



BRANDMAN
University Chapman University
System

School of Arts & Sciences Course Syllabus

Course Number/Title/Credits: POSU 110/Introduction to American Politics/ 3 credits

Catalog Course Description: Students master the basic concepts and analytical methods used by political scientists in their attempts to address these questions: What are the fundamental components of the national government of the United States? How do they transform citizens' opinions, interest group pressures, and economic imperatives into social policy? This course satisfies the State of California Credential requirement in American History and Government. 3 credits

LEARNING OUTCOMES and ASSESSMENT:

Learning Outcomes are statements that specify what learners will know, understand, or be able to demonstrate at the end of a learning experience.

Types of Learning Outcomes include:

- ✓ Course Learning Outcome – Result of finishing a course.
- ✓ Program Learning Outcome – Result of finishing a program.
- ✓ Institutional Learning Outcome – Result of finishing a degree at an institution, reflecting the core learning values and experiences of all graduates.

A Signature Assignment is an assignment used to measure a student's mastery of a program or institutional learning outcome. If a course you are taking includes a Signature Assignment, it will be clearly marked (**SIGNATURE ASSIGNMENT**).

Access the following link(s) for information on the Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) and Curriculum Map related to this course:

[Click Here for BA, Legal Studies - PLO](#)

Access the following link(s) for information on the Institutional Learning Outcomes (ILOs) and Curriculum Map related to this course:

[Click Here for Learning Outcomes](#)

Prerequisites: None.

Restrictions: None.

Essential Equipment and Facilities: By the end of the first week of class, students must have the ability to access MyBrandman, the Blackboard portal to their class site, and other key locations necessary to meet course requirements. Individual browser preferences vary, and, at times, some work with Blackboard better than others. Therefore, if you try one browser, such as Firefox, and you have difficulty, try another browser, such as Internet Explorer. Since versions of Microsoft Office vary,

students who do not use the most recent version may need the free conversion software available via the Microsoft.com website. Java is also required for courses. Students who do not have Java may download it for free at java.com.

Academic Integrity: As a learning community of scholars, Brandman University emphasizes the ethical responsibility of all members to seek knowledge honestly and in good faith. Students are responsible for doing their own work. Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, or misrepresentation of information in oral or written form. Plagiarism means presenting someone else's idea or writing as if it were your own. If you use someone else's idea or writing, be sure the source is clearly documented. Further information may be found in the *Brandman University Catalog* available under Academic Resources in MyBrandman.

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement: According to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, an individual with disability is defined as having functional limitations resulting from a diagnosed disability and applies to an individual who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the individual's major life activities; has a record of such an impairment; or is regarded as having such an impairment. In compliance with ADA guidelines, students who have any condition, either permanent or temporary, that may impair or impact their ability to successfully complete assignments, tasks or satisfy course criteria are requested to notify their Advisor or Campus Director in order to understand how to apply for Student Disability Services. If and when the student is granted formal approval by the Director of ADA Services, both the student and professor will be notified. It is highly suggested that the student contact their professor to discuss the accommodations during the first week of the session. The granting of accommodations will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course.

University Policies: Students are responsible for complying with university policies including, but not limited to: incompletes, course drops, and student conduct. Information may be found in the *Brandman University Catalog* available under Academic Resources in MyBrandman.

Online Brandman Library Resources: Click on red "Library" button in Blackboard.

Texts are available at the Brandman Online Bookstore: See "Bookstore" under Academic Resources in MyBrandman.

Required Text: Lowi, T., Ginsberg, B., Weir, M., Tolbert, C., (2018). *We the People.*, 12th Ed. New York, NY: W.W. Norton and Company. (Also available as an e-text.) **ISBN 13:** 978-0393679595

Course Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Understand the major characteristics of the American political culture;
2. Identify how the Constitution shapes the United States in general and the American political process in particular;
3. Recognize the differences between civil liberties and civil rights and how they affect the lives of average Americans;

4. Analyze the role of the media in shaping public opinion;
5. Understand the value of political participation and describe some of the various ways one is able to participate in the American political process;
6. Explain the influences of political parties and interest groups on the American political process;
7. Describe the different roles of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government.

Major Study Units:

1. American Political Culture
2. The Constitution
3. Federalism
4. Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
5. Public Opinion
6. The Media
7. Political Participation and Voting
8. Campaigns and Elections
9. Political Parties and Interest Groups
10. The Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Branches of Government

Instructional Strategies: This class includes readings, textual and video instruction, exercises, discussions, and projects. Instructional Strategies may be further explained in the course Blackboard site.

Attendance Policy:

Requirements for students' attendance and participation will be defined by each instructor based on the following policy:

- Monday of the first week is considered the first day of class for online and blended instruction. This includes instruction for fully online classes and online instruction supporting blended classes.
- Regular onsite attendance is expected for student success. If a student misses more than one onsite class or one week of engagement in an online class, the student may, at the discretion of the instructor, fail the course. Students are expected to attend all classes, particularly the first night of class.
- Students should consider withdrawing from a course if they will be absent more than once. Instructors may, but are not obligated to, accommodate students under extraordinary circumstances, but the student must request accommodation and provide requested supporting documentation. Students enrolled in blended courses must attend at least one class during the first two weeks of classes.
- If a student misses a portion (e.g., arriving late or leaving early) of an onsite course, the student's grade may be adversely affected. Students who are not in attendance for at least 75 percent of any

scheduled class may be considered absent for that class. Students should discuss missing portions of a class with their instructor to determine how their grade may be affected.

- Regular online attendance/participation and engagement is expected for student success in both fully online and blended courses. Online participation is evident through posting to a discussion board, blog, completing assignments including journal entries, or taking quizzes and exams.
- Schools and programs may have different attendance policies. Refer to school and program specific information for additional attendance policies.

Letter Grade/Percentage Equivalent:

Grade Point System (Rounded up at .5 and up)			
A = 93%-100%	B = 83%-86%	C = 73%-76%	D = 63%-66%
A- = 90%-92%	B- = 80%-82%	C- = 70%-72%	D- = 60%-62%
B+ = 87%-89%	C+ = 77%-79%	D+ = 67%-69%	F=59% and below

Methods of Evaluation for Determining Grades:

Assignment Detail:

Assignments - Refer to Rubric(s) in Course Information on Blackboard	Possible Points
Weekly Discussions: Online: 8 x 20 points per week maximum; Blended: 8 x 10 points per week maximum in-class f2f discussions; 8 x 10 points per week for online discussion boards.	160
Weekly Quizzes: 8 x 20 points possible for each quiz.	160
Weekly Essays: 8 x 40 points possible for each essay.	320
	Total: 640

Class by Class Outline:

Week	Topics	Assignments
Week 1	American Political Culture	Reading: Read Chapter 1 Discussion Board 1 Essay 1 Quiz 1
Week 2	The Founding, The Constitution, and	Reading: Read Chapters 2 and 3 Discussion Board 2

	Federalism	Essay 2 Quiz 2
Week 3	Civil liberties and Civil Rights	Reading: Read Chapters 4 and 5 Discussion Board 3 Essay 3 Quiz 3
Week 4	Public Opinion and the Media	Reading: Read Chapters 6 and 7 Discussion Board 4 Essay 4 Quiz 4
Week 5	Political Participation, Voting, Campaigns and Elections	Reading: Read Chapters 8 and 10 Discussion Board 5 Essay 5 Quiz 5
Week 6	Political Parties and Interest Groups	Reading: Read Chapters 9 and 11 Discussion Board 6 Essay 6 Quiz 6
Week 7	Congress and the Federal Courts	Reading: Read Chapters 12 and 15 Discussion Board 7 Essay 7 Quiz 7
Week 8	The Presidency and the Bureaucracy	Reading: Read Chapters 13 and 14 Discussion Board 8 Essay 8 Quiz 8