SYLLABUS

Course Description: An overview of the concepts, principles and practices of politics as a background for the study of American and Texas political institutions. This course will employ an international and comparative focus. Pre-requisites: Freshman standing.

Course Content: The course will survey and analyze the basic concepts used in the contemporary study of American national, state and local political processes and institutions. The course will use comparative approach to explain American politics against an international background, attempting to show how similar or different is our political system in that context. Lectures and map materials will provide particular examples of those similarities and differences.

The goals of the course are: to disseminate knowledge of American political processes and institutions set in the broad comparative and international context; to advance the understanding of the challenge, and consequences confronting American political decision-making and to study the U.S. role in the framework of contemporary world’s problems and dangers.

Textbooks:

Exams and/or Assignments: Materials in the textbook (1) and the Atlas (2) will be divided into four (4) parts. The exams (4) will be scheduled approximately every 3 weeks. (Exam I – 2/13/14; Exam II – 3/18/14; Exam III – 4/10/14; Exam IV 0 5/6/14. FINAL Exam date: Thursday, May 15, 2014, 4:00 PM – 6:45 PM.

Each exam will be based on material derived from the textbook material Atlas and the lectures, and will cover 4 chapters and 2 maps from the Atlas. All exams will be announced in class at least one week ahead. Objective (50 question exams) and at least one week ahead. Objective (50 question exams) and at least one essay exam will be used. Final (comprehensive) exam based on all material (100 questions) is scheduled as listed. Cell Phones DISCONNECTED in class. No food or drinks in class. No electronic equipment allowed during exams.

Cheating will be reported to the Dean of Students. Late-comers to exams will not be admitted after 15 minutes – will have to take make-ups. Review sessions will be scheduled before exams (announced in class week before).
Review for the Final in Class – 5/8/14. “Be on Time” – Cannot be re-scheduled, and no “make-up exam”. No Final = “F” for the course.

Grades: Based on cumulative point score. Passing 60% (D), 70% (C), 80% (B) and 90% = (A).

Attendance: Compulsory (material introduced in lectures, but not in the text will also be on tests). Students with poor attendance record could be dropped.

Course Drop Deadline: April 4, 2014. Last day of classes and last day to completely withdraw from all courses – May 8, 2014.

No Exam or Assignment: An automatic “F” unless arrangements for a make-up are made WITHIN a week after exam/assignment due with one of the TA’s ASAP. Reasons for absence to be documented.

ALWAYS CONTACT the Teaching Assistants first with ANY problems, ASAP. Email THEM first – NOT the professor.

Office Location and Hours:

1. Teaching Assistants:

Manny Gutierrez
TA Office: BEND 204
Phone: 747-7972
Magutierrez12@miners.utep.edu
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Teo Garcia
TA Office: BEND 206
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Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

2. Dr. Z. Anthony Kruszewski
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1:30 PM – 2:50 PM
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