

LIGHTHOUSE CPA
SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT

GOVERNMENT COURSE SYLLABUS

GOVERNMENT CLASS WEB SITE :
www.quia.com/pages/jchristman38/pag3..html



GOVERNMENT BLOG SITE : <http://lighthousecpagovernment.blogspot.com/>

GOALS

We have three goals for this course :

- *Help students to develop and sharpen the ability to think logically and rationally*
- *Help students to thoroughly understand and effectively apply fundamental theories on the origin and responsibilities of government/citizens*
- *Help students thoroughly recognize and understand how these principles relate to themselves personally , professionally , and in their roles as participating citizens in our domestic and global economies and societies*

COMPETENCIES

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- *Identify and evaluate the various forms/theories of governance*
- *Identify and apply the fundamental principles of the United States Constitution by providing practical examples of these principles*
- *Identify and evaluate what it means to be an American, including the role that diversity of thought and people has played and continues to play in the this identity*
- *Evaluate realities as they compare to the “American Ideal”*
- *Identify, explain, and evaluate the fundamental principles of the U.S. Constitution including placing these principles in a historical context*

- *Explain and evaluate the “business” of government in the United States*
- *Analyze the impact and influence of money and special interests groups on public policy making in the United States*
- *Interpret and apply the rulings made in landmark Supreme Court cases as well as comparing these decisions with the Constitutional principle which underlies the decision*
- *Evaluate the ever changing role of the United States in global policy making, including providing a historical context of U.S. global influence*
- *Be able to identify and apply the concepts of responsible citizenship in the United States*

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

Instruction will include :

- *Lecture and discussion regarding course material*
- *Printed and web based reading assignments related to course material*
- *Viewing and discussion regarding web based and in class videos supplementing course material*
- *Viewing , out of class , web based instructional videos related to course material*
- *Workshop exercises supplementing course material*
- *Discussion of current economic events related to course material*
- *Use of web based study tools to reinforce course material*

GRADES / MEASUREMENTS

Grades for each marking period will be calculated as follows :

- *55 % Based on core chapter matching and multiple choice question exams*
- *30 % Based on chapter “ critical thinking ” exams > these are multiple essay exams*
- *15 % Based on video exams / reading projects*

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS / SUPPLIES

The instructor recommends that the students make sure that they have the following materials available to use :

- *Colored pens - black , red , and blue*
- *Pencils*
- *Calculator*
- *Three ringed binder or folder dedicated specifically to this class*
- *Blue lined paper*

There is no official textbook for this course. Your instructor has built the curriculum from the following sources and will provide reading material as well as audio and video presentations from them.

Classical Works On Government And Public Policy:

On the class website you will find a document that listing of classical works on government and public policy . While always being added to , it contains some of the most influential books written on government and public policy . Students are encouraged to explore this list for potential supplemental readings .

ADVISORY REGARDING OUT OF CLASS RESPONSIBILITIES AND HOMEWORK

It is assumed that students at Lighthouse CPA are motivated college bound students. Therefore , it is also assumed that the students have a thirst for knowledge . Based on these assumptions the course will move towards a model that has no “ traditional homework ” for this course , but there are out of class responsibilities that must be taken care of if the student is going to be successful . Initially in the school year homework will be given out. As the semester progress the instructor will use his professional judgment regarding moving away from a traditional homework model and towards an out of class responsibility model. The attempt to do this is to align more closely the government course with the structure of courses at the university level. This process of moving away from traditional homework assignments will be monitored and adjusted by the instructor. The ultimate goal of this course is to have individual students be responsible, independent scholars.

It is STRONGLY RECOMMENDED that students get into the habit of taking care of the out of class responsibilities as if it were assigned homework . Here are the responsibilities :

- *Every chapter will have multiple outside readings that will be posted to the class website . The chapter readings are divided into both required and supplemental readings. The required readings **will** have test questions or guided reading worksheets that will accompany the readings. The supplemental readings will provide insight into **possible** critical thinking exam questions. Essay questions about these readings will be on the “*

critical thinking exam ” for each chapter . To perform well on the “ critical thinking exams ” the students will have to complete the readings .

- *Every chapter will have critical thinking questions posted on the class website . These questions will be randomly selected to be essay questions on the chapter “ critical thinking exams ”. To be successful on the exams , students will want to their own research these topics , consider how they might apply what they learned in class to the topics , and collaborate with their peers to discuss ideas on the topics .*
- *The class website will also include links to short supplemental video lectures focused on specific topics and concepts that are covered in class . Students will want to view these to reinforce their understanding of the concepts .*
- *The class website will also include links to required student videos. These videos will be accompanied by study guides, which it is highly recommended that scholars use. These videos will act as an enhancement to in class discussions and lectures. The required student videos will also be accompanied by a video exam, which will be taken online on the day of the chapter exam.*
- *Students will want to visit the class website regularly before chapter exams to play the “ Challenge Board (economic jeopardy) ” game (automated study tool) prior to chapter exams and finals . The study tool is posted to the class website at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled chapter exam . To verify that they are prudently taking care of their study , and exam preparation responsibilities , students need to complete the sign process that they are presented with when they go to use the practice exams .*
- *Students will also want to visit the class web site to review chapter presentations and make sure that their study guides are complete prior to chapter exams and finals.*
- *Chapter Exams will be conducted during class. Any unexcused absence the day of the exam will exclude the student form the opportunity to take the exam. The exam will be placed in the grade book as a zero.*

Radio Programs :

These programs , or information from these programs , are offered over traditional radio , via pod casts , through RSS feeds , and through the program provider’s websites :

- *National Public Radio (NPR) - Morning Edition Program - Airs between 6 AM and 9 AM , Monday through Friday. This program can be found at NPR’s web site (www.npr.org) , or traditional radio*

- *National Public Radio (NPR) - All Things Considered Program - Airs between 4 PM and 7 PM, Monday through Friday. This program can be found at NPR's web site (www.npr.org), or traditional radio*
- *National Public Radio (NPR) - Weekend Edition Program - Airs between 6 AM and 9 AM, Saturday and Sunday. This program can be found at NPR's web site (www.npr.org), or traditional radio*

CLASS OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THOUGHT

<i>Week 1</i>	<i>INTRODUCTION</i>
<i>Week 2-3</i>	<i>BODY POLITIC AND POLITICAL LIFE</i>
<i>Weeks 3-4</i>	<i>THEORIES OF GOVERNMENT</i>
<i>Week 5-6</i>	<i>THEORIES OF GOVERNMENT PART II</i>
<i>Week 6-8</i>	<i>FOUNDATIONAL IDEOLOGY (U.S.)</i>
<i>Week 9-11</i>	<i>AMERICAN IDEAL</i>
<i>Week 11-12</i>	<i>THE CONSTITUTION</i>
<i>Week 12-13</i>	<i>THE BUSINESS OF GOVERNMENT</i>
<i>Weeks 13-14</i>	<i>POLITICAL PARTIES AND SPECIAL INTERESTS</i>
<i>Week 15-16</i>	<i>SUPREME COURT CASES</i>
<i>Week 16-17</i>	<i>U.S. IN WORLD AFFAIRS</i>
<i>Week 17-18</i>	<i>CITIZENSHIP</i>