

Fall 2008
ULU 417: Introduction to American Politics and Foreign Policy
TOBB-ETÜ

Instructor

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Course Outline

United States of America is the only superpower of the world in the post-Cold War era. It accounts for about a quarter of the world's GDP, half of its military spending and is a leading power in culture and science. It is also world's one of the oldest constitutional republics and democracies. Hence it is important for an IR student to learn about it.

This course will introduce you to the politics, government, people, economic and foreign policies of the US.

Readings and Required Textbooks

The assigned readings for each week are listed in the course schedule below. There is a reasonable amount of readings for each week. Therefore, please do keep up with the readings each week. This class will be far more rewarding for you if you do so. Reading the material every week will enable you to be more engaged while listening to lectures and contributing to discussions. Both your exam and participation grades will be positively affected by reading the material on a regular basis and prior to class.

Please buy the following textbook:

The New American Democracy, 5th edition, 2007.
by Morris P. Fiorina, Paul E. Peterson, Bertram Johnson, D. Stephen Voss.
Publisher: Longman

Course Requirements

Midterm Examination	40%
Final Examination	50%
Classroom Participation	10%

Exams and Quizzes

There will be two examinations: a midterm and a final. These exams will be in-class exams. The final will be cumulative.

Attendance and Participation

Your progress in this class is highly dependent on your perfect attendance. Therefore, participation constitutes a substantial part of your grade (10%). Only health and family emergencies will be accepted as excuses for absences. Attendance will be taken throughout the semester.

Grading Scale

AA	BA	BB	CB	CC	DC	DD	FF
4,00	3,50	3,00	2,50	2,00	1,50	1,00	0,00
90-100	85-89	75-84	70-74	60-69	55-59	50-54	0-49

Make-up Policy

No make-up examinations will be granted without a university-approved excuse to miss a scheduled exam or quiz. In cases of severe illness or deaths in the family, I require proof (e.g. a signed doctor's note and an explanation on the doctor's letterhead describing why you cannot take the exam; obituaries; e-mails from your academic advisor explaining the specific situation). Make-up exams will be possible only if you contact me *in advance* by e-mail and provide me with the appropriate document. There will be no make-up assignments or tests for unexcused absences. Also, I usually require a research paper as a replacement of a make-up exam.

Classroom Etiquette

I expect you to observe all rules of proper classroom conduct to provide an appropriate environment conducive to learning by all:

1. Please turn off your cell phones and pagers. No calls, incoming or outgoing, or text messaging are allowed.
2. Please refrain from talking, eating or other disruptive activity during class;
3. Please come to class on time and do not leave early; if you must do so, let me know beforehand and please sit near the door so your exit will be less disruptive. Unpunctuality will result in a lower participation grade.
4. Please do not read newspapers or any other publications in the classroom. Also, please do not play games or surf on the web when you use a laptop computer.

Policy on Academic Honesty

The academic work of all students must comply with all policies that appear in the TOBB-ETÜ website).

http://www.etu.edu.tr/mevzuat/YOK_yuksekogretim_kurumlari_ogrenci_disiplin_yonetmeligi.doc

Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to the following: cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized possession of examinations, unauthorized changing of grades. The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences that range from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting or collaboration, consult the course instructor.

Office Hours

Please make an appointment with me if you have any questions. The fastest way to make an appointment with me is via email.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction: Democracy in the United States.

Chapter 1

Week 2: History of the constitutional democracy

Chapter 2

Week 3: Federalism: Division of Power Among National, State, and Local Governments

Chapter 3

Week 4: American Political Culture

Chapter 4

Week 5: Public Opinion, Individual and Interest Group Participation

Chapters 5, 6, 7

Week 6: Political Parties and the Media

Chapters 8, 9

Week 7: Campaigns and Elections: Presidential and Congressional

Chapters 10, 11

Week 8: The Government: Congress and Presidency

Chapters 12, 13

Week 9: The Government II: The Bureaucracy and the Courts

Chapters 14, 15

Week 10: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Chapters 16, 17

Week 11: Economic Policy-Making

Chapter 19

Week 12: Foreign and Defense Policy

Chapter 20