

POLITICA SCIENCE 101
A

Course Requirements and Grades

Students are expected to read assigned materials and complete assignments by due dates posted each week. Grades will be based on:

1. Six weekly assignments: 60%
2. Evaluation/Review of a film (*Alexander Hamilton*): 20%
3. A short paper (4-5pages): 20%

Course Outline and Schedule

Week One (May 20-May 24): Founding of the Republic

The Independence War

The Constitutional Convention and Shaping of the US Government

The Federalists vs. the Anti-federalists

Reading Assignment: Miroff, Seidelman, Swanstrom, and De Luca (MSSD), Chapter 2

Week Two (May 27-May 31): The American Political System

Congress

The Presidency

Checks and Balances

Reading Assignment: MSSD, Chapters 11 and 12

Week Three (June 3-June 7): Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

The Federal Court System

The Supreme Court

The Bill of Rights and Civil Liberties

Reading Assignment: MSSD, Chapter 14

Week Four (June 10-June 14): Political Parties and Interest Groups

Evolution of American Political Parties

Interest Groups & Lobbying

Voting and Political Campaigns

Reading Assignment: MSSD, Chapters 7 and 9

Week Five (June 17-June 21): Policymaking in America

Budget Deficits and Government Debt

Healthcare Reform

Reading Assignment: MSSD, Chapter 17

Week Six (June 24-June 28): America in a Changing World

Globalization and the US Economy

The Financial Crisis

The Tea Party & Occupy Wall Street

Reading Assignment: TBA

Course Materials

Miroff, Bruce, Raymond Seidelman, Todd Swanstrom, and Tom De Luca. 2010. *The Democratic Debate: American Politics in an Age of Change*. Boston: Wadsworth.

Course Objectives