

Course Number: SS 1110

Course Title: American Government

Course Description:

This course introduces the student to the meaning of politics, its relationship to the concept of political power, and its impact upon governmental policy making. The course explores the nature and history of our political system and the various philosophical principles upon which it is based, and discusses national government institutions and the operation of national, state and local governments.

Prerequisites: None.

Credit hours: 3

Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Describe purposes, powers, and limitations of the three (3) branches of government.
2. Recognize and evaluate the basic debates and issues in American Government and American political history.
3. Explain and critically assess the formal and informal political institutions and their respective roles in American politics.
4. Identify and describe the various levels of governments in our federalist system
5. Assess the causes and consequences of the different forms of political participation and outline the ways in which individuals and groups can affect political outcomes in the United States.
6. Assess the role of state and local governments in the American democracy.
7. Explain how government and politics impacts our daily life.



**College of Professional Studies
SS 1110 American Government
Online Course Syllabus Content**

Instructor Information

Please see Professor Profile at the Blackboard instructional site.

Course Schedule

Please see Course Schedule in the Course Syllabus area of the Blackboard instructional site.

Online Course Policies

All of the online courses taken by students are required to follow the policies posted online at <http://online.indianatech.edu/tech-policies/policies/>. Please review the posted policies carefully. If you are unable to abide by the policies listed, please contact the Warrior Information Network (WIN) at 888.832.4742 and request to withdraw from this course.

Required Text

Greenburg, E. J., & Page, B. (2016). *The struggle for democracy* (11th ed.). New York, NY: Pearson Publishing.

Grading Events

Unless otherwise specified, all assignments must be submitted via Blackboard.

Grading events shall consist of five question sets each worth 100 points and discussion board participation worth 100 points total.

Explanation of the Assignments:

Following are the values for various grading events and the grading scale:

EVENT	VALUE
Course Preparation Quiz	15
Discussion Board 5 @ 20pts each	100 points
Question Set 1	100 points
Question Set 2	100 points
Question Set 3	100 points
Question Set 4	100 points
Question Set 5	100 points
TOTAL	615 points

Grading Criteria

Online Discussions (worth 20 points each, for a total of 100 points)

You are expected to actively participate in a discussion of the material covered in our readings and lectures. This is worth a total of 100 points for the term. You can find a discussion forum for self-introductions and for each of the five weeks' content areas by going to the "Discussion Board" under the Tools button (at left).

During the first week, you should introduce yourself on the Self-Introduction forum. Then, during each module, you should make a total of three posts consisting of:

- 1) Create a thread of your own to make comments or ask questions about the material. You may think of the key themes and the impact on our government/society today; or, reference a particular current event issue. Make sure to reference the current event news sources. For example, if you tie in coverage of local elections, note where you pulled your information. Did you watch Fox News, CBS, or did you read *The New York Times* or a particular local/state newspaper?
- 2) Respond to at least two of your classmates.

Grading Requirements:

- 1) If you meet these requirements by each deadline indicated, you will receive at least 15 of 20 points possible for each discussion. To get more than 15 points, the quality of your various posts will be taken into account. Are your comments insightful? Are your questions thought-provoking? Do your criticisms move discussion forward? And so forth. Further advice is provided by the instructor on the Self-Introduction forum. If you do not meet these requirements by the deadlines, your scores will be below 15 points.
- 2) If you only submit 2 posts, students will start at a score of 10 points for the discussion board. If you only submit 1 post, students will start at a score of 5 points for the discussion board.
- 3) There is no length requirement on the discussion board. However, comments must be substantively concerned with the material. Simply saying that something was interesting is not enough; simply saying that you agree with a classmate is not enough. In cases where no substantive concern for the course content is indicated, the post in question will not count as one of the three required.

Question Sets (consist of short answer and essay - 100 points each, for a total of 500 points)

You will prepare a question set for each module, consisting of both objective and essay questions. The short answer questions aim to ensure that you can recognize the key issues and

identify the core components of our political system. One mandatory essay question each week invites students to explore the key themes and events presented in the module through description, explanation, and assessment. Students will be given a choice of two options for their second essay question each week. The second essay invites you, the student, to address the impact of government and politics on your daily life. Each question set is made up of:

- 10 Short Answer worth 5 points each [50 points]
- 2 Essay Questions worth 25 points each [50 points] – Note that one essay will give you a choice on topics to apply the material to your own life.

Grading Requirements:

1) Short Answer: The responses to these questions may consist of one or two sentences or words.

2) Essays:

- Each essay is worth 25 points and should be 200-250 words to fully address the question. Points will be deducted for responses that are short of the target accordingly:
 - 180-199 words: 3 points deducted
 - 179-150 words: 7 points deducted
 - 149-100 words: 10 points deducted
 - 100 words or less: Any answer that is less than 100 words will receive a score of 0.
- Students should craft well-written responses, meaning that grammar and organization count. For each answer with substantial grammatical errors (meaning that students did not spell check their work), 3 points will be deducted from the total score for the assignment. For each answer with extremely disruptive grammatical errors (meaning that students did not spell check their work or edit for sentence structure and punctuation), 5 points will be deducted from the total score for the assignment.
- The content of your responses should be thorough and scholarly. Jargon, lingo, and street language are to be avoided, and their use will decrease your grade. By way of example, and not limitation, “cop” is generally unacceptable, “police officer” is preferred. APA format should be used for any in-text citations to reference quoted material or additional material.

Grading Scale

Points Earned	Grade	Points Earned	Grade	Points Earned	Grade
558 and above	A	480-497	B-	420-437	C-
540 to 557	A-	462-479	C+	360-419	D
522 to 539	B+	438-461	C	0-359	F
498-521	B				

Late Assignments

All assignments and required online activities are due according to the deadline listed in the course schedule. Granting deadline extension is the course instructor's autonomy.

Incompletes

If you are unable to complete the requirements for this course due to extenuating circumstances, an Incomplete grade (I) may be granted if you meet the general guidelines stated below.

General Guidelines for submitting a course incomplete request:

- More than 50% of the course session has elapsed.
- The student has encountered an unexpected situation that is beyond his or her control.
- The student is
 - in good academic standing -- up-to-date on all of the course assignments and has at least an overall passing grade,
 - able to complete all of the remaining coursework within a session (5 weeks for a undergraduate course and 6 weeks for a graduate course) that immediately follows the session the student is currently enrolled, and
 - able to provide support documentations to substantiate the need for extra time should a session is not enough to complete the course requirements.

If an Incomplete is granted, the instructor will set a deadline for all work to be completed. **The deadline cannot go past one (1) session.** All incomplete grades are subject to approval by the designated university authority.

Course Related Communication

Online courses are conducted in an accelerated format. Timely communication is very important. When receiving emails from your classmates or instructor, please respond as soon as you can.

Students are REQUIRED to use their Indiana Tech email account for all course related communication. The most direct, and effective, way to email your course instructor, and

classmates, is by using the Send Email function from the Blackboard course site. When you use the Send Email function, you automatically receive a carbon copy of the email you sent. In the event when you need to substantiate your claim that you did email your classmates or instructor, you can show that carbon copy to the person(s) who requested it.

Please note that Blackboard only permits you to send email, it does not provide you with the check email function. All of the emails your classmates and instructor sent to you will be delivered to your Indiana Tech email account. You are strongly encouraged to check your Indiana Tech email account regularly, preferably several times a week, to minimize the likelihood of miscommunication.

The University policy requires each online course instructor to respond to a student's email within 24 hours. Unless there is an extraneous situation that prevents the instructor from following this rule, you can expect to hear from the instructor within 24 hours. If you don't receive a reply within 24 hours, please do not hesitate to follow up with another email or forward the carbon copy of the email you sent to OnlineSupport@IndianaTech.edu with a note "Please help. It's been 24 hours and I have not heard from my instructor" and the University support staff will act on your behalf to contact your course instructor.