

# American Government

POLS 202-3876 & 3878, Fall 2017 [Online]

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Office Hours: Virtual, by CANVAS CHAT on Thursdays at 3pm and by Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION	Development, structure, and role of U.S. Government, with attention to democratic traditions. Constitutionalism, federalism, civil liberties, political parties, and propaganda.
STUDENT OUTCOMES COMPETENCIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Examine the historical development of the American Political and social system with a focus on economic and gender inequalities and their relationship to political power.</li><li>• Pair pluralistic/democratic/elitist theories with statistical and empirical data and students' own experience to evaluate multiple perspectives of interpretation of the American political, social and economic experienced (historical and contemporary).</li><li>• Apply non-traditional theories, including gender based, multi-cultural based and dependency based to an analysis of American political and social decision making structure.</li><li>• Articulate various theories as counter-points to traditional interpretations of American history and political functioning.</li></ul>
METHOD OF INSTRUCTION	<p>This course takes place entirely online using CANVAS. The course is divided into three “<b>UNITS</b>”, each with 3 to 4 “<b>MODULES</b>”. UNIT ONE reflects on the <i>foundations</i> of the American political system. UNIT TWO highlights and assesses the <i>Constitutional institutions</i> of the American political process. UNIT THREE assesses both political participation and those <i>linkage institutions</i> that connect people to the government itself.</p> <p>Students will be assigned a selection of readings primarily from the course textbook (“B&amp;C”) and an accompanying quiz in order to assess comprehension. Students will also post to the class Discussion Board (“DB”) and complete a selection of Application Exercises (“AE”) in order to apply the lessons of the texts. After each UNIT, students will compose an ESSAY EXAM to demonstrate understanding and engagement of the material.</p>

## GENERAL COURSE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND MATERIALS

TEXTBOOK & READING MATERIALS	<p><b>Textbook</b> (required): <i>American Politics Today Essentials 5th Ed.</i>, Bianco &amp; Canon; ISBN: 978-0393906196</p> <p>You can also purchase an eBook version directly from the publisher for \$35: <a href="http://books.wwnorton.com/books/webad.aspx?id=4294993244">http://books.wwnorton.com/books/webad.aspx?id=4294993244</a></p> <p><b>PowerPoints</b>: You should review the supplemental slides for each chapter. They can be downloaded under FILES in Canvas.</p> <p><b>Supplemental Reading Material</b>: articles or other material may be required. Not all will be listed on the syllabus and may be announced on Canvas. You can locate them under FILES or PAGES in Canvas; refer to author's last name (ex: Liu).</p>
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<p><b>ASSIGNMENTS</b></p> <p>Course performance is calculated based on the following weighted categories:</p>	<p><b>Reading Quizzes (“RQ”) [20%]</b> Untimed, open-book, and multiple choice. Questions come directly from the readings and should be attempted only after completing the reading assignment. <b>A student’s lowest quiz score will be dropped.</b></p> <p><b>Discussion Board (“DB”) [20%]</b> Short writing exercises, typically critical thinking questions based on supplemental reading materials, will be given to assess comprehension of core concepts. Answers will not be shared with other students.</p> <p><b>Application Exercises (“AE”) [20%]</b> Various activities, often interactive quizzes based on videos, current events, or other contemporary material involving the American political landscape that ask students to contend with and apply the lessons from the course. <b>Students need only complete 38 of the 47 AE assignments (i.e., only the top 38 scores will be kept/the nine lowest scores will be dropped. This allows students to “miss” certain AE’s at their own discretion).</b></p> <p><b>Midterm and Final Essay-Exams [40%]</b> Two essays (<u>minimum</u> 3 pages each) applying the lessons from the textbook and any supplemental readings; <i>little-to-no outside research is required or expected</i>. Directions and prompts will be provided the week they are assigned.</p>
<p><b>ASSIGNMENT PACING</b></p>	<p>Modules become accessible (“<a href="#">open</a>”) as the course progresses (refer to the Course Outline). Students are to work through the assignments and readings listed in a given Module before that Module’s specific due (“<a href="#">close</a>”) date. Generally speaking, every two Modules [e.g., Mods 1 <i>and</i> 2] open and close together, effectively giving students two weeks to complete two Module’s worth of material.*</p> <p>Expect Modules to open on a Monday and close the following Sunday, at 11:59pm. Once the deadline hits, students will no longer be able to access the assignments in the Module. <b>In other words, there are no late submissions of RQ’s, AE’s, or Discussions.</b></p> <p>*Note that Unit Two’s modules (5, 6, and 7) open and close together. Essay Exams have their own unique due dates. Review the course outline at the end of this syllabus.</p> <p><b><a href="#">Refer to the PROPOSED COURSE OUTLINE at the end of this syllabus for specific date information.</a></b></p>
<p><b>ASSIGNMENT DEADLINES</b></p>	<p>Discussions, AE’s, and Quizzes must be submitted by the date &amp; time they are due; Late work is not accepted. You will receive a zero for late assignments.</p> <p>Midterm and Final Essay Exams, however, will be marked down by one-third of a grade, 1.67 points per day on a 50 point essay; 3.33 pts/day on a 100 point essay, immediately after the deadline due date and time. <b>Note that the Final Essay cannot be submitted beyond the deadline.</b></p>
<p><b>CURRENT GRADES</b></p>	<p>Available on Canvas. Assignments do take a few days to grade accurately and fairly, so please be patient (Essays take longer). Technical issues sometimes result in displayed grades are inconsistent with your actual course grade. When in doubt, please contact me about your grade.</p>

GRADE DISPUTES	If you have a dispute about your grade on a given assignment, please submit to me via email why you believe the grade you received is not adequate. I will not entertain grade changes unless you present coherent and thoughtful rationale that references your own assignment. I reserve the right to give you a lower score as well upon second review.
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SCALED SCORE CHART

Average	Grade	Average	Grade	Average	Grade
95-100%	4.0 A	81-82%	2.8 B-	69-70%	1.6 C-
94-95%	3.9 A	80-81%	2.7 B-	68-69%	1.5 C-
93-94%	3.8 A-	79-80%	2.6 B-	67-68%	1.4 D+
92-93%	3.7 A-	78-79%	2.5 B-	66-67%	1.3 D+
90-92%	3.6 A-	77-78%	2.4 C+	65-66%	1.2 D+
88-90%	3.5 A-	76-77%	2.3 C+	64-65%	1.1 D
87-88%	3.4 B+	75-76%	2.2 C+	63-64%	1.0 D
86-87%	3.3 B+	74-75%	2.1 C	62-63%	0.9 D
85-86%	3.2 B+	73-74%	2.0 C	61-62%	0.8 D-
84-85%	3.1 B	72-73%	1.9 C	60-61%	0.7 D-
83-84%	3.0 B	71-72%	1.8 C-	≤60%	0.0 F
82-83%	2.9 B	70-71%	1.7 C-		

OFFICE HOURS	I will be online to CANVAS CHAT on Thursdays at 1pm and by appointment.
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ACADEMIC INTREGITY & CHEATING POLICY	<p>Students are expected to follow the college student conduct code which prohibits cheating and plagiarism. Cite sources whenever in doubt. Essays will be evaluated against plagiarism checking software (i.e., Vericite) or personal audit your work on my own to ensure academic honesty.</p> <p><i>Students found guilty of plagiarism – knowing or otherwise – will receive a zero for the assignment or essay.</i></p>
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ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION	Participation on Discussions and submission of assignments by the posted due-date will serve as evidence of attendance. I will not drop students that do not submit assignments or participate; I will just let your grade fall. It is your responsibility to do the work before the deadlines and to withdraw from the course if you do not plan on doing the work.
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## ONLINE COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

LOG INTO CANVAS & EMAIL DAILY	Students are required to check Canvas and their OC email at least once per day for ANNOUNCEMENTS and other information about the course. Always check the course Announcements before messaging the instructor about an assignment or other aspect of the course.
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OC STUDENT EMAIL USE IS REQUIRED	OC automatically provides email accounts when students register and pay their tuition and fees. If you have questions or problems, you can contact the Help Desk at helpdesk@oc.ctc.edu or call 360-475-7600. For more information on how to access your student email account go to: <a href="http://www.olympic.edu/Students/StudentEmail/">http://www.olympic.edu/Students/StudentEmail/</a>
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CONTACTING YOUR INSTRUCTOR	<p>All communication with students will be conducted exclusively through OC email accounts and/or Canvas messaging. <b>Emails sent through non-OC accounts are considered null-and-void and ignored.</b></p> <p>I make every effort to respond promptly to your emails and Canvas messages, <b>within 24 hours or less</b>. Please contact me using your OC-email or Canvas messaging. Send all OC emails to my address <a href="mailto:zgass@olympic.edu">zgass@olympic.edu</a>. Please put a subject in the subject line.</p>
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TECHNICAL ISSUES	<p>Please contact your Instructor before contacting Information Technology services. Most technical issues can be resolved by the instructor.</p> <p>If you have any questions or technical issues that can't be resolved after contacting your instructor, be sure to visit the OC Distance Learning website.  <a href="https://www.olympic.edu/programs-classes/distance-learning">https://www.olympic.edu/programs-classes/distance-learning</a></p>
ONLINE TUTORING & WRITING HELP	<p>To submit papers online through Canvas for review by tutors, you must self-enroll (each quarter) in the Writing Center 'class'. To self-enroll, go to  <a href="https://olympic.instructure.com/enroll/33F7FK">https://olympic.instructure.com/enroll/33F7FK</a>  Tech support number for help with enrolling: (360) 475-7770.  Some helpful online writing tutorials can be found at the following link:  <a href="https://www.olympic.edu/services/tutoring-services/writing-center/writing-resources">https://www.olympic.edu/services/tutoring-services/writing-center/writing-resources</a></p>
COMPUTER LABS	<p>Open labs are available for students to work on homework, do research, or other class-related activities. Lab techs are on-site at each open lab to assist students with logging on to the network and basic computer questions. All labs are closed when the campus is closed, including Federal holidays and quarterly breaks. Specific closures will be posted in the labs, or contact the IT Help Desk at (360) 475-7600 or <a href="mailto:helpdesk@olympic.edu">helpdesk@olympic.edu</a> for more information.</p> <p>See link for lab locations: <a href="https://www.olympic.edu/services/computer-labs/lab-locations">https://www.olympic.edu/services/computer-labs/lab-locations</a></p>
ACCESSIBILITY & ACCOMMODATION	<p>Any student who feels he/she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the office of Access Services located in Humanities 114, or call (360) 475 7540 for information or an appointment. Please contact you instructor if a particular assignment is inaccessible.</p>
IMPORTANT ADMINISTRATIVE DATES, FALL 2017	<p>9/22 – Last Day to request 100% refund for withdrawal  9/25 – Fall classes begin  9/29 – Last day to request 80% refund &amp; withdrawal  10/6 – Last day to Request 40% refund for withdrawal from classes; Officially drop a class with no grade reported; or File for Pass/No Credit or Audit option  11/13 – Last day to officially drop classes and receive a “W” grade  12/14 – Fall quarter ends  12/21 – Grades available</p>

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## CANVAS NAVIGATION FOR POLS 202 Online

ANNOUNCEMENTS	<b>Check each day.</b> Always review before asking a question. Updates, news, housekeeping, and other information. The first section you see when logging-on. <b>If you have questions about an Announcement, please Canvas message or Email me; DO NOT REPLY TO THE POST.</b>
SYLLABUS	A copy of the course syllabus. Also available to download in FILES.
MODULES	All Reading Quizzes (RQ), Application Exercises (AE), and Discussions (DB), as well as other helpful learning supplements for each chapter/module can be found here.
QUIZZES	Textbook Reading Quizzes are found here as well. RQs automatically go live on certain dates (and close/lock as well).
ASSIGNMENTS	Provides an overview of all assignments for the course.
PAGES	Guides, articles, supplemental readings, and other material in an easily accessible web format. Copies of materials from FILES may be posted here as well.
FILES	Go here for PowerPoints, Supplemental Readings, and other items.
GRADES	Your course grade. Note that blank cells are most likely ZEROs. I try to update grades regularly, but if your grade is not immediately updated after an assignment submission, be patient. Quiz scores are (general) automatically inputted.
CHAT	A place to live chat with your instructor for Office Hours and other students.
INBOX	<b>Check each day.</b> Your place for Canvas messaging. Get familiar with it, as your instructor will use this more than OC email to communicate with students.

*Proposed Course Outline on Next Page*

## POLS 202: PROPOSED COURSE OUTLINE

<b>UNIT ONE:</b> <b>Foundations of American Government</b>  <b>Modules 1 and 2</b> Open: 9/25 Close: 10/8 at 11:59pm  <b>Modules 3 and 4</b> Open: 10/9 Close: 10/22 at 11:59pm  <b>Midterm Essay</b> Assigned: 10/22 Due: Sun. 10/29 at 11:59 PM	<i>Module One, 9/25 – 10/1: Basics of American Politics &amp; Government</i>  → Quiz 00: Syllabus & Course Expectations <b>Due October 1, 11:59 PM</b> → Discussion 00: “Introduce Yourself” <b>Due October 1, 11:59 PM</b>  B&C Chp. 1: Understanding American Politics Quiz 1: Introduction to American Politics DB-1: “American Values” Various AE Assignments
	<i>Module Two, 10/2 – 10/8: The Constitution &amp; Madisonian Democracy</i>  B&C Chp. 2: The Constitution B&C Appendix: Federalist 10 Quiz 2: The Constitution DB-2: “Federalist 10 Questions” Various AE Assignments  <u><b>Assignments from Modules One and Two due 10/8 by 11:59pm.</b></u>
	<i>Module Three, 10/9 – 10/15: Federalism</i>  B&C Chp. 3: Federalism Quiz 3: Federalism DB-3: “Marijuana and State/National Power” Various AE Assignments
	<i>Module Four, 10/16 – 10/22: Civil Rights &amp; Civil Liberties</i> B&C Chp. 4: Civil Rights B&C Chp. 5: Civil Liberties (selected portions) Quiz 4: Civil Rights & Liberties (No DB) DB-4: “Apple vs The FBI” Various AE Assignments  <u><b>Assignments from Modules Three and Four due 10/22 by 11:59pm.</b></u>
<b>UNIT TWO:</b> <b>Institutions of American Government</b>  <b>Modules 5, 6, and 7</b> Open: 10/23 Close: 11/12 at 11:59pm Midterm Essay Due Sunday 10/29 by 11:59 PM	<i>Module Five, 10/23 – 10/29: Congress</i> B&C Chp. 10: Congress Quiz 5: Congress DB-4: “Politics of Pork” Various AE Assignments
	<i>Module Six, 10/30 – 11/5: The Presidency &amp; Executive Branch</i> B&C Chp. 11: The Presidency Quiz 6: The Presidency DB-5: “Presidential”

	<p><i>Module Seven, 11/6 – 11/12: The Courts</i></p> <p>B&amp;C Chp. 13: The Courts Quiz 7: The Courts Various AE Assignments</p> <p><b><u>Assignments from Modules Five, Six, and Seven due 11/12 by 11:59pm.</u></b></p>
<p><b>UNIT THREE:</b> <b>Political Participation &amp; Linkage Institutions</b></p> <p><b>Modules 8 and 9</b> Open: 11/13 Close: 11/26 at 11:59pm</p> <p><b>Modules 10 and 11</b> Open: 11/27 Close: 12/10 at 11:59pm</p> <p><b>Final Essay</b> Assigned: Saturday 12/9 Due: Thursday 12/14 at 11:59 PM*</p> <p>*No extensions of late submissions of the Final Essay, no exceptions.</p>	<p><i>Module Eight, 11/13 – 11/19: Public Opinion &amp; Media</i></p> <p>B&amp;C Chp. 6: Public Opinion &amp; Media Review PowerPoint: The Media Quiz 8: Public Opinion and Media DB-6: "Ideology Assessment" Various AE Assignments</p>
	<p><i>Module Nine, 11/20 – 11/26: Political Parties</i></p> <p>B&amp;C Chp. 7: Political Parties Quiz 9: Political Parties DB-7: "Third/Minor Parties" Various AE Assignments</p> <p><b><u>Assignments from Modules Eight and Nine due 11/26 by 11:59pm.</u></b></p>
	<p><i>Module Ten, 11/27 – 12/3: Voting &amp; Elections</i></p> <p>B&amp;C Chp. 8: Elections Supp. Reading: <i>To Be Announced on Canvas</i> Review: PowerPoint, Voting Quiz 10: Voting and Elections DB-8: "Mandatory Voting? &amp; Disenfranchisement" Various AE Assignments</p>
	<p><i>Module Eleven, 12/4 – 12/10: Interest Groups &amp; Theories of Democracy</i></p> <p>B&amp;C Chp. 9: Interest Groups Quiz 11: Interest Groups DB-11: Interest Group Lobbying Various AE Assignments</p> <p><b><u>Assignments from Modules Eight and Nine due 12/10 by 11:59pm.</u></b></p>

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