166-016 American Politics and Society

Credit Points:	12.500
Level:	Undergraduate
Dates & Locations:	2008, This subject commences in the following study period/s: Semester 1, - Taught on campus.
Time Commitment:	Contact Hours: Thirty contact hours per semester. Two 1-hour lectures per week for 10 weeks and a 1-hour tutorial per week for 10 weeks. The lecture and tutorial programs are staggered and cover the 12 weeks of semester Total Time Commitment: Not available
Prerequisites:	Usually one first-year politics subject.
Corequisites:	None
Recommended Background Knowledge:	None
Non Allowed Subjects:	None
Core Participation Requirements:	For the purposes of considering request for Reasonable Adjustments under the Disability Standards for Education (Cwth 2005), and Student Support and Engagement Policy, academic requirements for this subject are articulated in the Subject Overview, Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Generic Skills sections of this entry. It is University policy to take all reasonable steps to minimise the impact of disability upon academic study, and reasonable adjustments will be made to enhance a student's participation in the University's programs. Students who feel their disability may impact on meeting the requirements of this subject are encouraged to discuss this matter with a Faculty Student Adviser and Student Equity and Disability Support: http://services.unimelb.edu.au/disability
Coordinator:	Assoc Prof David Tucker
Subject Overview:	This subject tackles the operations of the American political system, examining the interplay of interests, culture, personalities and institutions. Students begin by considering the Constitution and the principles which it embodies, and then examine key institutions, including the Presidency, the Congress, the Supreme Court and the political parties. On completion of the subject a student should have an introductory understanding of the major political institutions in the United States that may serve as a preparation for further studies in political science; some knowledge of the achievements and failures of various presidents, such as Nixon, Reagan, Bush and Clinton; and an understanding of the major social problems confronting the United States today.
Assessment:	A written essay of 2000 words 50% (due mid-semester) and a 2-hour exam 50% (during the examination period).
Prescribed Texts:	Prescribed Texts:A subject reader will be available.
Breadth Options:	This subject is a level 2 or level 3 subject and is not available to new generation degree students as a breadth option in 2008. This subject or an equivalent will be available as breadth in the future. Breadth subjects are currently being developed and these existing subject details can be used as guide to the type of options that might be available. 2009 subjects to be offered as breadth will be finalised before re-enrolment for 2009 starts in early October.
Fees Information:	Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees
Generic Skills:	# be able to research through the competent use of the library and other information sources, and be able to define areas of inquiry and methods of research in the preparation of essays;

	# be able to conceptualise theoretical problems, form judgements and arguments and communicate critically, creatively and theoretically through essay writing, tutorial discussion and presentations; # be able to communicate knowledge ideologically and economically through essay writing and tutorial discussion; # be able to manage and organise workloads for recommended reading, the completion of essays and assignments and examination revision; # be able to participate in team work through small group discussions.
Related Course(s):	Bachelor of Arts Diploma in Arts (American Studies) Diploma in Arts (International Studies) Diploma in Arts (Political Science) Graduate Certificate in Arts (American Studies) Graduate Certificate in Arts (International Politics) Graduate Certificate in Arts (Political Science) Graduate Diploma in Arts (American Studies) Graduate Diploma in Arts (International Politics) Graduate Diploma in Arts (Political Science)