POL 100 A

American Government

Fall Semester 2021

**Instructor:** Dr. Jon Conrad

**Office:** MAX 201-E

**Hours:** MWF 1:30-2:30pm, 3:30-4:30pm;

TTH 1:15-3:15pm, and by appointment

**Phone:** 677-2226

**Email:** jon.conrad@indwes.edu

**Day/Time:** MWF 8:55-9:50am

**Room:** GMN106

Course Description:

A study of American federal government in all its important phases with an introduction to the major fields of political science, including political thought, domestic politics, political economy, and international politics.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Explain the key elements of American government, including political institutions, processes, and structures.
2. Articulate fundamental principles of American government, and explain how American government and politics functions.
3. Identify and discuss both Christian and non-Christian foundations of government.
4. Analyze and critically evaluate competing views concerning the purpose and function of government.

**Course Goals**:

This course is intended to help students:

1. Have a greater interest and, hence, greater participation in government and political processes.
2. Become more effective Christian leaders by being able to articulate their worldviews regarding politics.

Required Texts:

Bundle: Wilson, James Q., John J. Dilulio, Jr., Meena Bose, and Matthew Levendusky. 2018. *American Government: Institutions and Policies – Brief Version*. (13th edition) [Loose-leaf version] + Mindtap Political Science (6 month access). ISBN: 9781337753425

de Tocqueville, Alexis. *Democracy in America.* ed. J.P. Mayer ISBN: 9780061127922

**Recommended Text:**

Marshall, Paul. *God and the Constitution* ISBN: 9780742522480 (needed for Optional Paper)

Supplemental Readings:

In addition to the main text, other assigned readings will be on Brightspace and are marked “B” in the Course Schedule. A few may be distributed as handouts.

**IMPORTANT:** Readings listed for a given week should be read during the *prior* week. Students are expected to actively read and take reading notes, as well as class notes. Please print out and bring the supplemental readings to class when they are being discussed that week, or use an electronic device to access them.

Course Schedule:

***Unit 1: The Foundations of Government***

### Week 1

Sept. 2-10 **Introduction to American Government**

*Reading:* (Wilson: Ch. 1)*;* (B: Strauss) Reminder: “B” refers to readings on

Brightspace in the “Supplemental Readings” module.

*Assignment:* Mindtap Chapter 1

Sept. 6 *Labor Day – no class*

**Note:** Abbreviated class on Sept. 8th from **8:45-9:30** due to Academic Convocation.

### Week 2

Sept. 13-17 **Beginning of Constitutional Government**

*Reading:* (Wilson: Ch. 2, and Appendix: A17-A23 [Federalist 10 and 51]).

*Assignment:* Mindtap Chapter 2

Optional Paper Assigned: Due Nov. 29th at beginning of class.

### Week 3

Sept. 20-24 **Federalism vs. Nationalism**

*Reading:* (Wilson: Ch. 3); (B: Federalist 39; Tocqueville: pp. 114-131)

*Assignment:* Mindtap Chapter 3

### Week 4

Sept. 27- **Federalism vs. Nationalism, cont**. /

Oct. 1 **Begin Unit 2**

**Unit 1 Test:** Sept. 29 – All material in Unit 1: lecture, readings, discussions, etc.

***Unit 2: Freedoms and Rights***

### Week 5

Oct. 4-8 **Civil Liberties and the Basis of Rights**

*Reading:* (Wilson: Ch. 4); (B: Tocqueville: pp. 189-195, 237-240, 287-301)

(B: Letter from Jefferson)

*Assignment:* Mindtap Chapter 4

Oct. 7-8 *Fall Break – no class*

Week 6

Oct. 11-15 **Influence of the Progressives**

*Reading:* (B: Teddy Roosevelt and FDR; Tocqueville: pp. 58-60, 173)

Week 7

Oct. 18-22 **Civil Rights**

*Reading:* (Wilson: Ch. 5); (B: Douglass)

*Assignment:* Mindtap Chapter 5

**Unit 2 Test:** Oct. 22 – All material in Unit 2: lecture, readings, discussions, etc.

***Unit 3: Participation in Democratic Government***

### Week 8

Oct. 25-29 **Political Parties and Interest Groups**

*Reading:* (Wilson: Ch. 7); (B: Tocqueville: pp. 31-45)

*Assignment:* Mindtap Chapter 7

### Week 9

Nov. 1-5 **Modes of** **Political Participation**

*Reading:* (Wilson: Ch. 8, pp. 146-154);

(B: Tocqueville: pp. 196-203, 242-245, 503-06)

*Assignment:* Mindtap Chapter 8

### Week 10

Nov. 8-12 **Elections and Campaigns**

*Reading:* (Wilson: Ch. 8, pp. 155-169); (B: Tocqueville: pp. 131-138)

**Unit 3 Test:** Nov. 12 – All material in Unit 3: lecture, readings, discussions, etc.

***Unit 4: Institutions and their Purposes***

### Week 11

Nov. 15-19 **Congress: The House of Representatives and the Senate**

*Reading:* (Wilson: Ch. 9); (B: Federalist 63; Tocqueville: pp. 246-8, 262-3)

*Assignment:* Mindtap Chapter 9

### Week 12

Nov. 22-26 **The Presidency**

*Reading:* (Wilson: Ch. 10; B: Federalist 70)

*Assignment:* Mindtap Chapter 10

Nov. 24-26 *Thanksgiving Break – no class*

### Week 13

Nov. 29- **The Presidency cont.**

Dec. 3 Nov. 29th: Optional Paper Due

### Week 14

Dec. 6-10 **The Federal Judiciary**

*Reading:* (Wilson: Ch. 12); (B: Tocqueville: pp. 46-47, 138-149)

*Assignment:* Mindtap Chapter 12

### Week 15

Dec. 13 **Review Day, time permitting**

## Final Exam: Wednesday, Dec. 15th, 8:00-9:50am. Room: GMN106. The final exam will consist of two major components: a Unit 4 Test, and a Comprehensive Review of the previous material.

## Students must bring two pencils and an eraser.

## Students must take the exam at the scheduled place and time.

## Students with more than two final exams on the same day may make arrangements with the professor to change the exam that *falls in the middle*. Form available from Registrar.

**Policies and Expectations:**

1. *Communication*: Good communication is essential. When a student has an issue that affects or could affect one’s class work, please *email* the instructor at [jon.conrad@indwes.edu](mailto:jon.conrad@indwes.edu). Email is mutually beneficial because it provides written documentation for both the instructor and the student. Some situations may be better addressed with a face-to-face meeting. If a student is nervous about meeting in person, please feel free to bring a friend.
2. *Student Behavior and Attire:* Courtesy and regard for one another should guide student behavior. Avoid personal attacks and focus on the ideas and issues. If a student is uncomfortable with something that was discussed in class, please try to talk to the person or the instructor after class. Modest, appropriate attire is required, as indicated in the Student Handbook.
3. *Electronic Devices:* In general, students perform better without the distraction of cell phones and the Internet. Students should minimize the use of electronic devices, unless otherwise directed by the instructor or needed for some documented disability.
4. *Academic Honesty:* Students are expected to submit their own work. Please carefully review the Academic Honesty Statement on Brightspace under “Student Resources and Information.” The penalties for cheating are outlined in the catalog and will be followed.
5. *Attendance*: Students should attend all classes when they are physically well. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. If a student misses class on a test day, the student will need an excused absence to receive a makeup test or exam. All other papers and assignments are due on the specified date, regardless of a student’s attendance. Please carefully review the Excused Absence Policy on Brightspace under “Student Resources and Information.”

Zoom Option: Students with extended illnesses, including but not limited to COVID-19 isolation and quarantine, may be eligible for access to the Zoom class meetings.

In order to be eligible, students must follow campus protocols regarding COVID-19 quarantine and isolation. This includes *daily* use of the Campus Clear app. Students who follow the protocols will have access to Zoom class meetings, once the absence is verified by the Dean of The Center for Student Success or similar school official. Zoom class meetings are synchronous (occurring during regular class time) and students must be present using video (always on) and audio (when appropriate). Zoom class meetings utilize the Waiting Room function, and only approved students will be admitted.

1. *Student Engagement*: Showing up for class counts for attendance, but it is not the highest goal. Students should engage in the course. Students are expected to read in advance, have no unexcused absences, and engage in thoughtful discussion with the professor and the rest of the class. The professor reserves the right to raise the final grade of such students up to five percent on the final grade.

Conversely, students who do not read, repeatedly miss class sessions without justification, and/or disrupt the class with inappropriate comments are considered disengaged. The professor reserves the right to lower the final grade of such students up to five percent on the final grade.

1. *Grading*: Final course grades are based on all the elements listed below. Points are awarded on the following basis:

Mindtap Assignments: 400

Unit Tests: 150 x 3 = 450

Final Exam: 300 x 1 = 300

Optional Paper: replaces lowest score of Unit Tests 1-3

Final Grade: Total points/1150 x 100

Details of each graded element:

1. *Mindtap Assignments:* These are located on Brightspace and should be taken repeatedly. There are different types of assignments that are designed to enhance a student’s knowledge and retention. Some are quizzes. Students are encouraged to take the quiz *before* reading each chapter, and then as many times as needed *after* reading the chapter.
2. *Unit Tests:* These are taken in class and cover only the material from that unit. They cover the readings, discussion, and lecture from that unit.
3. *Final Exam:* The final exam consists of two components: a Unit 4 test and a Comprehensive Review over Units 1-3.
4. *Optional Paper*: The optional paper will replace the lowest grade of the first three unit tests. There will be a specific instruction sheet regarding the paper requirements. Students are expected to follow these instructions closely. Papers are due on the date specified at the beginning of class, regardless of whether or not the student is in attendance. Late papers will not be accepted.

*Makeup tests/exams:* A makeup test or exam will be given only for excused absences. Unless previously arranged via email, students must take the makeup on the day of their return.

*Incompletes:* These are only given under extreme circumstances. Proper notification and documentation are essential if one requests an incomplete for the course. In all cases, the granting of an incomplete, and the terms involved, is solely at the instructor’s discretion.

The final grade is determined by the weighted average of the above elements. Grades are not rounded and will be reported using the scale below.

**Scale:**

A = 93-100 B+ = 87-89.9 C+ = 77-79.9 D+ = 67-69.9

A- = 90-92.9 B = 83-86.9 C = 73-76.9 D = 63-66.9

B- = 80-82.9 C- = 70-72.9 F = 0-62.9

1. *Appointments*: The instructor will make every reasonable effort to be available to you. If you cannot come during his scheduled office hours, please email or call to schedule a mutually convenient appointment.
2. *Student Resources:* There are a variety of resources to help students (Disability Services, Jackson Library, The Inkwell Writing Center, and The Den). Please review details of each of the services on Brightspace under “Student Resources and Information.”
3. *Errors or Unforeseen Circumstances:* In the case of an instructor error in a quiz, exam, or the syllabus, the instructor will seek to resolve the issue in a manner that is beneficial to the student. The instructor also reserves the right to make adjustments to the Course Schedule if unforeseen circumstances arise.