POLI 100: Introduction to Government in the United States
Sections 601, 607, and 619
Fall 2009

TA: Kevin Banda
Office: 459 Hamilton Hall
Office Hours: F 3-6 or by appointment
E-mail: kbanda@email.unc.edu

Class Description

The purpose of this class is to explore the topics and readings covered in lecture in greater detail through the use of discussions and other activities.

Requirements and Expectations

Attendance

Being in class to discuss the material is critical to doing well in this course. I will take attendance in every section meeting, so make sure you are here. This will be part of your participation grade for the course.

Class Participation

Critical engagement with the course material requires active participation. Be prepared to discuss lecture topics and assigned readings each week in class. Speaking in front of a class can be intimidating sometimes, but with time it will become easier. You do not have to have the “right” answer—just making the effort and demonstrating that you have done the reading are most important.

To encourage good discussion each week, please bring assigned readings to class and turn off cell phones and all other personal electronics. Laptops are fine if you are taking notes. In addition, be ready with at least one question from any of the readings. You do not have to write it down, but it should represent some thinking on your part. The question can be something you did not understand or a starting point for discussion.

Please keep the following guidelines for discussion in mind:

• Treat everyone in class with acceptance and respect. Disagreement between viewpoints will likely come up, and listening to classmates is critical to productive discussion.

• Make sure you understand the lecture material and readings. If you are having trouble, please ask for help.

• Challenge yourself to think critically. We are not here just to summarize the material.

Assignments and Grading

I will collect and grade your assignments from lecture. This includes the two essays, the quizzes, and the exams.

Communication

For most questions, e-mail is the best way to get in touch with me. I will make sure to answer as quickly as possible. For more complex questions, or if you have several, stop by office hours. This is especially true before exams and paper due dates.