

USU 1300: U.S. INSTITUTIONS

TTH 10:30-11:45

Instructor: Dr. Craig Petersen
e-mail: cpetersen@cc.usu.edu
Telephone: 797-0001
Office: Merrill Library 301
Office Hours: By appointment in my office or by e-mail daily 8:00-5:00
Teaching Assistant: Add name
TA Office Hours: Add time, in Library 301
SI Leader: Chris Cordero, Cacordero71@hotmail.com
SI Sessions: Mon, 5:30-7:00 and Wed, 7:00-8:30 in Animal Science 115

COURSE OBJECTIVES

To assist students in formulating their personal philosophies as citizens.

To provide information and perspectives that will assist students in understanding and evaluating important current events and issues, especially those that involve constitutional issues.

To satisfy the mandate of the Utah State Legislature that "A student shall demonstrate a reasonable understanding of the history, principles, form of government, and economic system of the United States prior to receiving a bachelor's degree or teaching credential."

APPROACH

The organizing theme used to provide continuity for this course is the U.S. Constitution--its origins, its evolution, and its impact in today's world. Using the Constitution as a focal point, students will gain an understanding of basic governmental and economic principles and institutions in the United States. The course will also include extensive discussion of current events.

TEXT

U.S. Institutions, USU 1300. This text was designed specifically for this course and a new edition is available at the USU Bookstore.

COURSE WEB SITE

The web site for this course is found at <http://webct.usu.edu>. Other courses you are registered for may have web sites at the same location. To gain access you need a user name and a password. Your user name is the first two letters of your first name+your last name+the last two numbers of your student identification number. For example, if your name was George Bush and your student identification number was 541-12-3456, your user name would be gebush56 (note that all letters are lower case). If you are not currently registered, you can use **usu1300** as a username and **guest** as a password. If you have trouble logging in, call the USU Computer Help Desk at 797-4358, option #1.

The course web site is used to submit your homework assignments, obtain lecture notes, read important announcements about the course, review your grades at any time, and connect to links with important information. You should check it often.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

A. Quizzes and Tests

Three quizzes with 10 multiple choice questions. Each quiz is worth 30 points each. [90 points]

Two midterms with 25 multiple choice questions. Each midterm is worth 75 points each. [150 points]

One final examination with 30 multiple choice questions. [90 points]

Quizzes and tests will be multiple choice and will be taken on Thursdays at the end of class. The material to be covered on the quiz or test will be announced the previous Tuesday. You must bring a Scantron sheet (Form No. 882-ES) and a #2 pencil for each quiz and test. The Scantron sheets can be purchased at the USU Bookstore. You will need six of them for the course.

B. Homework Assignments

Seven homework assignments worth 10 points each. [70 points] These assignments will ask for your opinion on a topic. There are no wrong answers, but points will be deducted for spelling errors, poor grammar, and/or lack of thought. The seven assignments are submitted by using the "Assignments" link on the course web site. Click on the assignment you want and then type your answer in the space shown. As a general rule, your answer should about fill the amount of space provided. When you are done, hit "Save Answer" and then "Finish" to submit your answer for grading. Make sure you don't hit the "Finish" button until you are done, because you will only have one chance. The assignments will be available on Monday mornings of the week they are due and must be submitted by that Wednesday at midnight.

C. Make-up Exam/Quiz.

If you miss a quiz or exam or if you do poorly and want to try and improve,, there will be a make-up on the last day of class. You can make-up either a midterm or a quiz, but not both. If you improve your score, the make-up will replace the lower grade. If you do worse, there is no penalty. The make-up will cover material from a designated part of the course and not necessarily the exam or quiz you missed or did poorly on.

GRADING POLICY

There are 400 points possible in the class. Your final grade will be computed two different ways and you will receive the higher of the two grades. USU policy does not permit giving incompletes for poor performance.

1. Percentage Method

A =90-100%	360-400 points
B = 80-89%	320-359 points
C = 70-79%	280-319 points
D = 60-69%	240-279 points
F = < 60%	< 240 points

2. Class Standing Method

A =	Top 20% in total points
B =	Next 30% in total points
C =	Next 40% in total points
D or F =	Bottom 10% in total points

TOPICS, READING SCHEDULE, AND ASSIGNMENT/TEST DATES

Below are the topics, reading schedule, and assignments. You should have completed the reading before coming to class on the day shown. The homework assignments will be due by midnight on Wednesdays. Late work will not be accepted. Quizzes and midterms will be taken on Thursdays. Under READINGS, if pages are shown, the reading is in the text book. "Ln" means the information is the nth listing in the link

section of the web site.

TUESDAY

	TOPIC AND READING
8/31	Course Administration and Overview What's Right and Wrong with America READING: None
9/7	Articles of Confederation, Philosophical Foundations of the Constitution READING: 8-11, 353-357, L1
9/16	Constitutional Convention READING: 11-22
9/21	The "Founding Fathers", Ratification of the Constitution, Bill of Rights READING: 23-40, 364-368, L3
9/28	The Presidency READING: 82-130
10/5	The Judiciary and Judicial Review 2nd Amend. and the Right to Bear Arms READING: 131-168, 368-370, L4
10/12	Elections, Voting Rights READING: 303-322
10/19	Political Parties READING: 170-238, L7
10/26	Money, Finance, and Federal Reserve System READING: 395-399
11/2	Growth, Unemployment, and Inflation READING: 403-408
11/9	Market Failure Sovereignty and the Civil War READING: 408-413
11/16	State and Local Government (cont.) READING: None
11/23	Freedom of Speech READING: 282-293

THURSDAY

	TOPIC AND READING	ASSIGNMENT
9/2	Revolution and the Declaration of Independence READING: 1-8, 350-352	None
9/9	Philosophical Foundations of the Constitution (cont) READING: 357-363	HW #1 due 9/8
9/18	Constitutional Convention (cont) READING: 363-364, 435-446, L2	Quiz #1
9/23	Congress and the Legislative Process READING: 42-81	HW #2 due 9/22
9/30	The Presidency (cont) READING: None	Midterm #1
10/7	Judicial Safeguards in the Bill of Rights READING: 293-300, 370-373, L5	HW #3 due 10/6
10/14	Constitutional checks & balances Constitutions of Other Countries READING: L6	HW #4 due 10/13
10/21	Basic Economics Supply and Demand READING: 374-394	Quiz #2
10/28	Taxes and Borrowing READING: 399-403	HW #5 due 10/27
11/4	Election Review READING: None	Midterm #2
11/11	State and Local Government READING: 239-271	HW #6 due 11/10
11/18	State & Local Government Issues READING: None	Quiz #3
11/25	Thanksgiving	None
12/2	Right to Privacy READING: 300-303, 413-418	HW #7 due 12/1

11/30	Freedom of Religion READING: 276-281, L8	12/9	Civil Rights Movement (cont) READING: None	Make-up quiz or exam
12/7	Civil Disobedience, Civil Rights Civil Rights Movement READING: 322-337, 419-434	12/16	Final Examination, 11:30-1:20 p.m.	

TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN USU 1300

Attend class every period. This is not a course where you can read the text and skip class. Much of the material to be covered is not found in any of the readings. In particular, examinations and quizzes will include questions on current events discussed in class.

Complete Reading Assignments. The assignment should be read before you come to class on the day that it is assigned. This will assist you in understanding the material presented in class.

Use the Lecture Notes. Download the lecture notes found on the course web site. Then use a word processor to spread out the material so that there is space for you to write between the lines of text. Print the pages out and use them for taking notes in class. The advantage will be that you can write less and listen better.

Ask Questions. A lot of material will be covered in the course and we will move rapidly, but there is always time to stop and answer questions. Don't be afraid to ask. If you don't want to ask in or after class, use the on-line office hours. I will respond as quickly as possible.

Do Your Own Work. Cheating on examinations will result in a failing grade for the course.

Relax. USU 1300 is intended to be an interesting, useful, and enjoyable experience for students. Although I do have the responsibility for grading you, I am not your adversary. My primary goal is to help you learn the material and have a positive experience as you start your college career.