

# Introduction to American Politics (PSC 1002)

Aaron A. Meek

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# Outline

- About me
- Introduction to the course and section
- Discussion
- Wrap-up

## Section 1

# Introduction & Overview

# About Me

- Aaron Meek (aaronameek@**gwmail**.gwu.edu)
- 3rd-year PhD student studying American judicial politics
- M.A. in political science from GWU
- B.A. in political science from Michigan State University (MSU)
- From Rochester Hills, MI (~30 minutes north of Detroit)

# Course Introduction

- We may have general intuitions about how to puzzle through questions about the political world around us, but political science looks to answer them in a more systematic way
- This course is designed to introduce you to American political and governance broadly, such that you can critically evaluate political events and phenomena
  - Institutions (Congress, the executive branch, the courts)
  - Actors (voters, interest groups, parties)
  - The “sausage,” and how it gets made (i.e., the political process)
- **The ultimate goal is for you to become a better, more-informed consumer of political news and political science research**

# What Are Sections For?

- Section is designed to complement our Tuesday/Thursday lectures
- In general, large portions of section meetings will be devoted to:
  - Collective discussions about the week's reading materials
  - Clarifying concepts/ideas introduced in lecture
  - Helping each other prepare for the quizzes/exams (as needed)
  - (Asking questions you don't want to ask in front of the whole class, perhaps!)

## Section 2

# Discussion

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- Malcolm Gladwell podcast
- Readings for this week
- Miscellaneous questions



## Section 3

### **Outro**

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- I'll be sending out an Entry Survey for the section → please fill that out by next week's section!
- Remember the quiz this week → it will be available from **DAY (DATE) @ TIME** until next **DAY (DATE) @ TIME**