



Course Syllabus

Course Title: Intro to Government

Term and Year:

Course and Section Number: POLS 113

Time and Place: Online - Fully Asynchronous

Number of Credit Hours: 3

Instructor:

Office Location/Hours:

Office Phone:

Email:

Course Description: An examination of the origins and operations of the national political machinery; the development, functions, and philosophy of political parties; the problems and tasks of leading governmental agencies.

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Grasp and describe the development and structure of the United States Constitution.
2. Explain American federalism.
3. Describe the American political process.
4. Summarize the relationship between the three branches of the federal government.
5. Explain the rights and liberties guaranteed by the United States Constitution.

Prerequisites: None

Required Text: [American Government 3E by Glen Krutz](#) and additional OER (Open Educational Resources) materials at no cost to learners. All required reading is available in the online classroom.

References: [Trine University APA format basics](#), [Purdue OWL APA Formatting Guide](#)

Other Materials: (Optional) [American Government 3E - Open Stax \(Audiobook\)](#)

Attendance/Participation:

Students are expected to log in to their courses regularly throughout the week to receive instruction, materials, and updates from the instructor. It is the student's responsibility to check in and submit assignments, complete discussion board postings, and finish quizzes and exams by the due dates. Students who do not participate in these activities **each week** will be counted absent. Instructors are required to submit attendance the Monday following each week of class. Absences are reported to the Financial Aid Department and may result in the loss of a financial aid refund due to lack of attendance. A student who is reported absent for a total of three weeks will be dropped from the course.

Completing the following actions will **not count** as present for this class:

- Logging into Moodle

- Reviewing Course Materials
- Any email or phone contact with the instructor
- Submitting work early. One assignment must be submitted each week to be counted as present

Grading/Evaluation:

Grading will be based on discussion forum entries, weekly assignments, one midterm, and one final.

Discussion Forums and Responses (20 points)	160 points
Written Assignment or Alternative Assignment (50 points)	400 points
Midterm (100 points)	100 points
Final (100 points)	100 points
Total Points	760 points

Final grades follow the Trine University undergraduate grading system.

Grade	Grade%
A	90-100
B+	85-89
B	80-84
C+	77-79
C	70-76
D+	67-69
D	60-66
F	0-59

Late Policy:

All assignments are due on time and not accepted late unless arrangements have been made prior to the assignment's due date. Any assignment turned in late will incur a 10% grade deduction for the first 1-5 days late. If 6 or more days late, the professor reserves the right to make further deductions or refuse the assignment.

Academic Misconduct:

The University prohibits all forms of academic misconduct. Academic misconduct refers to dishonesty in examinations (cheating), presenting the ideas or the writing of someone else as one's own (plagiarism) or knowingly furnishing false information to the University by forgery, alteration, or misuse of University documents, records, or identification. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following examples: permitting another student to plagiarize or cheat from one's own work, submitting an academic exercise (written work, printing, design, computer program) that has been prepared totally or in part by another, acquiring improper knowledge of the contents of an exam, using unauthorized material during an exam, submitting the same paper in two different courses without knowledge and consent of professors, or submitting a forged grade change slip or computer tampering. The faculty member has the authority to grant a failing grade in cases of academic misconduct as well as referring the case to Student Life.

Plagiarism:

You are expected to submit your own work and to identify any portion of work that has been borrowed from others in any form. An ignorant act of plagiarism on final versions and minor projects, such as attributing or citing inadequately, will be considered a failure to master an essential course skill and will result in an F for that assignment. A deliberate act of plagiarism, such as having someone else do your work, or submitting someone else's work as your own (e.g., from the Internet, fraternity file, etc.,

including homework and in-class exercises), will at least result in an F for that assignment and could result in an F for the course.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is prohibited: All work submitted by students in this course must be generated by the student. Students may not have another person or entity contribute to an assignment for them, which includes using AI. Students may not incorporate any part of an AI-generated response in an assignment, use AI to formulate arguments, use AI to generate ideas for an assignment, or submit work to an AI platform for improvement. Using an AI tool to generate content may qualify as academic misconduct in this course.

OR

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is allowed: Students may use AI tools on instructor-identified assignments in this course. To adhere to our scholarly values, students must cite any AI-generated material that informed their work. Using an AI tool without proper attribution may qualify as academic misconduct in this course. It is the responsibility of the student to verify the accuracy, reliability, and ethical implications of AI-generated content.

Student Resources:

Please visit the Student Resources tab on the course to find resources including technical support, tutoring, library resources, accommodations, accessibility, technology requirements, counseling services, and many other resources.

Course Calendar/Schedule:

Please see "Course Schedule" in the course information tab.

Course Mapping:

Week One: American and Civic Engagement (LO1,3)	
Learning Activities and Materials	Assessments
Read: Chapter 1: American Government 3E (LO1)(LO3) Read: Pluralism Lets Us Live Together with Profound Differences (LO1)(LO3) Watch: 18-year-old makes history as youngest Black Mayor in the US (LO3) [6:54]	Written Discussion: Are all Americans equally able to engage in government? (LO3) Written Assignment: How is civic engagement necessary for democracy to function? (LO)(LO3) Alternative to Written Assignment: Interview a local political official. (LO1)(LO3)
Week Two: Origins of Constitution (LO1,2,4,5)	
Learning Activities and Materials	Assessments
Week Two Part A Read: Chapter 2 The Constitution- American Government (LO1)(LO4)(LO5) Watch: The Great Compromise (LO1) [3:01] Read: From George Washington to Benjamin Harrison, 24 September 1787 (LO1)(LO4)(LO5)	Week Two Parts A & B Video Discussion Part A Define and evaluate the core values of the Great Compromise and their importance to the ratification of the Constitution. (LO1)(LO4)(LO5) Video Debate Series Part B Federalism vs. State Authority

<p>Week Two Part B</p> <p>Read: Chapter 3 Federalism -American Government 3E (LO1)(LO2)(LO5)</p> <p>Read: Federalist Papers General Introduction (LO1)(LO2)(LO5)</p> <p>Read: Anti-Federalist Opposition to the Constitution (LO1)(LO2)(LO5)</p> <p>Watch: Federal vs. State Laws (LO1)(LO2)(LO5) [6:45]</p>	<p>(LO1)(LO2)(LO5)</p> <p>Written or digital storytelling Assignment (Choose one) Part A Written Assignment: Analyze how the Constitution and Bill of Rights protect Americans' life, liberty, and property. (LO1)(LO4)(LO5) Digital Storytelling Presentation: Create a story about the development of the Constitution. (LO1)(LO4)(LO5)</p> <p>Written or Video Assignment (Choose One) Part B Written Assignment: What are the upcoming challenges of federalism in the next decade? (LO1)(LO2)(LO5) Video Assignment: Create a video about the history of United States federalism. (LO1)(LO2)(LO5)</p>
Week Three: Bill of Rights (LO5)	
<p>Learning Activities and Materials</p> <p>Read: Chapter 4 Civil Liberties- American Government 3E (LO5) Chapter 5 Civil Rights- American Government 3E (LO5)</p> <p>Watch: Civicate- Civil Liberties and Civil Rights (LO5) [5:28]</p>	<p>Assessments</p> <p>Video Debate Series When can the U.S. government limit civil liberties? (LO5)</p> <p>Written Reflection: What is the difference between civil liberties and civil rights? (LO5)</p> <p>Midterm: Complete essay question covering weeks 1-3 (LO1)(LO2)(LO3)(LO4)(LO5)</p>
Week Four: Branches of Government: Legislative (LO3,4)	
<p>Learning Activities and Materials</p> <p>Read: Chapter 11 Congress- American Government 3E (LO3)(LO4)</p> <p>Read: U.S. Constitution Article I Sections 1-10 (LO3)(LO4)</p> <p>Read: Impeachment (LO3)(LO4)</p> <p>Watch: What is the Legislative Branch of the U.S. Government? (LO3)(LO4) [4:28]</p>	<p>Assessments</p> <p>Teach-Back Discussion Series- Video or Written The Legislative Branch (LO3)(LO4)</p> <p>Written Assignment or PowerPoint Presentation: How a bill becomes a law. (LO3)(LO4)</p>
Week Five: Branches of Government: Executive & Judicial (LO3,4)	
<p>Learning Activities and Materials</p>	<p>Assessments</p>

<p>Week Five Part A</p> <p>Read: Chapter 12 The Presidency- American Government (LO3)(LO4)</p> <p>Read: U.S. Constitution Article II Sections 1- 4 (LO3)(LO4)</p> <p>Watch: Power to the President (LO3)(LO4) [2:13]</p> <p>Read: What is the Electoral College? (LO3)(LO4)</p> <p>Watch: Elections 101: How does the electoral college work? (LO3)(LO4) [4:23]</p> <p>Week Two Part B</p> <p>Read: Chapter 13 The Courts- American Government 3E (LO3)(LO4)</p> <p>Read: U.S. Constitution Article III Sections 1-3 (LO3)(LO4)</p> <p>Read: Marbury v. Madison Case Summary: What You Need to Know (LO3)(LO4)</p> <p>Watch: What is the Judicial Branch of the U.S. Government? (LO3)(LO4) [3:09]</p> <p>Watch: Court Shorts: Separations of Powers (LO3)(LO4) [5:10]</p>	<p>Week Five Parts A & B</p> <p>Teach-Back Discussion Series- Video or Written Part A The Executive Branch (LO3)(LO4)</p> <p>Written Assignment or PowerPoint Presentation Part A Should the Electoral College be changed? (LO3)(LO4)</p> <p>Teach-Back Discussion Series- Video or Written Part B The Judicial Branch (LO3)(LO4)</p> <p>Written Assignment or PowerPoint Presentation Part B What is the purpose of the Branches of Government? (LO3)(LO4)</p>
<p>Week Six: Voting, Elections, and Media (LO3,5)</p>	
<p>Learning Activities and Materials</p>	<p>Assessments</p>
<p>Read: The Founders and the Vote (LO3)(LO5) Voting Rights for African Americans (LO3)(LO5) Voting Rights for Women (LO3)(LO5) Voting Rights for Native Americans (LO3)(LO5) Who Can Vote Today? (LO3)(LO5) Voting Rights Act (1965) (LO3)(LO5)</p> <p>Watch: Why there's a wave of new voting laws and how they could affect voters in future elections (LO3)(LO5) [2:15]</p> <p>Read: Chapter 8 The Media- American Government 3E (LO3)(LO5)</p> <p>Watch: Should Social Media platforms censor hate speech? (LO3)(LO5) [6:48]</p>	<p>Final Written Discussion: How is voting important to ensure your voting rights? (LO3)(LO5)</p> <p>Written Assignment or Video Presentation: Should free speech be censored? (LO5)</p> <p>Final: Essay response covering Weeks 1-6 of this course (LO1)(LO2)(LO3)(LO4)(LO5)</p>

Course References

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