

American Government (Political Science 2051-5)
Dr. William Blair
Office Hours: 2:00 – 3:00 Tuesday/Thursday or by appointment

Fall 2019
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Introduction:

This course is designed to provide a general overview of foundations, institutions, politics and public policy of the United States. While we will deal with the historical perspectives in these areas, we will primarily focus on contemporary experiences and subjects where possible. This will provide you with the latest perspectives on our American government and how you can operate within the current system. We will examine the impact of our governmental choice on our society and culture, and investigate the future prospects for our politics and government.

As a General Education Course, POLI 2051 is designed to address the following General Education outcomes:

Integrated learning allows students to make simple connections among ideas and experiences and across disciplines and perspectives. The LSU Integrative Learning Core (ILC) curriculum is designed to develop student abilities to transfer their learning to new situations, and demonstrate a sense of self as a learner. A fundamental goal of the ILC is to foster students' practical and intellectual capacities associated with integrative learning in preparation for high competence and functionality in their post-baccalaureate careers. This course fulfills the BOR Area of *Social/Behavioral Sciences* and provides students experience with the ILC proficiency of *Inquiry and Analysis*.

Grading:

Exams: There will be three exams. They will **NOT** be cumulative.
There will be a “make up” policy for missed exams if a valid and verifiable reason is provided.

Each exam will cover the assigned chapter readings and class lecture content

Final Exam Date: Thursday, December 12: 12:30 – 2:30

Quizzes: There will be chapter quizzes on the assigned readings.

Participation: This includes good attendance and participation.
There will be a “make up” policy for missed classes if a valid and verifiable reason is provided.

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| Exams: | 75% |
| Quizzes: | 15% |
| Participation: | 10% |

Required Reading:

Kernell, Jacobson, Kousser, and Vavreck, *The Logic of American Politics, 9th edition*, SAGE Publishing, 2019

Course Schedule:
(Always subject to change)

| Week | Date | Topic | Read For Class! |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Week 1 | August 27 August 30 | Introduction Some Basic Concepts! | |
| Week 2 | September 3 September 5 | The Constitution The Constitution | Chapter 2 Chapter 2 |
| Week 3 | September 10 September 12 | Federalism Federalism | Chapter 3 Chapter 3 |
| Week 4 | September 17 September 19 | Civil Rights Civil Rights | Chapter 4 Chapter 4 |
| Week 5 | September 24 September 26 | Civil Liberties Civil Liberties | Chapter 5 Chapter 5 |
| Week 6 | October 1 October 3 | Congress Exam #1 | Chapter 6 |
| Week 7 | October 8 October 10 | Congress Fall Holiday | Chapter 6 |
| Week 8 | October 15 October 17 | The Presidency The Presidency | Chapter 7 Chapter 7 |
| Week 9 | October 22 October 24 | The Bureaucracy The Bureaucracy | Chapter 8 Chapter 8 |
| Week 10 | October 29 October 31 | The Federal Judiciary The Federal Judiciary | Chapter 9 Chapter 9 |
| Week 11 | November 5 November 7 | Public Opinion Exam #2 | Chapter 10 |
| Week 12 | November 12 November 14 | Voting, Campaigns & Elections Voting, Campaigns & Elections | Chapter 11 Chapter 11 |
| Week 13 | November 19 November 21 | Political Parties Interest Groups | Chapter 12 Chapter 13 |
| Week 14 | November 26 November 28 | Public Policies Thanksgiving Holiday | |
| Week 15 | December 3 December 5 | Public Policies Public Policies | |

**Final Exam/Exam #3: Thursday, December 12
12:30 - 2:30pm**