a link to the actual Supreme Court decision. You must read the entire Supreme Court decision before writing your paper. Your paper will be a factual and accurate reporting of the Supreme Court rulings.

For the summary and audio recordings go to: [http://www.oyez.org/cases/1990-1999/1999/1999\\_98\\_1189](http://www.oyez.org/cases/1990-1999/1999/1999_98_1189)

For the Supreme Court decision, you can follow links from Case Basics, Opinion or go directly to <http://docs.justia.com/cases/supreme/529/217.pdf>

**Essay Rules**

1. No more than two direct quotations. Quotations require quotation marks, a citation embedded in the text, and an entry in the paper's list of references.
2. However, you must document the source of all information which is not common knowledge even if it is not a direct quote. The mypoliscilab website has an exercise on recognizing common versus not common knowledge. Click on "Resources," then on "Writing About Political Science," and then on "Avoiding Plagiarism." Information that is not common knowledge requires a citation embedded in the text and an entry in the paper's list of references.
3. Additional information on plagiarism is available at: "Plagiarism: What It Is and How to Recognize and Avoid It,"

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>. Papers containing plagiarism will receive an automatic zero score and a report will be filed with the Dean of Students. UA policies against plagiarism are located within the Student Code of Academic Integrity,

<http://studpubs.web.arizona.edu/policies/cacaint.htm>.

4. Proper grammar and correct spelling are required. Your essay must be well organized, including coherent paragraphs and full sentences.
5. A minimum of 1250 words and no more than 1500 words. Use the word counter in your text software to obtain an exact word count and include this word count as the last item on the last page of your essay. Double space the text. You do not need a cover page, but remember to type your name on the first page.
6. All the information you need to write this paper is available in the class textbook and the Oyez Project website. You do not need to consult outside references. However, if you do consult an outside reference (book, magazine, newspaper, academic journal, etc.) you must include this in the reference section of your paper. Do not use Wikipedia or blogs as reference sources. Ask your TA if an outside source is appropriate to use.
7. Embedded citations will be of the following format:
  - a) For information from the Oyez Project (Opinion Announcement, Oyez Project); (Opinion Summary, Oyez Project); (Oral Argument, Oyez Project).
  - b) For the Supreme Court decision (*Board of Regents v. Southworth*, 2000).
  - c) For the Coleman textbook (Coleman, Goldstein and Howell, 2009, p. xx).
8. For the reference listing at the end of the paper, use a full information format.
  - a) For Oyez Project obtain their preferred citation listing from their website and use it in your paper's reference section.
  - b) For the Supreme Court decision use  
*Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System v. Southworth*, 529 U.S. 217 (2000).
  - c) For the Coleman textbook use  
Coleman, John J., Kenneth M. Goldstein, and William G. Howell. 2009. *Understanding American Politics and Government*. New York: Longman.

### **Big Hint**

**Start your paper EARLY so if you have any questions you can ask your Teaching Assistant for help.**

### **C. Exams (70 percent of final grade)**

There will be 5 exams for the class, including the final exam. The exam with the lowest score (or one missed exam) will be dropped from the final course grade. Thus, 4 exams will be counted toward the final grade. All exams will be equally weighted, including the final exam. Each exam covers 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the course material, including all lectures, reading assignments from Coleman, and homework assignments from mypoliscilab. Each exam will contain 50 multiple

choice questions (worth 2 points each). Exam questions are detailed and comprehensive. Students are expected to know everything from the class lectures, assigned readings and homework assignments. Exams are given in the lecture classroom –Bio-Sci East 100 during the regular lecture time - 10:00 -10:50.

**No make-up exams are given under any circumstances. One missed exam is excluded from the calculation of the final course grade. A second missed exam will be entered as 0 points.** Students with a Dean’s Excuse for the date of the exam or those with a religious holiday must take the exam **EARLY**. These students must contact their TA a minimum of one week in advance of the exam date to schedule an early exam.

Exam	Date	Lectures	Chapters and assignments
1	September 16	August 24- September 14	Coleman, ch. 1-4 Assignments due on Aug. 31, Sept 4 & 11
2	October 5	Sept. 18- Oct. 2	Coleman, ch. 5-7 Assignments due on Sept. 21, 25, & Oct 2
3	October 30	Oct. 7- October 28	Coleman, ch. 8-12 Assignments due on Oct. 9, 16, & 23
4	November 20	November 2- November 18	Coleman, ch. 13-16 Assignments due on Nov. 4, 9, & 16
5	Final: December 16 11:00 – 1:00 Bio-Sci East 100	Nov. 23 – December 9	Coleman, ch. 17-19 Assignments due on Nov. 25, Dec. 2 & 7

### Final Course Grades

Final grades are based on the weighted scores on homework (10% of final grade), paper (20% of final grade) and the exams (70% of final grade). Letter grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage of All Points
A	90% - 100%
B	80% – 89%
C	65% – 79%
D	50% – 64%
E	Less than 50

### Absence Policy

No late homework is accepted under any circumstances. Late papers will be severely penalized. The D2L and mypoliscilab websites allow students to submit homework and papers early and will time stamp the submission of all assignments. No exceptions will be made for late homework or late papers, since students could always have submitted these items early.

Students with pre-approved absences must arrange with their TA to take the exam EARLIER

than the schedule class date. No make-up exams are given in this course under any circumstance. The exam with the lowest grade (or one missed exam) will be dropped from the calculation of the final course grade. A second missed exam is scored as a 0 in all cases.

### **Classroom Behavior**

Students must conduct themselves in a polite and courteous manner so as not to disrupt the learning process for other students. Do not arrive late or leave early. Turn off cell phones before entering the classroom. No text messaging during class. Do not read a newspaper during the lecture. Do not talk to those sitting next to you during the class period. If you are using a laptop computer for note taking, do not surf the web or play games during the class lecture. Repeat offenders will have 5 percent deducted from their final class grade totals. Threatening behavior by students will result in a call to University of Arizona police and a report to the Dean of Students, as per the University of Arizona policy <http://policy.web.arizona.edu/~policy/threaten.shtml>.

### **Special Needs Students**

Students with special needs who are registered with the SALT Center or Disability Resource Center need to submit appropriate documentation to the instructor with requests for special accommodations by September 9.

### **Changes to Syllabus**

Information contained in this course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Date	Lecture	Coleman	mypoliscilab assignment due by 9:45 a.m. on this date	Exams & Papers
August 24	Introduction			
August 26	Gov't & Politics	Ch. 1		
August 28	Society and Economics	Ch. 2		
August 31	(continued)		Using the Census to Understand Who Americans Are	
September 2	U.S. Constitution	Ch. 3		
September 4	(continued)		Comparing Constitutions	
September 9	(continued)			
September 11	Federalism	Ch. 4	Comparing Federal and Unitary Systems	
September 14	(continued)			
September 16				Exam 1
September 18	Civil Liberties	Ch. 5		
September 21	(continued)		Balancing Liberty and Security in a Time of War	
September 23	Civil Rights	Ch. 6		
September 25	(continued)		The Mexican-American Civil Rights Movement	
September 28	(continued)			
September 30	Public Opinion	Ch. 7		Paper: Version 1 due
October 2	(continued)		You Are a Polling Consultant	
October 5				Exam 2
October 7	Participation	Ch. 8		
October 9	(continued)		Voting Turnout: Who Votes in the United States?	
October 12	Elections (Nominations)	Ch. 9		
October 14	(continued: rules)			
October 16	(continued: rules)		Television and Presidential Campaigns	
October 19	(continued: voters)			
October 21	Media	Ch. 10		
October 23	Political Parties	Ch. 11	Comparing Political Parties	
October 26	Interest Groups	Ch. 12		
October 28	(continued)			Papers returned
October 30				Exam 3

Date	Lecture	Coleman	mypoliscilab assignment due by 9:45 a.m. on this date	Exams & Papers
November 2	Congress	Ch. 13		
November 4	(continued)		How a Bill Becomes a Law	
November 6	(continued)			
November 9	Presidency	Ch. 14	The Executive Order Over Time	
November 11	(continued)			
November 13	Bureaucracy	Ch. 16		
November 16	Judicial Branch	Ch. 15	You Are a Supreme Court Justice Deciding a Free Speech Case (be sure to complete the 10 multiple choice question quiz, not the single essay question)	
November 18	(continued)			Paper: Version 2 due
November 20				Exam 4
November 23	Domestic Policy	Ch. 17		
November 25	(continued)		Comparing Health Systems	
November 30	(continued)			
December 2	Foreign Policy	Ch. 18	Comparing Foreign and Security Policy	
December 4	(continued)			
December 7	State and Local Politics	Ch. 19	Initiatives and Referendums	
December 9	(continued)			Paper version 2 returned
December 16 11:00 – 1:00	In regular classroom, Bio-Sci East 100			Exam 5 – Final Exam





## STUDENT REGISTRATION & LOGIN MyPoliSciLab

### Before You Begin

To register for MyPoliSciLab you will need:

- Your school's zip code:** \_\_\_\_\_ **85721** \_\_\_\_\_
- A MyPoliSciLab student access code** (packaged with your new text or available for purchase at [www.mypoliscilab.com](http://www.mypoliscilab.com))
- A valid email address**

*In addition, your instructor may also provide you with:*

- A "**Class ID**" to use after you've registered for your course : \_\_\_\_ cm948240 \_\_\_\_\_

### Registering for MyPoliSciLab

1. Enter [www.mypoliscilab.com](http://www.mypoliscilab.com) in your web browser.
2. Click the **Students** button under "Register or Buy Access."
3. Select **MyPoliSciLab**
4. Click "I already have an access code" (if you do not have a code, click that link to purchase and register).
5. *If asked*, tell us how you received your code (packaged with your textbook or purchased as a separate item).
6. Select the **textbook** for your course: **Coleman, *Understanding American Politics & Government***
7. Read the License Agreement and Privacy Policy and click "**I Accept.**"
8. On the Access Information Screen, you'll be asked whether you already have a Pearson Education Account. Click:
  - "**YES**" if you have registered for other Pearson online products and already have a login name and password. Boxes will appear for you to enter your existing login information.
  - "**NO**" if this is the first time you have registered for a Pearson online product. Boxes will appear for you to create your login name and password.
  - "**NOT SURE**" if you want to check for a pre-existing account and receive an email with your login name and password.
9. Type in your **Access Code** in the fields provided (one word per field) and click **Next**.
10. Simply follow the registration screens and enter your information as prompted. You will enter your name, email address, school information and provide a security question/answer to ensure the privacy of your account.

Once your registration is complete, you will see a **Confirmation** screen (this information will also be emailed to you). Simply print your confirmation - you are now ready to Log in and access your resources!

### Logging in

1. Enter [www.mypoliscilab.com](http://www.mypoliscilab.com) in your web browser.
2. Click the **MyPoliSciLab** button under "Log in."
3. Select the **textbook** for your course.
4. Enter the Login Name and Password you created and click "Log In." You are now ready to access your resources!

### **If your instructor gave you a “Class ID”...**

If your instructor gave you a “Class ID,” you will need to join the Grade Tracker grade book for your course. Doing so will allow your instructor to view your results on the assignments & online activities. You will need to “Join your class” just once, and you may do as soon as you have your instructor’s Class ID.

1. Log in to your **MyPoliSciLab** course.
2. Click the “**Join a Class**” tab on the top right navigation.
3. Enter your **Class ID** (cm948240) and click **Next**.
4. Review the course information and confirm by clicking **Next**.
5. **You will see a Class Confirmation** page: Click the **Enter Class Now** button to immediately access your resources!