

POSC 101: Introduction to American Government

Course Syllabus & Simulation Guide

Instructor: Professor [Name]
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Course Description and Objective

This course introduces the fundamentals of the American government, including its political institutions and main actors. A key focus will be on how citizens interact with the government and ways to become informed and active participants in the political system. We will also compare American political institutions and behaviors with those of other countries to provide a comprehensive understanding of the American political system.

The Statecraft US Government simulation will be integrated into the course to provide practical experience and deeper insights into the workings of government.

Required Texts

- "American Government: Power and Purpose" by Theodore J. Lowi, et al.
- "The Logic of American Politics" by Samuel Kernell, et al.

Evaluation & Grading

Final Exam: 20%
Midterm: 20%
Response Paper: 20%
Quizzes: 15%
Weekly Assignments: 10%
Attendance and Participation: 10%
Statecraft Simulation Participation: 5%

Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction

Topic: The Citizen and the Government

Simulation: Introduction to Statecraft US Government

Week 2: The Constitution

Topic: The Founding and the Constitution

Week 3: Federalism

Topic: Federalism

Week 4: Civil Rights

Topic: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Simulation: Period 0 (Introductory session)

Week 5: Public Opinion

Topic: Public Opinion

Simulation: Period 1

Week 6: The Media

Topic: The Media

Simulation: Period 2

Week 7: Parties & Elections

Topic: Political Parties, Participation

Simulation: Period 3

Week 8: Congress

Topic: Congress

Midterm Exam

Week 9: The Presidency

Topic: The Presidency

Simulation: Period 4

Week 10: The Bureaucracy

Topic: The Bureaucracy

Week 11: The Judiciary

Topic: The Judiciary

Simulation: Period 5

Week 12: Elections

Topic: Elections and Voting Behavior

Week 13: Political Parties

Topic: Political Parties

Week 14: Interest Groups

Topic: Interest Groups

Week 15: Policy

Topic: Domestic and Economic Policy

Paper Due

Week 16: Foreign Policy

Topic: Foreign and Defense Policy

Final Exam

Policies

AI Plagiarism Policy: The use of AI-generated content for assignments, papers, or exams is strictly prohibited unless explicitly authorized. Any use of AI tools must be disclosed.

Culture of Honesty: Understand and comply with academic honesty policies.