

Political Science 2051
American Government
Fall 2018 (T-TH 1:30 – 3:00 @ 221 Tureaud Hall)
Office Hrs: 3:30 – 5:30 Tuesday @ 207 Stubbs Hall
or by appointment

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Introduction:

This course is designed to provide a general overview of foundations, institutions, politics and public policy of the United States. While we will deal with the historical perspectives in these areas, we will primarily focus on contemporary experiences and subjects where possible. This will provide you with the latest perspectives on our American government and how you can operate within the current system. We will examine the impact of our governmental choice on our society and culture, and investigate the future prospects for our politics and government.

Also, please be aware of the LSU Social Sciences learning competency statement for the social sciences:

“LSU graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference.”

Grading

Grades will be determined by exams and participation:

Exams: There will be three exams. They will **NOT** be cumulative. These exams will be objective. There will be a “make up” policy for missed exams or classes if a valid and verifiable reason is given.

Each exam will cover the assigned chapter readings and class lecture content

Participation: I will also give credit for good attendance and participation.

Exams: 90%

Participation: 10%

Required Reading:

Kernell, Jacobson, Kousser, and Vavreck, *The Logic of American Politics, 8th edition*, SAGE Publishing, 2018

Course Schedule:

I reserve the right to alter this as circumstances dictate.

| Week | Date | Topic | Readings | |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| Week 1 | August 21 August 23 | Introduction Introduction & The Constitution | Chapter 1 & 2 | |
| Week 2 | August 28 August 30 | The Constitution The Constitution | Chapter 2 Chapter 2 | (Last day to drop classes without receiving a "W") |
| Week 3 | September 4 September 6 | Federalism Federalism | Chapter 3 Chapter 3 | |
| Week 4 | September 11 September 13 | Civil Rights Civil Rights | Chapter 4 Chapter 4 | |
| Week 5 | September 18 September 20 | Civil Liberties Civil Liberties | Chapter 5 Chapter 5 | |
| Week 6 | September 25 September 27 | Exam #1 Congress | Chapter 6 | |
| Week 7 | October 2 October 4 | Congress Fall Holiday | Chapter 6 | |
| Week 8 | October 9 October 11 | Congress The Presidency | Chapter 6 Chapter 7 | |
| Week 9 | October 16 October 18 | The Presidency The Presidency | Chapter 7 Chapter 7 | |
| Week 10 | October 23 October 25 | The Bureaucracy The Bureaucracy | Chapter 8 Chapter 8 | |
| Week 11 | October 30 November 1 | The Federal Judiciary Exam #2 | Chapter 9 | |
| Week 12 | November 6 November 8 | Public Opinion Public Opinion | Chapter 10 Chapter 10 | |
| Week 13 | November 13 November 15 | Voting, Campaigns & Elections Voting, Campaigns & Elections | Chapter 11 Chapter 11 | |
| Week 14 | November 20 November 22 | Political Parties Thanksgiving Holiday | Chapter 12 | |
| Week 15 | November 27 November 29 | Interest Groups The News Media | Chapter 13 Chapter 14 | |

**Final Exam/Exam #3: Monday, December 3
3:00pm – 5:00pm
Chapters 10-14**