Introduction to Governance (P11.1789 - Spring 2009)

Course Schedule

Dates: January 13-15, 2009 from 6:00–8:40 PM
Location: Silver 401 (100 Washington Square East)

Instructor:

Jason Franklin
Lecturer on Public Administration
Phone: 212-721-4514
Email: jason.franklin@nyu.edu
NYU Wagner

Course Overview:

This course is intended to provide a brief overview of how the United States is governed as a basis for further coursework as a graduate student at the Wagner School. At the end of this course, it is expected that students will understand the:

- Process through which the current system of governance in America was developed
- Branches of the federal government, including their powers and composition
- Election process and the role of political parties and interest groups
- Dominant US political ideologies
- General functions of state and local governments

Grading:

There is no grade nor any homework although students are expected to show up prepared for each session by having completed the assigned reading. This course is solely for your review and preparation for Intro to Policy.

Readings:

If you would like to get a text for this review, lectures will be based on:

Daily Lecture Topics & Readings:

January 13th - Chapters 2 & 3
- Systems of Government: Understanding the “Ideal” Types
- History of the US Government and Framing of the Constitution

January 14th - Chapters 13, 14, & 16 (chapter 15 optional)
- The Legislative Branch: Senate and House of Representatives
- The Executive Branch: President, Cabinet, and the Departments
- The Judicial Branch: The Supreme and Circuit Courts

January 15th - Chapters 9, 10 & 11 (chapter 8 optional)
- Political Parties, Interest Groups and Elections
- Political Ideologies in America
- State and Local Governments