

POLI 101 American Politics

Spring 2024

Monday, Wednesday 2-3:15pm
SCI B338

Prof. John C. Blakeman

Office: SCI D337

Office Hours: T, Th, 10am-12 noon; and by appointment.

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This course is a general introduction to American politics and government. We will focus on the Constitution, political institutions, political behavior (i.e. voting), and public policy. Students will gain a basic understanding of how our political system is structured, how our basic institutions work, and some of the outputs (policies) created by institutions and political actors.

Texts: Introduction to American Government, (BVT Publishing 2022), 11th edition. Charles Turner, et al. Textrental available from UWSP Bookstore.

Grading:

Weekly reading quizzes: 25%

Paper #1: 35%

Final Exam Paper: 25%

Attendance/Participation: 15%

Grade Scale: Your course grade will be based on a straight percentage scale. An A will be 93 or above, A- 90-92.99, B+ 87-89.99, B 83-86.99, B- 80-82.99, C+ 77-79.99, C 73-76.99, C- 70-72.99, D+ 67-69.99, D 60-66.99, F 59.99 and below.

Statement on Academic Integrity: I take very seriously the issue of academic integrity—the idea that academic honesty is a vital part of higher education. For the UWSP policy on academic integrity—what it is, and violations of it—please review the UWSP Dean of Students information here: <https://www3.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx>

All written work in this course is scanned by Turnitin for plagiarism and the use of artificial intelligence (AI). Plagiarism or the use of AI on any assignment will result in a 0 on that assignment. The course policy is posted in Canvas and you should review it.

Student Privacy: Federal law protects your privacy as a college student, which means your academic records generally cannot be released without your permission. Therefore, I cannot discuss your grades and classroom performance with your roommate, friends, and even parents.

Communication: I often send out class announcements via e-mail, so you should check your UWSP e-mail account frequently to make sure you don't miss something.

Assignment Submissions

All graded assignments, from the weekly quizzes to paper, are submitted through Canvas. Assignments are NOT accepted by e-mail.

Assignment Due Dates

Assignment due dates are listed in Canvas. Be sure to double check them.

Reading Quizzes

Your four lowest quiz scores will be dropped and will NOT count towards your final quiz grade for the course. Quizzes open on Mondays at 12am and close Fridays at 11:59pm. Grace period extends to Saturday at 11:59pm, with 10% reduction in the quiz grade. Quizzes will not be reopened after the 24hr grace period. The quiz schedule is at the end of this syllabus AND in Canvas.

Late Assignments

There is a 24 hour grace period during which you may submit a late assignment. However, your submission will be penalized 10% of the grade for being late. After the 24 hour grace period, no late assignments will be accepted *unless* there are health or other excuses *that are verified by an official university excuse*. Do NOT show me doctor's notes or other documentation. I will only accept verification from the UWSP Dean of Students or similar university office.

Paper Assignments

There are two writing assignments in this class. One is a paper on an assigned topic, and the other is a written final exam. There are grading rubrics for both assignments in Canvas.

Paper #1

Opens mid-March; Due no later than April 19th, 11:59pm. You will respond to one of the prompts in Canvas. Minimum word count: 1200 words (approx.. 4-6 pages). You will upload your paper to Canvas in a doc., docx., or pdf format.

Final Exam Essays

Opens May 10; due no later than May 15, 11:59pm. You will answer two essay questions directly in Canvas. This is a timed exam, and you will have up to 3 hours in which to complete it. It will be open-book and open-notes, and you can take the exam at any time while it is open.

Course Topics and Readings

January 22, 24	Intro January 22, 24 Textbook: Introduction, xxvii-xxvvi Start reading Chapter 1
January 29, 31	The Constitution Textbook: Chapter 1
February 5, 7	Federalism Textbook: Chapter 2
February 12, 14	Civil Liberties; First Amendment Textbook: Chapter 3; pages 63-73 UW System Free Speech Survey; Canvas
February 19, 21	Political Ideologies Textbook: Chapter 4
February 26, 28	Public Opinion, Interest Groups, Parties Textbook: Chapter 5, pages 131-142; 149-156 Chapter 7.

March 4, 6	As above
March 11, 13	Campaigns and Elections Textbook: Chapter 8
Spring Break	March 18, 20
March 25, 27	Congress and Presidency Textbook: Chapter 9, Congress: pages 275-284; 297-299 Textbook: Chapter 10, President: pages 307-320; 324-336
April 1, 3	As above
April 8, 10	Courts Textbook, Chapter 12: pages 379-394
April 15, 17	Bureaucracy Textbook, Chapter 11: pages: 347-355; 362-370
April 22, 24	Government and Public Policy Textbook, Chapter 13: pages 412-422
April 29, May 1	Government and Economic Policy Textbook, Chapter 14
May 6, 8	Foreign Policy Textbook: Chapter 16

**POLI 101 Spring 2024
Reading Quiz Schedule
NOTE: Schedule may be amended**

**[POLI 101 Chapter 1 The Constitution Reading Quiz](#)
Not available until Jan 29 at 12:00am Jan 29 at 12am**

Due Feb 2 at 11:59pm Feb 2 at 11:59pm

POLI 101 Chapter 2 Federalism Reading Quiz

Not available until Feb 5 at 12:00am Feb 5 at 12am

Due Feb 9 at 11:59pm Feb 9 at 11:59pm

POLI 101 Chapter 3 Civil Liberties and Civil Rights Reading Quiz

Not available until Feb 12 at 12:00am Feb 12 at 12am

Due Feb 16 at 11:59pm Feb 16 at 11:59pm

POLI 101 Chapter 4 Political Ideologies Reading Quiz

Not available until Feb 19 at 12:00am Feb 19 at 12am

Due Feb 23 at 11:59pm Feb 23 at 11:59pm

POLI 101 Chapter 5 Public Opinion Reading Quiz

Not available until Feb 26 at 12:00am Feb 26 at 12am

Due Mar 1 at 11:59pm Mar 1 at 11:59pm

POLI 101 Chapter 7 Interest Groups and Parties Reading Quiz

Not available until Mar 4 at 12:00am Mar 4 at 12am

Due Mar 8 at 11:59pm Mar 8 at 11:59pm

POLI 101 Chapter 8 Campaigns and Elections

Not available until Mar 11 at 12:00am Mar 11 at 12am

Due Mar 15 at 11:59pm Mar 15 at 11:59pm

POLI 101 Chapter 9 Congress Reading Quiz

Not available until Mar 25 at 12:00am Mar 25 at 12am

Due Mar 29 at 11:59pm Mar 29 at 11:59pm

POLI 101 Chapter 10 Reading Quiz Presidency

Not available until Apr 1 at 12:00am Apr 1 at 12am

Due Apr 5 at 11:59pm Apr 5 at 11:59pm

POLI 101 Chapter 12 Supreme Court and Judiciary Reading Quiz

Not available until Apr 8 at 12:00am Apr 8 at 12am

Due Apr 12 at 11:59pm Apr 12 at 11:59pm

POLI 101 Chapter 11 Bureaucracy Reading Quiz

Not available until Apr 15 at 12:00am Apr 15 at 12am

Due Apr 19 at 11:59pm Apr 19 at 11:59pm

POLI 101 Chapter 13 Government and Public Policy Reading Quiz

Not available until Apr 22 at 12:00am Apr 22 at 12am

Due Apr 26 at 11:59pm Apr 26 at 11:59pm

POLI 101 Chapter 14 Public Policy and Economics Reading Quiz

Not available until Apr 29 at 12:00am Apr 29 at 12am

Due May 3 at 11:59pm May 3 at 11:59pm

POLI 101 Chapter 16 Foreign Policy Reading Quiz

Not available until May 6 at 12:00am May 6 at 12am

Due May 10 at 11:59pm May 10 at 11:59pm