

GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY

POL 213F, SPRING SEMESTER 2010
DR. SYLVIA ANN THOMPSON

COURSE

THE INTERACTION BETWEEN AMERICAN BUSINESS, GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY HAS AN IMPACT ON ALL OF US. POL 213 WILL IMPROVE YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THIS COMPLEX RELATIONSHIP, AND SHOULD ENHANCE YOUR ABILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN IT IN A PRODUCTIVE AND MEANINGFUL WAY.

CLASS MEETINGS

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 1:25 PM to 2:15 PM, in MM 101.

OFFICE

Call 305/284-3497 to talk to me or to leave a recorded message. My e-mail address is sthompson@miami.edu. My office hours are from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM on Thursdays. If necessary, you can also make an appointment to meet me at another time.

TEXTBOOK

Business, Government and Society, 12th Edition, John Steiner and George Steiner.

EXAMINATIONS

Important ideas from the assigned textbook pages, handouts and classroom discussion will be covered in three multiple-choice exams. It is not possible to explain the percentage of material that will come from each source. You can find a detailed description of the exams on Blackboard under the heading Assignments.

The test dates are listed on the Course Outline and Reading Schedule. Make-ups are allowed only if you contact me before missing an examination. The only legitimate excuses for missing a test are illness, family emergency, religious holiday observance, university business or professional business. When you return to class, you must bring written verification of that excuse (for example, a physician's letter, if you were ill). Based on university policy, if you have three or more finals on one day, the course with the smallest enrollment must give you a different exam date.

The final is not cumulative. Each exam is worth 100 points and will be 1/4 of your course grade when POL 213 ends. All exam grades will be posted on myUM.miami.edu.

Cheating is unethical and unacceptable. It will be dealt with through the formal university ethics process.

ESSAY

You will be required to write an essay. It can be no longer than 5 pages, and must be turned in during class on Monday, 4/5/10. This will make up 1/4 of your course grade. The topics and more detailed information about the requirements for the paper are posted on Blackboard under the topic Assignments. The grade for this essay will be posted on my UM.miami.edu.

Plagiarism, purchased papers and other forms of cheating are unethical and unacceptable. This will be dealt with through the formal university ethics process.

EXTRA-CREDIT WORK

None. No exceptions.

COURSE GRADE

The three exams and your essay are each worth 1/4 of your course grade. Add your three exam grades and your essay grade together exactly as they appear on myUM.miami.edu, and divide by four. If that total includes a fraction that is .5 or more, round it up to the next higher whole number. What is that? The grading scale is as follows: (A+ 100-97, A 96-93, A- 92-90); (B+ 89-87, B 86-83, B- 82-80); (C+ 79-77, C 76-73, C- 72-70); (D+ 69-67, D 66-60 -- 60, 61 and 62 are normally failing grades, but I make them a D); and (F 59 and below). That will be your course grade when the semester ends. *I will not double an exam grade, drop an exam grade or accept any extra-credit projects. No exceptions.*

Based on university policy, incompletes can be given only if you have a passing grade, have completed at least 50% of the work for the class, and have a medical condition or other emergency (which you can prove) that prevents you from completing the course.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Although attendance is not taken, it is difficult to do well on the exams without attending class regularly. On each test, there will be some information which you can only get from lectures, not from the book or handouts. In addition, some class material may be helpful to you in writing your essay.

ASSIGNED READING

Follow the Course Outline and Reading Schedule on the syllabus, completing the assigned reading *before class*. Each meeting is listed below; with the topic to be discussed, and the assigned textbook pages indicated beside it. The chapters will not be read in numerical order, and some pages are not assigned. You will get handouts for some of the topics we discuss. When I post the handout on Blackboard (under the heading Course Documents), I will notify you it is there by email. When you receive the email, you should read the handout for the next class meeting. It will be helpful to you if you print it and bring it to the next class so you can refer to it if you need to. Handouts are also required reading for the exams. We usually talk about the assigned reading from the book and the handouts in class, but even if we do not discuss it, this material will be covered on the three exams. You may find the text and some handouts useful when you are writing your essay as well.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING SCHEDULE

JANUARY

- 1/20 W Course Introduction.
- 1/22 F The Business, Government and Society Relationship; *Business, Government and Society: A Managerial Perspective* by Steiner and Steiner; pp. 1-8 and 56.
- 1/25 M Sources of Ethical Standards; pp. 189-216.
- 1/27 W Business Ethics; pp. 226-243.

1/29 F Managing Business Ethics; pp. 584-610 and 186-188.

FEBRUARY

2/1 M Corporate Social Responsibility; pp. 117-131.

2/3 W Managing Corporate Social Responsibility; pp. 153-Top of 176.

2/5 F Public Attitudes About Business; pp. 80-101.

2/8 M U.S. Government Power to Regulate Business.

2/10 W Reasons for U.S. Government Regulation of Business; pp. 297-306.

2/12 F History of U.S. Government Regulation of Business; pp. 8-17, 22-Top of 23, 59-Top of 62, and 72-79.

2/15 M **FIRST EXAM.** 1/4 of your course grade. Around 45 multiple-choice questions. Bring a pencil and a photo ID.

2/17 W Making Public Policy -- The Role of Political Parties; pp. 256-287.

2/19 F Making Public Policy -- Interest Group Activities to Influence Government Decisions; pp. 62-72.

2/22 M Making Public Policy -- Business Activities to Influence Government Decisions.

2/24 W Making Public Policy -- The Role of the U.S. Congress; pp. 306-Top of 308.

2/26 F Making Public Policy -- The Role of the U.S. President; pp. 308-312.

MARCH

3/1 M Making Public Policy -- The Role of Federal Bureaucrats.

3/3 W Making Public Policy -- The Role of the Federal Courts; pp. 313-314.

3/5 F (Social Regulation) Consumer Protection Laws -- Background; pp. 473-490.

3/8 M (Social Regulation) Consumer Protection Laws -- The FDA.

3/10 W (Social Regulation) Consumer Protection Laws.

- 3/12 F (Social Regulation) Consumer Protection -- Tobacco; pp. 53-55 and 321-329.
- 3/15 M No Class. Spring Break.
- 3/17 W No Class. Spring Break.
- 3/19 F No Class. Spring Break.
- 3/22 M No Class. Class Cancelled.
- 3/24 W Product Liability Lawsuits; pp. 490-Top of 497.
- 3/26 F Product Liability Lawsuits.
- 3/29 M **SECOND EXAM.** 1/4 of your course grade. Around 45 multiple-choice questions. Bring a pencil.
- 3/31 W (Social Regulation) Protecting Workers -- Background; pp. 507-Top of 531.

APRIL

- 4/2 F (Social Regulation) Protecting Workers from Discrimination; pp. 540-583.
- 4/5 M (Social Regulation) Civil Rights Laws.
- ESSAY DUE** at the end of class. It is worth 100 points and is 1/4 of your course grade.
- 4/7 W (Social Regulation) Affirmative Action Programs.
- 4/9 F (Economic Regulation) Antitrust Laws -- Background.
- 4/12 M (Economic Regulation) Antitrust Laws -- Recent Cases.
- 4/14 W (Economic Regulation) Transportation Regulation Laws -- History.
- 4/16 F Deregulation of Business -- The Arguments; pp. Bottom of 314-320 and 451-461.
- 4/19 M Examples of Business Deregulation.

- 4/21 W The Future of Business Regulation in America.
- 4/23 F The Future of Business Regulation in America.
- 4/26 M Multinational Corporations -- Background; pp. 28-32 and 330-Top of 350.
- 4/28 W American Business, Government and Society in the Global Marketplace; pp. 369-403.
- 4/30 F America's Future in the Global Marketplace. Last class meeting before the final exam.

MAY

- 5/10 M **THIRD EXAM.** From 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, in MM 101. 1/4 of your course grade. Around 55 multiple-choice questions. Bring a pencil.
- 5/19 W Final course grade will be available on myUM.miami.edu.