

## American Government & Business

### Instructor Information

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### Teaching Assistants

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### Course Description

Understanding how the institutions and behavior of government and business are affected by each other is key to making sense of much of the world around us. The relationship between the government and business is complex and has evolved significantly over time. This course sheds light on this relationship from multiple perspectives in order to provide students with a foundation for assessing everything from how the US Constitution structures business / government relations to the Occupy Wall Street movement. Topics covered in this course include such things as the supply & demand of government regulation, the definition & enforcement of property rights, and the strategies & effectiveness of corporate political behavior.

An important part of this course involves connecting theoretical and historical lessons to contemporary issues and events. To that end there will be frequent writing assignments and class discussions drawn from news stories over the course of the semester.

This course satisfies the second half of the six semester credit hours of required coursework in American government.

## Required Readings

In addition to occasional readings posted on the course Blackboard site there are two books and one newspaper subscription:

Baron. 2010. Business and Its Environment (6<sup>th</sup> Edition). Prentice Hall  
Eisner. 2011. The American Political Economy. Routledge

The Wall Street Journal. Students must subscribe or have daily access to *The Wall Street Journal* for the 15 weeks of the course. A 75% student discount is available through: <http://www.subscribe.wsj.com/semester>

## Grading

- 75% of your class grade is determined by performance on three (3) closed-book in-class tests. Each test will count for 25% of your grade. Test dates are listed below and are posted on the course calendar in Blackboard.
- 25% of your class grade is determined by performance on ten (10) written assignments based on *Wall Street Journal* news articles. Due dates for these assignments are listed below and on the course calendar in Blackboard. Assignment requirements are also posted on Blackboard.

## Course Communication

Official course announcements will be made in class and/or posted on the course Blackboard website. Personal email is welcome but do not count on it being answered outside of regular business hours. Also, please do not use email for any questions regarding grades or other [FERPA protected information](#).

## Academic Integrity

There is no tolerance for academic dishonesty in the course. Please refer to the following information maintained by Student Judicial Services about academic integrity for good rules of thumb to avoid problems: [http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint\\_student.php](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php)

## Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>

## Religious Accommodation

Please notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

## Daily Schedule

January 17 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction
January 19 <sup>th</sup>	Theoretical Approaches <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Baron (Chpt. 1)</li><li>• Eisner (Chpt. 1 &amp; 2)</li></ul>
January 24 <sup>th</sup>	The Constitution & the Economy
January 26 <sup>th</sup>	The Visible Hand <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>[WSJ #1]</b></li></ul>
January 31 <sup>st</sup>	Progressives & New Deal <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eisner (Chpt 3 &amp; 4)</li></ul>
February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Postwar & Keynes <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eisner (Chpt 5 &amp; 6)</li><li>• <b>[WSJ #2]</b></li></ul>
February 7 <sup>th</sup>	The Reagan Revolution <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eisner (Chpt. 7)</li></ul>
February 9 <sup>th</sup>	The 2008 Meltdown <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eisner (Chpt. 10)</li><li>• <b>[WSJ #3]</b></li></ul>
February 14 <sup>th</sup>	Review
<b>February 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>First Test</b>
February 21 <sup>st</sup>	Theory of Regulation <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Baron (Chpt. 10)</li></ul>
February 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Regulation: History / Typology <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>[WSJ #4]</b></li></ul>
February 28 <sup>th</sup>	Interest Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Baron (Chpt. 6)</li></ul>
March 1 <sup>st</sup>	– Guest Lecture – <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>[WSJ #5]</b></li></ul>
March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Lobbying
March 8 <sup>th</sup>	Policymaking <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>[WSJ #6]</b></li></ul>
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Corporate Political Strategy & Behavior, Pt 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Baron (Chpt. 8)</li></ul>
March 22 <sup>rd</sup>	Corporate Political Strategy & Behavior, Pt 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>[WSJ #7]</b></li></ul>
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Review
<b>March 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Second Test</b>
April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Corporate Campaign Finance, Pt. 1
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Corporate Campaign Finance, Pt. 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>[WSJ #8]</b></li></ul>

April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Antitrust <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Baron (Chpt. 9)</li></ul>
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	TBD
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Baron (Chpt. 11)</li></ul>
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	– Guest Lecture – <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>[WSJ #9]</b></li></ul>
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Property Rights <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Baron (Chpt. 12)</li></ul>
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	International Challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Baron (Chpt. TBD)</li><li>• <b>[WSJ #10]</b></li></ul>
May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Review
May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Third Test</b>