

Methods of Instruction:

The class will involve lectures, seminar-style discussions and presentations by students.

Examinations:

Two essay examinations will be administered during the semester. They will count for 50% of the final grade. The midterm and final examination will each be worth twenty-five points.

Grades:

A = 90-100	Excellent.
B = 80-89	Good job.
C = 70-79	You have mastered the subject matter.
D = 60-69	You passed.
F = 0-59	No credit, you are not a party animal.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

"Class attendance is regarded as an obligation as well as a privilege, and all students are expected to attend regularly and punctually all classes in which they are enrolled. **Failure to do so may jeopardize a student's scholastic standing and may lead to suspension from the University.**"

MAKE-UP POLICY

"If a student misses an examination, it is the student's responsibility to present an excuse to the course instructor within three days of returning to class and to arrange a date and place for the examination." All examinations not taken with the class when scheduled will be administered during the professor's office hours during the last week of classes.

Other: "Students with impaired sensory, manual or speaking skills are encouraged and have the responsibility to contact their instructor, in a timely fashion, regarding reasonable accommodation needs." Please do not bring food or any other chewable substances into the classroom. Please do feel free to come by my office to discuss graduate education, law school or other matters. The Guide to Graduate Education in Political Science and the Official Guide to U.S. Law Schools are located in my office, Kaufman 110 (Social Sciences) and the reference room of the library. Free information via mail is also available on the bulletin boards located on the west side of Kaufman Hall. If you are considering applying to graduate school, be sure to take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) this October! I also urge you to almost immediately visit

the Psychology Department to inquire about their GRE preparation program. The following web sites are helpful:

<http://www.apsanet.org>
(American Political Science Association)

<http://www.abanet.org/legaled>
(Official ABA Website for American Bar Association Approved Law Schools)

www.planc.org
(Prelaw Advisors National Council)

<http://www.faculty.mcneese.edu/jhaydel/>
(Dr. Judith Haydel's home page)

<http://www.faculty.mcneese.edu/hsirgo/>

I will possibly announce other helpful web sites in class. If you wish to join the **Prelaw & Politics Society** or *Pi Sigma Alpha*, then speak with me.

RESEARCH PAPER

The research paper will count for 30% of your grade. Use the Social Science Index which is located in the reference room of the library to begin your search. **Ken Talkington will be pleased to work with you.** **Scholarly journals such as Legislative Studies Quarterly, American Political Science Review, Journal of Politics, Public Opinion Quarterly, Political Science Quarterly, Polity, Political Research Quarterly, Southeastern Political Review, Canadian Journal of Political Science and American Journal of Political Science are acceptable.** Please use at least four articles and pay attention to the research methodology used in each work. The paper must be typed and have a minimum text length of ten full pages. Minimize direct quotations. Direct quotations will not count toward the fourteen page minimum requirement. You are to synthesize materials which you have studied carefully, and then demonstrate the power of your mind and the clarity of your thinking. **Plagiarism may result in your expulsion from McNeese State University.** Pleading ignorance will not excuse it in this institution of higher learning. Slightly modifying the writing of other scholars is plagiarism just as surely as copying their work verbatim is. If you do not fully understand what plagiarism is, please speak privately with me as soon as possible. Parenthetical citation as used below is acceptable.

REFERENCES

Penning, James M. and Corwin E. Smidt. 1983. "Views

of American State Legislators on Public Funding of Legislative Elections." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 8:97-109.

Be very concerned if you do not average at least two citations per page. You may also find Kate Turabian's *A Manual for Writers* or the *MLA Style Sheet* helpful for guidance on proper citation practices and other aspects of preparing a successful research paper. The most recent editions of these works are available in the reference room of the library. **Ten points will automatically be deducted from your term paper grade unless you present me with a one-page outline which includes at least four references from the above list of journals by September 28th. All citations must be complete.** On 11 October 2000, you must turn in a three-page rough draft of your paper or have ten points deducted from your final grade. Beginning on October 18th, students who are not able to respond capably without notes to instructor inquiries about their research will have ten points deducted from the grade of their paper. Ten points will be deducted from your final grade if the completed paper is turned in after our class meeting on Friday, December 1st. You are eligible to receive membership in the Southern Political Science Association and a subscription to the *Journal of Politics* for the bargain price of \$10.00. Identify yourself as a "Political Parties in the United States" student and send a check or money order to the following address: Journals Division, University of Texas Press, PO Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819. Request that they send your first issue immediately! The journal should be helpful in all of your government courses and many others at McNeese State University. During October or November, you must give a ten minute presentation of your research paper findings and ask three intelligent questions of other student presenters. Failure to do so will result in the deduction of five points from your final grade for each omission.

Tracking U.S. House and/or U.S. Senate Candidates and/or presidential campaigns in specific states (20% of the final grade). You will systematically track 2000 campaigns. You will most likely select in each case a U.S. Senate contest or presidential campaign in a specific state and evaluate the strategies of candidates who are from at least two political parties. The only northeastern state not having a U.S. Senate election this year is New Hampshire. **You will prepare two page typed reports which evaluate factors such as their strategies and their likely sources of support at three points in time.** The traditional start of campaigns is Labor Day. You will use sources including the world wide web, Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report and/or the New York Times. **Due dates will be announced in class. You may also be asked to perform "mini"-assignments, these will be announced in class and generally consist of tasks not consuming more than one page. Failure to complete one on time will result in two points being deducted from your final**

course grade. The more "mini"-assignments which you miss the more points you lose. I reserve the option of substituting *trackings* for "mini"-assignments.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Chapters</u>
August 21--	Keefe, Preface KEEFE, CHAPTER 1	Political Parties and the Political System
August 28--	KEEFE, CHAPTER 2	The Characteristics of American Parties
September 6--	Keefe, CHAPTER 3	Political Parties and the Electoral Process: Nominations
September 11----	Savage, Preface: A Reformer and a Regular Savage, CHAPTER 1	Truman and His Party
September 18----	Savage, CHAPTER 2	Truman and the Machine Bosses
September 25----	Savage, CHAPTER 3 <i>Truman and the Democratic National Committee</i> <i>Keefe, Political Parties and the Electoral Process: Campaigns and Campaign Finance</i>	
October 2---	**Midterm Examination** on 6 October (Friday)	
October 9---	Your outline with four approved citations is due in class on Wednesday, October 11, 2000!	
October 16--	You should be able to respond capably without notes to questions about your research paper beginning on Wednesday, October 18, 2000!	
October 23-	Savage, CHAPTER 4	Had Enough? Republican Resurgence, 1946-1948
October 30---	Keefe, CHAPTER 5	Political Parties and the Electorate
November 6---	Savage, CHAPTER 5	Maintaining the Majority Party, 1948
November 13 (Friday)--	Last date to resign from the University or drop courses	
November 20--	Keefe, CHAPTER 6	The Congressional Party and the Formation of Public Policy
November 27--	Savage, CHAPTER 6 Savage, CHAPTER 7	The Fair Deal and the Democratic Party/ Democratic Dissensus, 1950-1952/ Savage, Epilogue: Truman's Legacy in the Democratic Party

--Keefe, Chapter 7 The American Party System:
Problems and Perspectives

November 27 (Monday) Last date for currently enrolled students
to remove "I" grade from previous semester

November 29 (Wednesday) Your research paper is due during
class today!

****FINAL EXAMINATION****

Monday, December 4, 2000 (12:30-2:30 PM)

"IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PLAN YOUR CLASSES SO THAT YOU DO NOT
HAVE TOO MANY FINALS IN ONE DAY." Embodied in the concepts of
midterm and final examinations is the idea that all faculty members
will be giving examinations at around the same time period. Give
yourself time to learn and take sixteen or fewer semester hours.