

American Government (Political Science 2051-5)
Dr. William Blair
Office Hours: Via Zoom by appointment
Contact me by email to schedule

Fall 2020
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Introduction:

Yeah. Of course there's 2 Hurricanes #2020

Welcome to the COVID-19 version of this course. While I would much prefer the live version, this is a decision I made given the current situation. As such, it will be **online asynchronous**.

So what does that mean?

- ***It means we won't have set times for class or exams***
- ***There will be windows of time to complete lectures, quizzes, readings, exams, and other assignments***
- ***I will have "office hours" via zoom***
- ***We may have zoom Q&A sessions that will not be mandatory***
- ***Assignments will be available on Moodle every Monday (usually) and due the following Sunday.***

Description:

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.

As a General Education Course, POLI 2051 is designed to address the following General Education outcomes:

Integrated learning allows students to make simple connections among ideas and experiences and across disciplines and perspectives. The LSU Integrative Learning Core (ILC) curriculum is designed to develop student abilities to transfer their learning to new situations, and demonstrate a sense of self as a learner. A fundamental goal of the ILC is to foster students' practical and intellectual capacities associated with integrative learning in preparation for high competence and functionality in their post-baccalaureate careers. This course fulfills the BOR Area of Social/Behavioral Sciences and provides students experience with the ILC proficiency of Inquiry and Analysis.

Required Reading:

Electronic or Paper Copy.

Patterson, Thomas. ***We the People, An Introduction to American Government***. 13th Edition
2019. McGraw Hill Publishing

Grading:

Precise instructions and details on all assignments will be provided via Moodle

Exams: (75%)

There will be three exams. They will not be cumulative.

They will be open book objective questions (multiple choice) administered via Moodle

Each exam will cover the assigned chapter readings and lecture content

Quizzes: (25%)

There will be chapter quizzes on the assigned readings.

They will be open book objective questions administered via Moodle

Course Schedule: (Always subject to change)

Precise instructions and details on all assignments will be provided via Moodle

Week	Date	Topic
Week 1	Week of August 24	Hurricane!/Covid-19!/Introduction! Chapter 1 – Political Culture Chapter 2 – Constitutional Democracy
Week 2	Week of August 31	Chapter 3 – Federalism
Week 3	Week of September 7	Chapter 4 – Civil Liberties
Week 4	Week of September 14	Chapter 5 – Equal Rights
Week 5	Week of September 21	<u>Exam #1</u> Chapter 11 – Congress
Week 6	Week of September 28	Chapter 12 – The President
Week 7	Week of October 12	Chapter 13 – Federal Bureaucracy
Week 8	Week of October 19	Chapter 14 – Federal Judiciary
Week 9	Week of October 26	<u>Exam #2</u> Chapter 6 – Public Opinion
Week 10	Week of November 2	Chapter 7 – Political Participation
Week 11	Week of November 9	Chapter 8 – Political Parties and Campaigns
Week 12	Week of November 16	Chapter 9 – Interest Groups
Week 13	Week of November 23	<u>Thanksgiving Holiday</u>
Week 14	Week of November 30	Chapter 10 – The News Media
Week 15	Week of December 7	Exam #3 – Due December 11 at 11:30 pm