This course is designed as a general introduction to American national government and politics. It will provide a taste of the many and varied concepts and methods political scientists utilize to understand a wide variety of political events. This includes, but is not limited to, national institutions such as Congress, the Supreme Court, the presidency, and the bureaucracy along with the behavior of political parties, lobbying organizations and the general public. The goal is to help you better understand key concepts and apply them fostering a better and deeper understanding of political events. Due to this class being a general survey course, we cannot spend too much time or delve too deeply into any one subject. That being the case, I hope to peak your interest in political science enough to get you to continue in the discipline and seek out other higher level courses designed with a more specific focus.

This course, through its multiple assignments, will help students express and interpret information, develop critical thinking skills, integrate and apply knowledge to their personal and professional lives, expand and deepen their knowledge of political science research methods, which includes a fuller understanding of this society, culture, values and ethics.

**Required Texts**

All of the texts for this course are available in the Bookstore or can be bought directly from the publisher. You must have the online access code in order to use McGraw Hill’s Connect system.

1. *We the People: An Introduction to American Government* 11th Edition, by Thomas E. Patterson. You must have the online Connect access code to be able to fulfill many of the assignments in this class. Thus, buying a used copy will not work.

In addition to the text, we may also make use of supplemental readings available on the web through the academic journal website www.jstor.org. The jstor.org website is freely available to all students if accessed directly from a computer on campus. If you would
like to get access to jstor.org off campus, you will need to sign in through the University Library’s research portal found on the library’s website. I may also post readings to Canvas.

**Graded Assignments**

The grade in this class will be based on three types of graded assignments:

(1) In Class Exams and Paper, which consists of two essay exams and a paper. The exams will cover everything I discuss in lectures and what you read in the book. These assignments are collectively worth 50% of your overall grade, with each one making up a third of that total.

I will discuss the paper assignment in great detail in class after the first exam. But just to foreshadow, you will be reading and responding to a series of articles that appeared in the journal *PS: Political Science and Politics*. This is a debate that occurred in the journal regarding the influence of congressional redistricting on the competitiveness of U.S. House elections.

(2) Attending the Bulen Symposium on American Politics in the Campus Center (fourth floor) on Nov. 17th. This will be worth 10% of your overall grade. Be sure and put it in your calendar now!

(3) Online Book and Quizzes. This consists of you working your way through the various chapter modules and quizzes throughout the semester. Each chapter and quiz has a specific due date and time. For each day you are late you lose 10% of that assignment’s value. See the class’s Canvas assignments page for each of these specific assignments and when they are due. This portion will be worth 40% of your overall grade.

In addition to these assignments, I also have assigned several podcasts to listen to. You can find these listed below in the class schedule. You can listen to them on the web or with your favorite podcast app on your smartphone.

I also reserve the right to add additional assignments (quizzes). If I do, I will announce these in advance (and we will slightly alter the percentages associated with various assignments). You should be aware that every assignment is required. If you fail to complete any assignment, you will receive a zero for that assignment and your course grade will suffer significantly.

Turning in assignments late will result in a penalty. I will lower your grade by 10% for each day it is late. For example, if the assignment is due on Monday and you complete it on Tuesday, the maximum number of points you can get is 90 (if it is a 100 point assignment). The only potentially acceptable reasons for not completing an assignment on time are illness and family emergency (family trips or gatherings are NOT emergencies). Should either of these circumstances arise, you may receive extra time,
but only if you (1) inform me prior to the assignment’s due date, and (2) provide me with documentation of the circumstances. You must do BOTH numbers 1 and 2 in order to avoid penalties for late assignments.

While a curve may be used in determining the final distribution of grades, any student who acquires at least 93% (or more) of the weighted points will not receive a grade lower than an A, 90-92% an A-, 87-89% a B+, 83-86% a B, 80-82% a B-, 77-79% a C+, 73-76 a C, 70-72 a C-, and 60-70% a D. Thus, the curve will only be used to improve your grade. You should note that I do not give pluses or minuses for any grade in the D or F range. I do not allow students to submit extra work in an attempt to raise his or her grade, unless I have specified to the entire class that such an opportunity exists.

**Academic Integrity**

Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. You are expected to know and will be held to the standards of IUPUI’s Student Code of Conduct. By accepting this syllabus and participating in this class you are agreeing to abide by this code. The code can be found on the web here: http://www.iupui.edu/code/

Any cheating on an exam or plagiarism in the paper will result in automatic failure of that assignment. Two instances will result in failure of the class. NO EXCEPTIONS!

**Administrative Withdrawal Policy**

Administrative Withdrawal: A basic requirement of this course is that you will participate in class and conscientiously complete writing and reading assignments. If you miss more than half our class meetings within the first four weeks of the semester without contacting me with a substantial reason, you will be administratively withdrawn from this section. Our class meets twice per week; thus if you miss more than four classes in the first four weeks, you may be withdrawn. Administrative withdrawal may have academic, financial, and financial aid implications. Administrative withdrawal will take place after the full refund period, and if you are administratively withdrawn from the course you will not be eligible for a tuition refund. If you have questions about the administrative withdrawal policy at any point during the semester, please contact me.

**Library as Valuable Resource**

University Library has developed a research guide specifically for sources useful to Political Science students; this guide can be accessed at http://iupui.campusguides.com/polsci

The following tutorial will help you understand when it is necessary to cite information from outside sources. http://ulib.iupui.edu/static/plagiarism_tutorial/

Once in the tutorial choose a character to complete it.

There are also a bunch of “How-To” guides that can be found here: http://iupui.campusguides.com/howto
Finally
There are a number of campus-wide policies governing the conduct of courses at IUPUI. These can be found at http://registrar.iupui.edu/course_policies.html

Class Calendar and Assigned readings
(See the class Canvas assignments page for specific due dates and times for each of the book chapters and quizzes.)

Week 1: Aug. 23rd and 25th
What is Political Science?
Readings/Quizzes:
Chapter 1

Week 2: Aug. 30th, Sept. 1st, and 6th
Research Methods and start Mass Political Behavior
Readings/Quizzes:
Chapter 6
Podcast:
This American Life, episode 590 “Choosing Wrong”
While the whole episode is worth listening to, I’m most interested in Act two “Poll Dance” about political polling. Listen to this by the 1st. It can be found here: http://www.thisamericanlife.org/radio-archives/episode/590/choosing-wrong?act=2

Week 3: Sept. 8th, 13th, and 15th
Mass Political Behavior continued
Readings/Quizzes:
Chapter 7
Podcast:
Revisionist History, episode 1 “The Lady Vanishes”
Listen by the 8th
It can be found here: http://revisionisthistory.com/episodes/01-the-lady-vanishes
Week 4: Sept 20\textsuperscript{th} and Sept. 22\textsuperscript{nd}

Pluralism and Interest Groups

Readings/Quizzes:
Chapter 9

Podcast:
This American Life, episode 591 “Get Your Money’s Worth”
Act One “The Final Countdown” about political donors

Week 5: Sept. 27\textsuperscript{th}, 29\textsuperscript{th}, Oct.4\textsuperscript{th}
Political Parties

Readings/Quizzes:
Chapter 8

Week 6: Oct. 6\textsuperscript{th} *******First Exam Oct. 6\textsuperscript{th}*********

Week 7: Oct. 11\textsuperscript{th}, 13\textsuperscript{th}, 20\textsuperscript{th}, 25\textsuperscript{th}  (Fall Break, No class Oct. 18\textsuperscript{th})

Congress

Readings/Quizzes:
Chapter 11

Week 8: Oct. 27\textsuperscript{th}, Nov. 1\textsuperscript{st}

The Presidency

Readings/Quizzes:
Chapter 12

Week 9: Nov. 3\textsuperscript{rd}, 8\textsuperscript{th}, and 10\textsuperscript{th}

The Bureaucracy

Readings/Quizzes:
Chapter 13
**Week 10:** Nov. 15\(^{th}\), 17\(^{th}\), and Nov. 22\(^{nd}\)

**********No class Nov. 17\(^{th}\) Attend Bulen Symposium**********

The Judiciary

Readings/Quizzes:
Chapter 14

**Week 11:** Nov. 29\(^{th}\), Dec. 1\(^{st}\) ******Paper Due Tuesday Nov. 29\(^{th}\) in class******

Civil Liberties and the Constitution

Readings/Quizzes:
Chapter 4
Chapter 5

**Week 12:** Dec. 6\(^{th}\), and 8\(^{th}\)

Federalism

Readings:
Chapter 3

Podcast:
The Uncertain Hour, episodes 1-6 (by Dec. 6\(^{th}\)). Yes I did mean all 6 of those. It’s a fantastic look at how policy works (or doesn’t) in a federalist system like ours. And not nearly as boring as reading about it.
http://www.marketplace.org/topics/uncertain-hour

**Week 14:** Dec. 15\(^{th}\) ******Second Exam Thursday December 15th ******

Second Exam

3:30 to 5:30pm
In the same room