

## **SYLLABUS**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course examines the political system of the United States of America. The complex and dynamic system that has evolved over centuries to become one of the most influential in the world from its founding principles to its current state. The focus of the course is on **a)** the American political system, its significance and role in shaping the country's governance and policies, **b)** its characteristics, aspects, and profound impact on the governance and policies of the country.

### **ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION:**

This course is lecture-based. Attendance is **optional**. Attendance in the TD sessions is **compulsory**.

### **WEEKLY READINGS & ORAL PRESENTATIONS:**

Each week, a group of students is expected to analyze a specific theme related to the main subject. This includes: a) an oral (ppt) presentation and b) submission of ~~app~~ **app**. The students are expected to present and discuss the material in the TD session.

**QUIZ:** A quiz is expected.

**FINAL EXAM:** There will be a final exam at the end of the semester, which will include a varied assessment (short answers, matching, gap-filling, MCQ, True/false pattern, Identifications...)

### **ASSESSMENT:**

- a) Final exam (50%)
- b) TD (50%)

**TD SESSION GRADING:** Students will be graded on the following:

Attendance:	5 pts
Presentation:	7 pts
Test:	7 pts
Participation	1 pt

# TD Sessions G4

## **I/Presentation (5pts)**

### **1. The American Political System: An Overview**

Theme 1: Declaration of Independence 1776

Theme 2: The Articles of Confederation 1777-1789

### **2. The American Constitution**

Theme 1: The Bill of Rights 1791 Historicity and Analysis

Theme 2: The Second Amendment: Historical Context, Interpretation, and Legal Impact.

### **3. The American Legislative: Formation and Significance**

Theme 1: Virginia Plan, New Jersey Plan, and the Great Compromise

Theme 2: Filibuster and the Cloture Process

### **4. The American Executive: Role and Significance**

Theme 1: Electoral College: History and Debate

Theme 2: Think Tank and the Presidency

### **5. The American Judiciary: History and Significance**

Theme 1: The Supremacy Clause

Theme 2: Certiorari Writ: History and Significance

### **6. Checks and Balances in U.S. Politics**

Theme 1: Impeachment in U.S. History

Theme 2: Veto-Override processes in U.S. Politics

### **7. The American Federal System**

Theme 1: Policy Variation: Diverse Landscape of Laws and Regulations

Theme 2: Shortcomings of Federalism: An Analytical Study