PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

The course is designed as a critical introduction to United States politics. In particular, it analyzes the functioning of the political process and the relationship between governmental policy and the individual citizen. The central questions being addressed are: How does the political system work, both by design and in reality? Are all interests served relatively equally as a result? Is the U.S. political system a "democracy"? What, if anything, could make it more democratic?

Hopefully, the student will come away with some essential knowledge of the political process, its problems, and alternatives to the status quo. The course also attempts to help stimulate and develop the student's creative thought, clarity of expression, study habits, and interest in politics and political science. In addition, it is hoped that this course will assist the student in coming to his/her own political self-awareness (where he/she fits in politically) and activate pursuit of his/her interests in the political arena.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Readings -- do them all carefully and critically prior to class.
Class Contribution -- attend all classes, come prepared, and participate.
Quizzes – daily
Election Research Project
Midterm Examination
Final Examination

REQUIRED TEXTS

Edward Greenberg and Benjamin Page, America’s Democratic Republic (2005)

note: you also are required to stay up with each day’s national news developments
GRADES

Daily Quizzes (20)        40%
Class Participation      10%
Election Project         10%
Midterm Examination      20%
Final Examination        20%

100%

Exam Rule #1: NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES. I will drop your 4 lowest quiz scores (4 of the 24). That allows you to miss four classes without penalty (two week’s worth of classes).

Exam Rule #2: You may take exams early but not late. Contact me ahead of the exam if you will miss it due to illness or other emergency! Otherwise, NO MAKE-UP EXAMS.

Exam Rule #3: Looking at previous years’ test questions or answers is not allowed and will be viewed as a serious violation of the Honor Code. When you pledge your quizzes and exams, you will be pledging in part that you have not seen any such materials.

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Introduction        August 24

I. Developing Democracy

A. Defining Our Terms        August 29
   Read: Greenberg & Page, chap. 1

II. Historical Context: A “Peoples’ History” of the United States

A. Setting the Stage

1. Discovering America       August 31
   Read: Zinn chaps. 1, 2 and 3

2. The American Revolution   September 5
   Read: Zinn chaps. 4 and 5
II. Historical Context: A “Peoples’ History” of the United States (cont.)

B. Establishing the Nation

1. Westward Expansion
   Read: Zinn chaps. 6, 7 and 8
   September 7

2. The War in the South
   Read: Zinn chap. 9
   September 12

3. The War in the North
   Read: Zinn chap. 10 and 11
   September 14

4. Combating the Socialist Challenge
   Read: Zinn chaps. 13 and 15
   September 19

C. United States Foreign Policy

1. Early Internationalism
   Read: Zinn chaps. 12 and 14
   September 21

2. WWII and Viet Nam
   Read: Zinn chaps. 16 and 18
   September 26

D. United States Domestic Policy

1. The Civil Rights Movement
   Read: Zinn chaps. 17 and 19
   September 28

2. The 1970s and 1980s
   Read: Zinn chaps. 20, 21 and 22
   October 3

3. Growing Discontent?
   Read: Zinn chaps. 23, 24 and 25
   October 5

MIDTERM EXAM

II. U.S. National Government and Policy Making Process

A. The U.S. Constitution
   Read: Greenberg & Page, chap. 2
   October 12

FALL BREAK
II. U.S. National Government and Policy Making Process (cont.)

B. Public Opinion  
Read: Greenberg & Page, chap. 6  
October 19

C. News Media  
Read: Greenberg & Page, chap. 7  
October 24

D. Interest Groups  
Read: Greenberg & Page, chap. 8  
October 26

E. Political Parties  
Read: Greenberg & Page, chap. 9  
October 31

F. Campaigns and Elections  
Read: Greenberg & Page, chap. 10  
November 2

ELECTION ANALYSIS (papers due)  
Election De-Brief  
November 7  
November 9

G. Congress  
Read: Greenberg & Page, chap. 11  
November 14

H. The Presidency  
Read: Greenberg & Page, chap. 12  
November 16

I. The Bureaucracy  
Read: Greenberg & Page, chap. 13  
November 21

THANKSGIVING BREAK

J. The Courts  
Read: Greenberg & Page, chap. 14  
November 28

K. Domestic Policy  
Read: Greenberg & Page, chap. 15  
November 30

L. Foreign Policy  
Read: Greenberg & Page, chap. 16  
December 5

FINAL EXAM  
Monday, Dec. 11 (8:30 a.m.)
ELECTION RESEARCH PROJECT

You are to analyze the two (2) 2006 congressional elections assigned to you. Your analysis should include a brief description of the candidates and the area’s electoral history, as well as major events in this year's campaign. It should culminate in an outcome prediction, including each candidate’s predicted percentage of the vote. Your write-up should include a bibliography of the sources you used (including e-sources).

Each election analysis should fit on one page, with 4 succinct paragraphs. Your total paper should be 3 pages in length.

Page One: Election Analysis #1
Paragraph 1: comparison of the viable candidates, including party affiliations
Paragraph 2: partisan electoral history of the state (50 years)
Paragraph 3: major events and issues affecting this year’s campaign
Paragraph 4: your percentage predictions and explanation why

Page Two: Election Analysis #2
Paragraph 1: comparison of the viable candidates, including party affiliations
Paragraph 2: partisan electoral history of the state (50 years)
Paragraph 3: major events and issues affecting this year’s campaign
Paragraph 4: your percentage predictions and explanation why

Page Three: Bibliography

RACES BEING ANALYZED (seats most likely to switch parties)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>U.S. SENATE</th>
<th>U.S HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (Rep.seats in italics)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>Arizona 05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>Arizona 08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>California 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>Colorado 07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>Connecticut 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>Connecticut 04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>Connecticut 05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>Florida 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>Florida 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>Illinois 06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Indiana 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Island</td>
<td>Indiana 08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>Indiana 09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>