

**Northeastern State University
College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Department of Political Science
Tahlequah, OK**

Instructor

Dr. Brian Rader, Professor. Office: SH 314
Office Hours: 11:00-12 noon MWF, 9:30-12:00 TTH or by Appointment
Telephone: 918-456-5511 ext. 3510
FAX: 918-458-2193
E-mail: rader@cherokee.nsuok.edu
WEB page at: <http://arapaho.nsuok.edu/~rader/>

COURSE TITLE AND NUMBER :

CLASS DAYS & TIME

POLS 1113 - American Federal Government

**8:00-8:50 A.M. MWF
8:00-9:15 A.M. TTH**

PREREQUISITES:

NONE

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

A study of the principles, structure, processes, and functions of the United States Federal Government.

COURSE PURPOSE:

This course is designed to provide a general introduction to the structure, organization, and functioning of the national government of the United States. It will examine the powers and relationships of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government with special emphasis given to the role that history, political parties, and pressure groups play and how these influence governmental relationships.

EXPECTED COURSE OUTCOMES:

To develop an understanding of how our constitutional democracy is structured, why it is structured the way it is and how it functions. The student will:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of constitutional democracy and the historical significance of our constitutional creation and development.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the concepts of “natural rights” and civil liberties as incorporated in our system of constitutional democracy.
3. Identify how the various factors of ideology, interest groups, political parties, public opinion, the media, elections, etc. are interrelated in American political process and contribute to the formation of public policy.

4. Demonstrate an understanding of how the major institutions of government (Congress, the presidency, the judiciary, and bureaucracy) are affected by the political process and contribute to national governance.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS: (Required Textbook)

Burns, James MacGregor, & others. *Government by the People*, 18th Edition. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2000.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURES:

Through a variety of instructional strategies to complement students' life experiences. These strategies include but are not limited to the following: Discussion, lecture, individual and group activities.

This course will have four exams worth 110 points (short answer and essay) in nature.

American Government

I. Constitutional Principles

- A. Constitutional Democracy
- B. The Living Constitution
- C. American Federalism

II. Rights and Liberties

- A. First Amendment Rights
- B. Equal Rights Under the Law
- C. Rights to Life, Liberty, and Property

* First Examination

III. The Political Process

- A. Interest Groups: The Politics of Influence
- B. Political Parties: Essential to Democracy
- C. Public Opinion, Participation and Voting
- D. Campaigns and Elections: Democracy in Action
- E. The Media and American Politics
- F. The Presidency: The Leadership Branch

* Second Examination

IV. Policy Making Institutions

- A. Congress: The People's Branch
- B. The Judiciary: The Balancing Branch
- C. The Bureaucracy: The Real Power

* Third Examination

V. The Politics of National Policy

- A. Making Economic Policy
- B. Making Regulatory Policy
- C. Making Foreign and Defense Policy

* Fourth Examination

STUDENT PERFORMANCE ACTIVITIES:

Consistent and punctual attendance is both expected and required for the student's successful completion of the course. The student is allowed two (2) excused absences. Then, without a written doctor's excuse or an official Northeastern excuse, the student will lose 10 points per absence.

ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES:

_____Due when announced by professor.

Student Evaluation:

1. The grade will be based on four exams of points possible at 110 points each and fifteen to eighteen chapter outlines worth at 10 points each.

90% = A
80% = B
65% = C
50% = D
Less than 50% = F
2. The Final Exam for POLS 1113 MWF is Wednesday, May 9, 2002 at 9:00 A.M., and the Final Exam for POLS 1113 TTh is Tuesday, May 8, 2002 at 9:00 A.M. Both classes meet in Seminary Hall Room 210.
3. Last day to drop the class with a "W" is February 23, 2002. If the student decides to drop after this date, the student will receive the grade he/she has earned up to the drop date. An "F" will be assigned if he/she stops attending and has not turned in assignments or taken scheduled exams prior to the drop date.

ADA COMPLIANCE:

If any member of the class feels that he/she has a disability and needs special accommodations of any nature whatsoever, the instructor will work with you and the University's Office of Student Affairs to provide reasonable accommodations to ensure that you have a fair opportunity to perform in this class. Please advise the instructor of such disability and the desired accommodations at the first class attended.

INCLEMENT WEATHER / DISASTER POLICY:

The following are basic premises for the inclement weather policy at Northeastern State University:

1. Classes are expected to be held if at all possible.
2. It is the student's responsibility to receive the information when weather is questionable.
3. Neither students nor faculty are expected to risk life or limb.
4. Faculty members are obligated to hold classes if the University is not closed, unless the faculty member is unable to get to campus.

Policy: During times of inclement weather, decisions concerning day classes will be made by 6:00 a.m. in order for the media to be notified and for students to receive the announcement before they leave

home. Decisions concerning night classes will be made by 3:00 p.m.

The following media will be notified regarding closing of the campus:

Radio Stations:

KRMG 740 AM	Tulsa
KAYI 107 FM	Tulsa
KTLQ 1350 AM	Tahlequah
KEOK 102 FM	Tahlequah
KBIX 1490 AM	Muskogee
KMMY 97 FM	Muskogee
KVOO 1170 AM	Tulsa

Television Stations:

KJRH Channel 2	Tulsa
KOTV Channel 6	Tulsa
KTUL Channel 8	Tulsa
KFSM Channel 5	Fort Smith
Cable Channel 96	Tahlequah

The automated attendant message on 918-456-5511 will be modified to include information concerning campus operations during inclement weather.