



# COURSE SYLLABUS

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## Table of Contents

<b><u>Section 1: Course Information</u></b> .....	2
<u>Course Description</u> .....	2
<u>Course Overview</u> .....	3
<u>Course Workload</u> .....	3
<u>Course Materials</u> .....	3
<u>Course Topics</u> .....	4
<u>Intended Learning Outcomes</u> .....	4
<u>Late Work</u> .....	4
<u>Extra Credit</u> .....	4
<b><u>Section 2: Southeastern Policies</u></b> .....	5
<b><u>Section 3: Course Schedule</u></b> .....	6
<u>Aim, Learn, and Apply Descriptions</u> .....	6
<u>Course Schedule</u> .....	7-14
<b><u>Section 4: Assessments</u></b> .....	15-16
<b><u>Appendix A</u></b> .....	17-18

## SECTION 1: COURSE INFORMATION

**Format:** 8 weeks.

**Course ID:** PPOL 2413

**Course Title:** United States Government

**College:** BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

**Prerequisites:** None

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Instructor:** See the online course in MyFIRE for instructor contact information and availability.

### Course Description

This course is an examination of American politics: the constitutional basis, organization, and function of our government.

## Course Overview

It is truly my joy to be embarking on this 8 week journey of US Government and the intersection of the Constitution with our Criminal Justice system. I can't imagine a more important study in today's day and age than this. Regardless of your intended major, this course will be applicable to you, your family, and all people in general. My hope is that it will provide many conversation starters for dinner with your family as you discuss knowledge you are gaining about our Constitutional rights and protections and how each component of our government has a major affect on our daily life. Some of the topics that we will be diving into include ( but are not limited to): our current government structure, the intersection of government with the criminal justice system, landmark Supreme Court cases, the United States Constitution, various influences and politics of public opinion and the media on the major governmental and/or political institutions, as well as some of the agents and influences of public policies and public policy making at the national governmental levels and their effect at lower levels of government. I hope you will enjoy these topics as much as I do.

## Course Workload

Time spent on course assignments will vary by student depending on familiarity with course content, reading rate of speed, writing rate of speed, and other individual factors. Based on averages for most students, it is estimated that the course workload estimate for this course is **10.38 hours per week**.

## Course Materials

No textbooks required for purchase. Resources and free online textbook readings are provided in the course.

Required and optional textbooks are accessed and ordered through [SEU's bookstore](#).

**Disclaimer:** The resources utilized in this course provide information, thoughts and insights that should encourage critical thinking on the part of the student. Please note as well that as an Assembly of God institution, Southeastern University does not necessarily endorse specific personal, religious, philosophical, or political positions found in these resources.

## Course Topics

**The purpose of this course is to introduce, reinforce, and measure learning on the following topics:**

We will be learning about many topics of interest including our current government structure, the intersection of government with the criminal justice system, landmark Supreme Court cases, the United States Constitution, various influences and politics of public opinion and the media on the major governmental and/or political institutions, as well as some of the agents and influences of public policies and public policy making at the national governmental levels and their effect at lower levels of government.

## Intended Learning Outcomes

**As a result of reading, study, and assessments in this course, the student should be able to:**

1. Understand the various parts and components of the U.S. Constitution.
2. Comprehend how the founding principles influence the U.S. Constitution and American democracy.
3. Delineate the importance of constitutional court cases and their influence upon the formation and reformation of the Constitution, and the role that the federal judiciary has in public policy making.
4. Define and discuss the various differences and influences of the four major governmental and/or political institutions: Congress, presidency, judiciary, and bureaucracy.
5. Evaluate the agents and influences of public policies and public policy making at the national government level and their effect at lower levels of government.
6. Define the ways and means of citizen governance.

## Late Work

Late assignments will be accepted; however, a 5-point penalty will be

assessed each day the assignment is late. The assignment is considered late at 12:00 AM EST following the scheduled deadline.

### **Extra Credit**

Extra credit is offered at the discretion of the instructor.

## **SECTION 2: SOUTHEASTERN POLICIES**

### Academic Policies

View this link to see Southeastern's Policies regarding SEU's Mission and Vision Statements, Title IX Statement, Student Services, Class Participation, Official Email, MyFIRE Use, Technical Difficulties, Technical Support, Disability Statement, Academic Honesty, Course Evaluation, Official Withdrawal, Grading Scale, and Netiquette.


## SECTION 3: COURSE SCHEDULE

The **Course Schedule** provides a listing of your work in this course. The assessments are listed by Module and include the due dates and point values.


**Note:** Assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. EST on the due date, unless otherwise noted.

### AIM, LEARN, AND APPLY DESCRIPTIONS


#### Aim

 When you see the Aim icon, you will be introduced to topics and ideas that will be covered throughout this module. The AIM will also provide you with a glimpse into your learning objectives and an introduction to this module.

#### Learn

 When you see the Learn icon, all of your reading assignments will be listed and may include additional resources that your instructor is providing to help you complete the activities and assessments for the module.

#### Apply

 When you see the Apply Icon, it will be time to demonstrate your learning for the module. The items here are those in which you'll be graded and may include discussions, activities, assignments, quizzes, exams, and projects.



**MODULE 1**

**XX/XX/XX - XX/XX/XX**



- Identify the constitution how it structures the U.S. Government.
- Recognize the history and origins of the U.S. Constitution.
- Discuss why the constitution is called a "living document" and it's significance today.
- Identify and discuss three issues that YOU believe a Constitutional Amendment should be created to address.



- Saylor: American Government and Politics in the Information Age
  - Chapter 2: The Constitution and the Structure of Government
- OpenStax: American Government
  - Chapter 1: American Government and Civic Engagement
  - Chapter 2: The Constitution and Its Origins
- Video



- Meet the Class
  - Due: Saturday
  - Points: 20
- Module 1 Discussion Forum 1
  - Due: Saturday (initial post), Tuesday (response posts)
  - Points: 30
- Module 1 Discussion Forum 2

- Due: Saturday (initial post), Tuesday (response posts)
- Points: 30

**MODULE 2:**  
**XX/XX/XX - XX/XX/XX**



- Identify the roles and responsibilities of civil liberties.
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of civil rights.
- Discuss the impact of the Miranda v. Arizona case.
- Discuss a supreme court case that has greatly affected the rights of suspects in the criminal justice system.



- Saylor: American Government and Politics in the Information Age
  - Chapter 4: Civil Liberties
- OpenStax: American Government
  - Chapter 4: Civil Liberties
  - Chapter 5: Civil Rights
- Case: Miranda v. Arizona 384 U.S. 436 (1966)



- Module 2 Discussion Forum 1
  - Due: Saturday (initial post), Tuesday (response posts)
  - Points: 30
- Module 2 Discussion Forum 2
  - Due: Saturday (initial post), Tuesday (response posts)
  - Points: 30

**MODULE 3:**  
**XX/XX/XX - XX/XX/XX**



- Identify the roles and responsibilities of civil liberties.
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of civil rights.
- Analyze scenarios and determine how civil liberties and civil rights are impacted.
- Discuss findings from the scenarios by providing a video synopsis.



- Saylor: American Government and Politics in the Information Age
  - Chapter 4: Civil Liberties
- OpenStax: American Government
  - Chapter 4: Civil Liberties
  - Chapter 5: Civil Rights



- Module 3 Discussion Forum
  - Due: Saturday (initial post), Tuesday (response posts)
  - Points: 30
- Case Study Paper
  - Due: Tuesday
  - Points: 100

**MODULE 4:**  
**XX/XX/XX - XX/XX/XX**



- Identify the political culture and socialization structure of U.S. politics.
- Identify the roles of participation, voting, and social movements in U.S. government.
- Recognize the role of public opinion and media in U.S. government.
- Create a presentation which discusses the impact of media on the U.S. government.



- Saylor: American Government and Politics in the Information Age
  - Chapter 6: Political Culture and Socialization
  - Chapter 8: Participation, Voting, and Social Movements
- OpenStax: American Government
  - Chapter 6: Politics of Public Opinion
  - Chapter 9: Political Parties



- Presentation Forum: Negative Media Campaigning
  - Due: Saturday (presentation post), Tuesday (response posts)
  - Points: 100

**MODULE 5:**  
**XX/XX/XX - XX/XX/XX**



- Identify the role and responsibilities of the president and executive branch within the U.S. government.
- Recognize the bureaucracy of the U.S. government.
- Discuss the "Top 3" Chief Justices of the Supreme Court by explaining their legacies and the major cases they presided over.
- Discuss key questions regarding the roles and responsibilities of juries after viewing the film, 12 Angry Men.



- Saylor: American Government and Politics in the Information Age
  - Chapter 13: The Presidency
- OpenStax: American Government
  - Chapter 15: The Bureaucracy
- View: 12 Angry Men



- Module 5 Discussion Forum 1
  - Due: Saturday (initial post), Tuesday (response posts)
  - Points: 30
- Module 5 Discussion Forum 2
  - Due: Saturday (initial post), Tuesday (response posts)
  - Points: 30

**MODULE 6:**  
**XX/XX/XX - XX/XX/XX**



- Identify the role and responsibilities of the president and executive branch within the U.S. government.
- Recognize the bureaucracy of the U.S. government.
- Analyze the Amanda Knox case and determine if she was guilty of the accused crime, and how the trial was handled.
- Discuss your Amanda Knox case research findings by providing a brief video synopsis.



- Saylor: American Government and Politics in the Information Age
  - Chapter 13: The Presidency
- OpenStax: American Government
  - Chapter 15: The Bureaucracy



- Module 6 Discussion Forum
  - Due: Saturday (initial post), Tuesday (response posts)
  - Points: 30
- Final Paper
  - Due: Tuesday
  - Points: 100

**MODULE 7:**  
**XX/XX/XX - XX/XX/XX**



- Identify the roles and responsibilities of the court system in U.S. government.
- Identify the role and responsibilities of state and local government.
- Discuss the good or bad of bureaucracies within the criminal justice system.



- Saylor: American Government and Politics in the Information Age
  - Chapter 15: The Courts
- OpenStax: American Government
  - Chapter 14: State and Local Government



- Module 7 Discussion Forum
  - Due: Saturday (initial post), Tuesday (response posts)
  - Points: 30



**MODULE 8:**  
**XX/XX/XX - XX/XX/XX**



- Identify the policy making process, and the roles of domestic policies.
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of foreign and national security policies.
- Discuss the appropriateness of trying non-citizens for acts carried out against the
- U.S. government at home or abroad.
- Reflect on your experience upon completion of the course.



- Saylor: American Government and Politics in the Information Age
  - Chapter 16: Policymaking and Domestic Policies
  - Chapter 17: Foreign and National Security Policies



- Module 8 Discussion Forum 1
  - Due: Saturday (initial post), Tuesday (response posts)
  - Points: 30
- Module 8 Discussion Forum 2
  - Due: Saturday (initial post), Tuesday (response posts)
  - Points: 30

## **SECTION 4: ASSESSMENTS**

### **Discussion Forums**

#### **Description**

##### Initial Response:

- The initial post shall be no less than 200 words.
- The initial post shall include the word count at the end of the initial discussion response.
- A 5-point penalty will be assessed if the word count is not included in the initial discussion response.

##### Follow-Up Discussion Responses:

- Students are required to submit at least two follow-up responses to another student's initial discussion post.
- Responses to the instructor will count towards one of your follow-up comments.
- The follow-up responses shall be no less than 100 words.
- The follow-up responses shall include the word count at the end of each follow-up responses.
- A 5-point penalty will be assessed if the word count is not included in each of the follow-up discussion responses.

##### Discussion Question Response Deadline:

##### **Initial Response Deadline:**

- Saturday at 11:59 PM EST (unless otherwise posted)

##### **Follow-Up Responses Criteria and Deadline:**

- Students are required to submit at least two follow-up responses to another student's initial discussion post.
- Students are required to submit their initial post and two follow-up responses on separate days. As such, students must log into MyFire and submit discussion responses on at least three separate days during the week.
- Tuesday at 11:59 EST

**Total Possible Points**

350

**Grade Weight**

30%

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**Case Study Paper****Description**

This paper is used to evaluate your ability to take a few real-life scenarios or cases and relate them to the information you have learned in this over the past two weeks. You will need to research the scenarios in question and determine how they relate to the civil liberties and rights we have been studying these two weeks. Sources such as Wikipedia or blogs are not considered credible or reliable research materials.

The specific scenarios are provided within the assignment.

**Total Possible Points**

100

**Grade Weight**

25%

## SECTION 4: ASSESSMENTS

### Presentation: Negative Media Campaigning

#### Description

#### Prompt

After reviewing the module's assigned readings, take a fresh, new look at the media as it relates to the viewpoint society has on the criminal justice system in America. Find a minimum of three articles that support your position as to whether the media does or does not strongly influence the public's opinion in a negative way on the criminal justice system (law enforcement officers, judicial members, and prosecutorial agency). Summarize your articles in an interesting way (creativity would receive lots of praise) and then state your opinion on the effect of media or public opinion on an individual's perspective of the criminal justice system. Finally, propose a solution to any problem that may be caused by the media OR defend how there are no solutions needed because there are no problems.

#### Specific Requirements

- A minimum of seven minutes for a video submission OR 10 PowerPoint visual slides is required to sufficiently address material.
- A minimum of three sources cited is required.

Feel free to use Screencast-O-Matic to record your presentation. [Screencast-O-Matic](#) is a free app/tool that is available for recording your screencast. [This video](#) provides a brief introduction/guide to using Screencast-O-Matic's free screen recorder.

#### Total Possible Points

100

#### Grade Weight

20%

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### Final Paper

#### Description

This final paper is used to evaluate your ability to take a real-life scenario or case and relate it to the information you have learned in this course. You will need to research the scenario in question and determine how it relates to legal aspects of criminal justice and law that we have been studying throughout this course. Sources such as Wikipedia or blogs are not considered credible or reliable research materials.

Your paper is to be a minimum of 1,000 words. It is required to have a minimum of three outside references or sources documented and cited in APA style correctly.

The full prompt and instructions are provided within the assignment.

**Total Possible Points**

100

**Grade Weight**

25%