



Course Number & Title – CRJ250/POL250 Law & Public Policy

Department – Arts & Sciences

Contacting Your Professor – To contact your professor, select “Inbox” from the global navigation bar on the left-hand side of your screen. After selecting “Inbox,” click the pencil in the top right of your screen to begin your message. Type in your professor’s name and your message before sending.

Delivery – Online

Course Description – This course helps students learn about the legislative process as it pertains to social questions, especially relating to areas of the criminal justice system. (3 credits)

Course Prerequisite(s) – None

Student Learning Outcomes – As a result of this course the student will do the following:

1. Trace the process of how public concerns regarding criminal or anti-social behavior moves from a particular community through the legislative chamber.
2. Describe the processes by which legislatures develop bills and then pass them into law.
3. Articulate the various and competing interests that determine which bills are ultimately voted on and signed into law and which bills are relegated to non-passage.
4. Explore how faith and biblical worldview affect the process of legislation, especially at the local and state levels.

Course Requirements

1. *Textbook(s)* – Book information and a price comparison tool can be found at lbcbookstore.com.
 - a. Van Geest, Fred. *Introduction to Political Science: A Christian Perspective*. IVP Academic, 2017.
2. *Materials*
 - a. None
3. *Assignments*
 - a. **Current Events Presentation (10%)** – At the beginning of this course, your instructor will assign you a specific week in which you must find and present a news article about current events and share it with your classmates. Your news article should spark discussion about legislative and policy-related issues you’ve been discussing as a class. Further details will be provided in the course. (SLOs 1–4)

- b. **Current Events Discussion (15%)** – Each week, one or more of your classmates will be sharing a news article about current events. You will need to read the article and respond to your classmate’s presentation with questions, feedback, and analysis, drawing connections to your experiences and your knowledge of legislation and public policy. Further details will be provided in the course. (SLOs 1–4)
 - c. **Application Assignments (20%)** – While researching various aspects of federal, state, and local government and their interplay with the law and public policy, you will learn more about your political views, the political viewpoints that drive public policy, the process of how ideas become laws, and the impact you, as a Christian, can and should have on the legislative process on every level. (SLOs 2–3)
 - d. **Discussion Forums (20%)** – Discussions will take place throughout the course, typically in response to course materials or a set of questions provided by the instructor. These discussions are meant to build and enhance the learning community as we interact with each other as a class. As this is the case, discussion posts will not be accepted late. (SLOs 1–4)
 - e. **Synthesis Paper (20%)** – The culminating project of this course entails the writing of a synthesis paper, which requires your synthesizing of key sources. In this paper, you will identify connections between your sources, their connection to contemporary issues, and connection to your ministry context. You will then close with an evaluation and reaction section. Further details will be provided in the course. (SLOs 1–4)
4. *Exams and Quizzes*
- a. **Chapter Quizzes (15%)** – You will respond to course readings through brief reading quizzes that assess your ability to accurately and thoroughly recall key ideas present in the reading. Success on these quizzes requires careful attention to the main ideas of the text as well as how these ideas might be interconnected with our course learning goals. (SLOs 1-4)
5. *Extra Credit*
- a. None

Course Procedures

1. *Course Practices* – This online course uses readings, discussions, and other resources and activities to aid and measure the learning of its objectives. Work through the weeks in sequential order, completing the learning explorations and assignments. Please take these opportunities to interact with the instructor and fellow students about the course content, the learning experience, and the relationships between the material and one’s experience.
2. *Participation Policy* – Attendance and participation for this course take the form of completing all readings and assignments in a timely manner, contributing to discussions with charity, and actively collaborating with fellow students when required.
3. *Grading Policy, Rating Scale, Assignment Weights, etc.* –

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| <i>Excellent</i> | A | = | 94–100 | | B- | = | 80–83 | | D+ | = | 67–69 |
| | A- | = | 90–93 | | C+ | = | 77–79 | <i>Passing</i> | D | = | 64–66 |
| | B+ | = | 87–89 | <i>Average</i> | C | = | 74–76 | | D- | = | 60–63 |
| <i>Good</i> | B | = | 84–86 | | C- | = | 70–73 | <i>Failure</i> | F | = | 0–59 |

The weight of each assignment in relation to your final grade is allocated in this way:

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| Current Events Presentation | 10% |
| Current Events Discussion | 15% |
| Application Assignments | 20% |
| Discussion Forums | 20% |
| Synthesis Paper | 20% |
| Chapter Quizzes | 15% |

4. *Late Assignment Policy* – All assignments must be submitted by the due date. If assignments are submitted late, the possible points for the assignment will be reduced by 10% for each day that the assignment is late, up to one week.
5. *Make-up Policy* – All assignments are expected to be submitted on time, and grades will be determined by the Late Assignment Policy. Any exceptions are handled on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the professor.
6. *Ally Center Statement* – The Ally Center is LBC | Capital’s hub for academic services, resources, and accessibility. The academic services include disability services, writing services, and academic mentoring services and are available at no additional cost. To schedule an online or on-campus appointment, or for information regarding resources, locations, and hours of operation, visit lbc.edu/ally.
 - a. *Disability Services* – LBC | Capital is committed to creating an educational environment that is inclusive and accessible, in compliance with the guidelines of the ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Students choosing to disclose a disability must contact the Disability Services Office to discuss reasonable accommodations.

After speaking with the student and reviewing documentation, reasonable accommodations will be determined. It is in the student’s best interest to contact the Disability Services Office as early as possible prior to each new term since professors cannot provide accommodations without verification from the DSO and accommodations cannot be applied retroactively. More information and disclosure forms are available at lbc.edu/ally.

Please note: Students should register with the Disability Services Office each term for which accommodations are desired; accommodations from the prior semester are not automatically carried over.

The Disability Services Office can be reached at 717.560.8200 ext. 5383 or DSO@lbc.edu. The confidential fax line is 717.560.8261.

- b. *Writing Services* – The Writing Services is available to help any LBC | Capital student with writing assignments from any course. Students can schedule a one-on-one appointment with professional personnel or peer mentors at any point in the writing process. Writing Services include: assistance in brainstorming and outlining, development of ideas, critique of partial or full drafts, and/or review of formatting and citations. Appointments are available both on campus and online. A variety of writing resources are available at lbc.edu/ally.

Writing Services can be reached at 717.560.8200 ext. 5389 or by email at WritingCenter@lbc.edu.

- c. *Academic Mentoring Services* – Academic Mentoring Services (AMS) provides academic services at no cost to any current undergraduate LBC student. Professional personnel and peer mentors come alongside students to assist with major projects, time management, review of course content, test-taking skills, and study strategies. A variety of academic resources are available at lbc.edu/ally.

Students may make academic mentoring appointments by phone at 717.560.8200 ext. 5389 or by email at AMS@lbc.edu.

- d. *Contact Information*

| Location | Email | Phone |
|-----------------|--|------------------------|
| Lancaster | AllyCenter@lbc.edu | 717.569.7071 ext. 5389 |
| Philadelphia | AllyPhilly@lbc.edu | 215.329.5400 ext. 5753 |
| Washington D.C. | AllyDC@lbc.edu | 301.552.1400 ext. 5806 |
| Online | AllyCenter@lbc.edu | 717.569.7071 ext. 5389 |

7. *Academic Integrity Statement* – As followers of Christ, we need to be fully committed to honesty and truthfulness in all aspects of our lives, including in our academic lives. Therefore, academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in any way. Students are responsible to familiarize themselves with LBC | Capital’s Academic Integrity Policy and adhere to it. It is located in the Student Handbook.
8. *Statement on Self-Care* – College in general is a rich and fulfilling experience, full of opportunities for students. Along with this abundance of opportunities comes the challenge of maintaining a healthy life balance characterized by productive tension, a sensible schedule, and time for rest. Productive tension, at times, can be compounded by unexpected life challenges, causing unproductive levels of stress. This can lead to feelings of sadness, increased anxiety, and an overall lack of focus. For this reason, LBC | Capital strongly encourages students to care for themselves physically, emotionally, and spiritually during each academic term and throughout their journeys. Everyone benefits by support in times of struggle so students are also encouraged to seek help promptly by talking with professors, College staff or the Counseling & Career Center (C3) about life challenges as related to academic performance and to seek advice regarding available supports inside and outside of the LBC | Capital community.

Course Resources

1. *Technology Difficulties* – The Help Desk is available to help you with computer and technology problems and questions. Call 717.560.8200 ext. 4357 (HELP), email help@lbc.edu, or visit lbc.edu/helpdesk.
2. *Library Resources* – The library subscribes to numerous databases to provide access to scholarly and peer-reviewed journal articles, eBooks, newspapers, magazines, and much more. Online resources are accessible anywhere on campus or remotely 24/7 using your LBC username and password. To access these resources, go to lbc.edu/library. The library website also includes links for students to request research assistance:
 - CHAT NOW is for immediate assistance – usually from a non-LBC librarian.
 - ASK US is for information from an LBC librarian within 24 hours (Monday–Friday).
 - SCHEDULE A MEETING is for arranging an appointment with a librarian, either in-person or online.

3. *Program/Content Coordinator* – Arts & Sciences, artsci@lbc.edu
4. *Bibliography* – None
5. *Extra Resources* – None