UNITED STATES NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
University of Northern Colorado
Gregory P. Williams

Meeting: 3:30-4:45 (TR) in McKee L0151
Contact: gregory.williams@unco.edu or williams.gregory.p@gmail.com
Office Hours: Tues-Thurs 1:00-1:45pm in McKee 305, or by appointment
Registration: PSCI 100 (004); 10219; 3 credits

Course Description
American Government reviews major aspects of our national government: its history, institutions, policy-making processes, and its role in society. In light of current events, special attention is paid to the economy.

Course Materials
Required Book:

Katznelson, Ira, Mark Kesselman, and Alan Draper. 2011. *The Politics of Power: A Critical Introduction to American Government*. New York: W.W. Norton.

Articles on Electronic Reserve:

Listed individually under the course schedule below, these articles can be accessed by clicking here. You can also access the electronic reserve for this or any class by going to the library website (http://library.unco.edu/), selecting the "reserves" tab, and searching by instructor name or course number. (The library is also a great place to visit in person!)

Grading

Your grade consists of two multiple-choice exams, a mid-term and a final. The mid-term will be in class on **Tuesday, October 4th**. It will cover both lecture material and assigned reading: there may be something on the exam that was only said in class without being mentioned in the text, or vice versa. All tests are multiple choice and must be completed in class on the scheduled day. Students who miss the exam must provide documentation of illness or family emergency to reschedule.

Schedule

Course Introduction
Tuesday, 23 August: Welcome to American Government
Thursday, 25 August: American Democracy and Terminology

Katznelson, Ch. 1—"Democracy's Challenge"

American Political Economy

Tuesday, 30 August: America's Economic System

Katznelson, Ch. 2—"Capitalism and Democracy"

Thursday, 1 September: Swings of the American Economy

Katznelson, Ch. 3—"The History of American Political Economy"

Reminder: 2 September is the last day to drop this class without a notation on your transcript. If you are behind in the course material, it might be a good idea to drop and register again next semester.

The Founding

Tuesday, 6 September: Launching the Ship of State…And Re-launching

Thursday, 8 September: Number Ten, Part I

(Reserve): "Federalist No. 10"

Tuesday, 13 September: Number Ten, Part II

Thursday, 15 September: Number Fifty-One

(Reserve): "Federalist No. 51"

People and Politics

Tuesday, 20 September: Parties, Voters, and All That

Katznelson, Ch. 4—"Political Parties, Elections, and Public Opinion"

Thursday, 22 September: State-Society Relations: Interest Groups

Katznelson, Ch. 5—"Interest Groups and Social Movements" (**only** 134-150)

Tuesday, 27 September: State-Society Relations: Social Movements

Katznelson, Ch. 5—"Interest Groups and Social Movements" (**only** 150-169)

Exam:

Thursday, 29 September: Review for Mid-Term

Tuesday, 4 October: **Mid-Term**

Political Institutions

Thursday, 6 October: Executive Branch: The President

Katznelson, Ch. 6—"The Presidency"

Tuesday, 11 October: The Executive Branch: Presidential Powers

Thursday, 13 October: Legislative Terms and Historical Shifts

Katznelson, Ch. 7—"The Congress" (**only** 210-233)

Reminder: 14 October is the last day to withdraw from this course. Dropping at this point means that a W will appear on your transcript and you will not receive a refund of tuition or fees. See the Registrar's Office website for more information: (http://www.unco.edu/regrec/Registrarscalendar.htm).

Tuesday, 18 October: The Legislative Process

Katznelson, Ch. 7—"The Congress" (**only** 233-246)
Thursday, 20 October: Judicial Terms and Organization
Katznelson, Ch. 8—"The Courts" (**only** 246-259)
Tuesday, 25 October: The Supreme Court
Katznelson, Ch. 8—"The Courts" (**only** 259-286)
Thursday, 27 October: Civil Society and Social Capital I
(Reserve): "Putnam interview on *Bowling Alone*" (1995)
Tuesday, 1 November: Civil Society and Social Capital II

Public Policy
Thursday, 3 November: What's the Difference Between Economic and Monetary Policy?
Katznelson, Ch. 9—"Economic Policy"
Tuesday, 8 November: Government Policies and the Public
Katzelson, Ch. 10—"Social Policy"
Thursday, 10 November: Foreign Relations Until 1989
Katznelson, Ch. 11—"Foreign Policy"
Tuesday, 15 November: Foreign Relations After 1989
Thursday, 17 November: The U.S. and Its Future
Katznelson, Ch. 12—"Democracy's Character and Future"

Break
Tuesday, 22 November: Presidential Election 2012
(Handout): TBA
Thursday, 24 November: FALL BREAK—no class!

Course Wrap-Up
Tuesday, 29 November: Catch-up on course material
Thursday, 1 December: Final Exam Review
Wednesday, 7 December (1:30-4:00): Final Exam
Note: The final exam is comprehensive, covering all material from the semester. Students who miss the final with a documented excuse will have to take an incomplete and make-up their exam in January.

Last Remarks
Cheating is defined by appearance. In taking an exam, do not even make it look like you might be cheating. Students caught cheating will, at a minimum, fail the exam.
Late Work is not accepted. Late papers, without a documented and valid excuse, will be marked zeros in my grade book (not as Fs).
Student E-mail Accounts are the best way to contact me. You may send me an e-mail from your student account to my faculty account (gregory.williams@unco.edu) or to my gmail

account (williams.gregory.p@gmail.com).

Students with Disabilities

Any student requesting disability accommodation for this class should inform the instructor by giving appropriate notice. Students are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services (970-351-2289) to certify documentation of disability and to ensure appropriate accommodations are implemented in a timely manner.