

GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS

POLS 221
Fall 2011
T/H 12:00- 1:20
Class Meeting Place: Ad Building 330

Instructor: NAME
Office phone: 325.674.2485
Email: NAME
Office Hours: By Appointment Only

Mission

The mission of Abilene Christian University is to educate its students for Christian service and leadership throughout the world. The mission of the College of Arts and Science is to educate students for worldwide Christian service and leadership through programs of study and other learning experiences that blend liberal arts education with professional and career education; and the mission of the Department of Political Science is to provide a program a study that will help students understand domestic and international politics and prepare them for informed and active participation in the political arena and public service.

An essential part of that mission is understanding the interaction of American business and government and the consequences for political and economic life. This course provides a general overview of those topics. More specifically, we will explore how power and privileges are distributed in America, the role of political and economic institutions in determining those patterns of distribution, how economic factors relate to political choices, and how Christian faith relates to these contemporary economic and political issues.

Textbooks and Resources

- Langran and Schnitzer, Government, Business, and the American Economy 2nd Edition (Rowan & Littlefield 2007)
- Blank and McGurn, Is the Market Moral? A Dialogue on Religion, Economics, and Justice (Brookings Institution Press 2004)
- Instructor may also choose additional readings to create further discussion.

Course Competencies

As a result of successful completion of the course, students will develop an understanding of:

1. The structure and functions of various levels of government in the U.S.;
2. The complex relationship between the public and private sector from a regulatory perspective;
3. The contemporary social and economic issues and policy making process that affect government and business;
4. The evolving relationship of government and business including the impact of multi-national corporations; and
5. Their personal views regarding the morality of the U.S.'s political and economic structures.

Assignments

Your grade is based on completion of all course assignments.

- **Quizzes (10%)** Students will be **required** to read the assigned materials. On the days indicated in the schedule (with “Quiz”), class will begin with a quiz over that week’s reading assignments in order to engage the students with the material and enrich class discussion. Results on reading quizzes will indicate a working knowledge of terms and main concepts from assigned readings. Quizzes will be five multiple choice questions.
- **Articles/YouTube Clips (10%)** On the days indicated on the schedule (with “Link”), you must link an article or YouTube clip to our class blog along with a short summary paragraph explaining the link **BEFORE CLASS**. These clips and articles must reflect a current development involving both government and business. If it relates to the topics being covered in class that week, 2 points extra credit will be given on the next exam. Some articles and clips will be discussed in class.
- **Class Participation (5%)** Class participation is encouraged and will be used in determining the student’s final grade. This grade will be reduced by sleeping in class or not being prepared to participate in class.
- **Exams (40%)** There will be four traditional exams. The fourth will be a take home exam. Exams will be multiple choice and short answer format. An exam missed because of a death in the immediate family, documented illness, or ACU-sponsored trip may be taken within two days of the original test date upon arrangement with the instructor or before the trip in cases of ACU-sponsored activity. Exams missed for any other reason will result in a 0.
- **Moral Market Essay (15%)** Read Is the Market Moral? and write a 3-4 page paper (double spaced, with no title page, and one-inch margins) that summarizes the argument of both authors and explains where you fall in the argument and why. Additional resources should be consulted and cited in footnotes.
 - **Due on April 5th.**
- **Moral Market Debate (10%)** Students will be divided into teams and participate in an online debate regarding the morality of the market in the given situations. One team will debate from Blank’s position and the other from McGurn’s. Additional instructions will be provided.
 - **Week of April 8-14th**
- **Presidential Presentations (10%)** Each student will present a five to ten minute presentation on how the policies of each of the respective Presidential candidates will impact a business industry of their choosing. Outside research will be required. Additional instruction will be provided.
 - **May 1st and 3rd**

General Policies

Attendance

Students with more than five unexcused absences will be dropped from the course with a failing grade in the class (excused absences are death in the immediate family, documented illness, ACU-sponsored trips). Arriving tardy two times equals one absence. See your instructor

if you have special circumstances you need to discuss. Students who participate in official university activities must provide the required university form in advance to qualify for an excused absence.

Academic Integrity

It is expected that all students will adhere to the University's Academic Integrity Policy. Violations will be addressed as described in the Policy. While the University enforces the Policy, the most powerful motive for integrity and truthfulness comes from one's desire to imitate God's nature in their life. Every member of the faculty, staff, and student body is responsible for protecting the integrity of learning, scholarship, and research. The full policy is available for review at the Provost's office web site (www.acu.edu/campusoffices/provost) and these offices: Provost, college deans, dean of campus life, director of student judicial affairs, director of residential life, and academic departments.

Recording

Under no circumstances can class sessions be audio or video recorded in any manner without the express consent of the instructor. Any violation of this policy may result in the student being dropped from the course with a grade of "F".

Grade Scale

A (90-100%), B (80-89%), C (70-79%), D (60-69%), F (below 60%)

Students with Disabilities

Abilene Christian University is dedicated to removing barriers and opening access for students with disabilities in compliance with ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. The Alpha Scholars Program facilitates disability accommodations in cooperation with instructors. In order to receive accommodations, you must be registered with Alpha Scholars Program, and you must complete a specific request for each class in which you need accommodations. If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please call our office directly at (325) 674-2667.

Course Outline and Schedule

This schedule, which provides a road map for the semester, may be changed at the discretion of the instructor. Any changes will be provided both orally and in writing to students.

Week	Topic	Assignment
1	1/17 – Review Syllabus and Class Introduction 1/19 – Role of Government (Quiz)	Langran, Chapter 2
2	1/24 – Video: Best Government Money Can Buy Government 1/26 – NO CLASS	
3	1/31 – Interest Groups (Quiz) 2/2 – Role of Government in	Langran, Chapters 3 & 1

	Economy (Link)	
4	2/7 – Role of Government in Economy/ Exam Review 2/9 – EXAM ONE	Langran, Chapter 1
5	2/14 – Government & Consumer (Quiz) 2/16 – Government & Consumer (Link)	Langran, Chapter 6
6	2/21 – Video: Hot Coffee 2/23 – Government & Employment (Quiz)	Langran, Chapter 7
7	2/28– Government & Employment 3/1 – Video: Hot Politics (Quiz)	Langran, Chapters 7 & 8
8	3/6 – Government & Environ./ Exam Review (Link) 3/8 – EXAM TWO	Langran, Chapter 8
9	3/13 – SPRING 3/15 – BREAK	
10	3/20 – Deregulation: Finances (Quiz) 3/22 – Video: Inside Job (Link)	Langran, Chapter 10
11	3/27 – Video: Inside Job 3/29 – Deregulation Finance Con't/ Exam Review	
12	4/3 – EXAM THREE 4/5 – NO CLASS (MORAL MARKET ESSAY DUE)	
13	4/10 – Online Debates 4/12 – Online Debates	
14	4/17 – International Trade/ Who Will Dominate? (Quiz) 4/19 – Video: Is Walmart Good for America? (Link)	Langran, Chapter 12 (270-287) and 17
15	4/24 – Problem with Less Developed Countries (Quiz) 4/26 - Wealth & Income Inequality (Link)	Langran, Chapter 15 & 16
16	5/1 – Presidential Presentations 5/3 – Presidential Presentations/ Exam Four Distributed	
17	5/7 – EXAM FOUR DUE (5 pm)	