

## POLITICAL SCIENCE 101: AMERICAN POLITICS

SPRING 2019

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Mon./Wed. 11:00am-12:00pm

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Consider the decisions that impact your life as a citizen of the United States – war, education, roads, food safety, healthcare, taxes. How are these decisions made and whose views do they reflect? *Politics are all around you but what you see isn't always what matters and what matters isn't always what you see.* By teaching you to see politics through the lens of political science this course aims to illuminate those aspects that are often most hidden and how they connect to form our political system:

Learning how these pieces work and fit together will give a more complete picture of why our political system functions the way it does.

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### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will identify important examples and explain how ...

- a plurality of ideas and interests leads to competing goals.
  - political preferences are expressed in many forms.
  - laws and rights guide and restrict government.
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### GRADES

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points</u>
Attendance	100
Quizzes	150 / 13
Unit Examinations	450 / 3
<b>Total</b>	700

<b>A</b>	700 - 651	<b>C+</b>	560 - 541
<b>A-</b>	650 - 631	<b>C</b>	540 - 511
<b>B+</b>	630 - 611	<b>C-</b>	510 - 491
<b>B</b>	610 - 581	<b>D+</b>	490 - 456
<b>B-</b>	580 - 561	<b>D</b>	455 - 421
		<b>F</b>	420 - 0

**TEXT RENTAL.** Lowi, Ginsberg et al. *American Government: Power and Purpose, 15<sup>th</sup> Essentials Edition.* W.W. Norton, 2019.

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WEEK	DATE	TOPICS	ASSIGNMENTS
<b>UNIT 1: FOUNDATIONS</b>			
1	01.23	Principles	<b>Text:</b> Ch. 1 <i>Quiz</i>
2	01.28-01.30	Constitution	<b>Text:</b> Ch. 2 <i>Quiz</i>
3	02.04-02.06	Federalism	<b>Text:</b> Ch. 3 <i>Quiz</i>
4	02.11-02.13	Civil Liberties and Civil Rights	<b>Text:</b> Ch. 4 (p. 104-121) and Ch. 5 (p. 148-170) <i>Quiz</i>
5	02.18-02.20	<b>Unit 1 Exam</b>	
<b>UNIT 2: INSTITUTIONS</b>			
6	02.25-02.27	Congress	<b>Text:</b> Ch. 6 <i>Quiz</i>
7	03.04-03.06	Presidency	<b>Text:</b> Ch. 7 <i>Quiz</i>
8	03.11-03.13	Executive	<b>Text:</b> Ch. 8 <i>Quiz</i>
9	03.25-03.27	Federal Courts	<b>Text:</b> Ch. 9 <i>Quiz</i>
10	04.01-04.03	<b>Unit 2 Exam</b>	
<b>UNIT 3: DEMOCRATIC POLITICS</b>			
11	04.08-04.10	Public Opinion	<b>Text:</b> Ch. 10 <i>Quiz</i>
12	04.15-04.17	Elections	<b>Text:</b> Ch. 11 <i>Quiz</i>
13	04.22-04.24	Political Parties	<b>Text:</b> Ch. 12 <i>Quiz</i>
14	04.29-05.01	Groups and Interests	<b>Text:</b> Ch. 13 <i>Quiz</i>
15	05.06-05.08	The Media	<b>Text:</b> Ch. 14 <i>Quiz</i>
16	05.13-05.16	<b>Unit 3 Exam</b>	Section 2 – Monday, May 13 from 12:30pm-2:30pm Section 3 – Thursday, May 16 from 8:00am-10:00am

#### UWSP POLICIES

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:** All UWSP policies regarding academic misconduct (e.g., plagiarism) are defined in [Chapter 14](#) of *UWSP Community Bill of Rights and Responsibilities*. Violations may result in a failing grade for the course or disciplinary sanctions by the University.

**EQUAL ACCESS:** If you have a challenge requiring classroom accommodation, please contact UWSP [Disability Services Office](#) with your documentation as early as possible in the semester. They will notify me confidentially of the accommodations.