Course Syllabus

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Political Science 101: American Politics

Course Description: Survey of American politics and government.

Credits: 3

GEP: Social Science; US Diversity

Instructor Information

Instructor: Brad Martins

Office: D333 Science Building

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00pm-3:00pm

E-mail: bmapesma@uwsp.edu (mailto:bmapesma@uwsp.edu)

Expected Instructor Response Times

For simple issues (e.g., assignment clarifications, due dates, scheduling meetings), I will attempt to respond to student emails within one business day. During busy parts of the semester such as around midterm exams or during registration it may take me slightly longer. If you have a question that requires a lengthy answer, I may request that you speak with me (in-person or electronically). You are always welcome to ask questions at the beginning or end of class periods as well.

Textbook & Course Materials

Required Text: Available through UWSP Text Rental.

Lowi, Benjamin, et al. 2019. *American Government: Power and Purpose, 15th ed*. W.W. Norton

ISBN: 978-0-39365-5537

Other Materials: All other materials will be provided through Canvas.

Course Learning Outcomes

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.

GEP - Social Science (SS) Learning Outcomes
1. Explain or apply major concepts, methods, or theories used in the social sciences to investigate, analyze, or predict human behavior.
2. Examine and explain how social, cultural, or political institutions influence individuals or groups.
GEP - US Diversity (USD) Learning Outcomes
1. Describe how people or institutions in the United States have constructed diverse identities and cultures based on ability, ethnicity, gender, language, nationality, race, religion, sexuality, socio-economic status, etc.
2. Explain how individuals or groups in the United States have responded to the experience of discrimination and inequality.
3. Demonstrate understanding of and empathetic insight about diverse cultural perspectives in the United States.

Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Module
1	09.06 - 09.10	Welcome
2	09.13 - 09.17	Principles of Politics
3	09.20 - 09.24	Founding and Constitution
4	09.27 - 10.01	Federalism and Separation of Powers
5	10.04 - 10.08	Civil Liberties
6	10.11 - 10.15	Civil Rights
7	10.18 - 10.22	Exam - Unit 1
8	10.25 - 10.29	Congress

9	11.01 - 11.05	The Presidency
10	11.08 - 11.12	The Federal Courts
11	11.15 - 11.19	Exam - Unit 2
12	11.22 - 11.24	Public Opinion
13	11.29 - 12.03	Elections
14	12.06 - 12.10	Political Parties
15	12.13 @ 12:30-2:30	Exam - Unit 3

Grading Policy

Assignment	Quantity	Points per Assignment	Subtotal
Quizzes	12	20	240
Unit Exams	3	150	450
Participation	1	10	10
		Total	700

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

Student Expectations

In this course you will be expected to complete the following types of tasks.

- communicate via email
- complete basic internet searches
- download and upload documents to the LMS (Canvas)
- read documents online
- view online videos

- participate in in-person or online discussions
- complete quizzes/tests online
- upload documents to Canvas to submit an assignment

Complete Assignments

All graded assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through Canvas unless otherwise instructed. Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from instructor *before the due date*. Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment except under extreme circumstances.

All discussion assignments must be completed by the assignment due date and time. Late or missing discussion assignments will affect the student's grade.

Late Work Policy

Pay close attention to deadlines—there will be no make-up assignments or late work accepted without a serious and compelling reason and instructor approval.

Technology

Protecting your Data and Privacy

UW-System approved tools meet security, privacy, and data protection standards. For a list of approved tools, visit this website. **https://www.wisconsin.edu/dle/external-application-integration-requests/ (https://www.wisconsin.edu/dle/external-application-integration-requests/)**

Tools not listed on the website linked above may not meet security, privacy, and data protection standards. If you have questions about tools, contact the UWSP IT Service Desk at 715-346-4357.

Here are steps you can take to protect your data and privacy.

- Use different usernames and passwords for each service you use.
- Do not use your UWSP username and password for any other services.
- Use secure versions of websites whenever possible (HTTPS instead of HTTP).
- Have updated antivirus software installed on your devices.

Course Technology Requirements

- View this website to see **minimum recommended computer and internet configurations for Canvas   (https://community.canvasIms.com/docs/DOC-10721)** .

UWSP Technology Support

Visit with a **Student Technology Tutor   (https://www.uwsp.edu/tlc/Pages/techTutoring.aspx)**

Seek assistance from the **IT Service Desk (https://www.uwsp.edu/infotech/Pages/ServiceDesk/default.aspx)** (Formerly HELP Desk)

- IT Service Desk Phone: 715-346-4357 (HELP)
- IT Service Desk Email: **techhelp@uwsp.edu (mailto:techhelp@uwsp.edu)**

Understand When You May Drop This Course

It is the student's responsibility to understand when they need to consider unenrolling from a course. Refer to the UWSP **Academic Calendar   (https://www.uwsp.edu/regrec/Pages/calendars.aspx)** for dates and deadlines for registration. After this period, a serious and compelling reason is required to drop from the course. Serious and compelling reasons includes: (1) documented and significant change in work hours, leaving student unable to attend class, or (2) documented and severe physical/mental illness/injury to the student or student's family.

Inform Your Instructor of Any Accommodations Needed

If you have a documented disability and verification from the **Disability and Assistive Technology Center   (https://www.uwsp.edu/datc/Pages/default.aspx)** and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact your instructor as soon as possible. It is the student's responsibility to provide documentation of disability to Disability Services and meet with a Disability Services counselor to request special accommodation *before* classes start.

The Disability and Assistive Technology Center is located in 609 Albertson Hall and can be contacted by phone at (715) 346-3365 (Voice) (715) 346-3362 (TDD only) or via email at **datctr@uwsp.edu (mailto:datctr@uwsp.edu)** .

Statement of Policy

UW-Stevens Point will modify academic program requirements as necessary to ensure that they do not discriminate against qualified applicants or students with disabilities. The modifications should not affect the substance of educational programs or compromise academic standards; nor should they intrude upon academic freedom. Examinations or other procedures used for evaluating students' academic achievements may be adapted. The results of such evaluation must demonstrate the student's achievement in the academic activity, rather than describe his/her disability.

If modifications are required due to a disability, please inform the instructor and contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center in 609 ALB, or (715) 346-3365.

UWSP Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures

Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures

UWSP 14.01 Statement of principles

The board of regents, administrators, faculty, academic staff and students of the university of Wisconsin system believe that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental to the mission of higher education and of the university of Wisconsin system. The university has a responsibility to promote academic honesty and integrity and to develop procedures to deal effectively with instances of academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Students who violate these standards must be confronted and must accept the consequences of their actions.

UWSP 14.03 Academic misconduct subject to disciplinary action.

 (1) Academic misconduct is an act in which a student:

   (a) Seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation;

   (b) Uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise;

   (c) Forges or falsifies academic documents or records;

   (d) Intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others;

   (e) Engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance; or

   (f) Assists other students in any of these acts.

 (2) Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to: cheating on an examination; collaborating with others in work to be presented, contrary to the stated rules of the course; submitting a paper or assignment as one's own work when a part or all of the paper or assignment is the work of another; submitting a paper or assignment that contains ideas or research of others without appropriately identifying the sources of those ideas; stealing examinations or course materials; submitting, if contrary to the rules of a course, work previously presented in another course; tampering with the laboratory experiment or computer program of another student; knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above, including assistance in an arrangement whereby any work, classroom performance, examination or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student under whose name the work is submitted or performed.

Religious Beliefs

Relief from any academic requirement due to religious beliefs will be accommodated according to UWS 22.03, with notification within the first three weeks of class.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Wed Sep 8, 2021	📄 **INSTRUCTIONS: Principles of Politics**	to do: 9:15am
	📄 **INSTRUCTIONS: Welcome**	to do: 11:59pm
Mon Sep 13, 2021	📝 **QUIZ: Principles of Politics (https://uwstp.instructure.com/courses/437257/assignments/3715958)**	due by 8am
Mon Sep 20, 2021	📝 **QUIZ: Founding and Constitution (https://uwstp.instructure.com/courses/437257/assignments/3715951)**	due by 8am
Fri Dec 17, 2021	💬 **Course Q&A - Post all general questions here**	to do: 11:59pm
	📝 **EXAM. Unit 1 (https://uwstp.instructure.com/courses/437257/assignments/3715963)**	
	📝 **EXAM, Unit 2 (https://uwstp.instructure.com/courses/437257/assignments/3715955)**	
	📝 **EXAM. Unit 3 (https://uwstp.instructure.com/courses/437257/assignments/3715959)**	
	📝 **QUIZ: Civil Liberties (https://uwstp.instructure.com/courses/437257/assignments/3715949)**	
	📝 **QUIZ: Civil Rights (https://uwstp.instructure.com/courses/437257/assignments/3715957)**	

Date	Details	Due
	📝 **QUIZ: Congress** **(https://uwstp.instructure.com/courses/437257/assignments/3715952)**	
	📝 **QUIZ: Elections** **(https://uwstp.instructure.com/courses/437257/assignments/3715962)**	
	📝 **QUIZ: Federalism and** **Separation of Powers** **(https://uwstp.instructure.com/courses/437257/assignments/3715960)**	
	📝 **QUIZ: Interest Groups** **(https://uwstp.instructure.com/courses/437257/assignments/3715953)**	
	📝 **QUIZ: Political Parties** **(https://uwstp.instructure.com/courses/437257/assignments/3715956)**	
	📝 **QUIZ: Public Opinion** **(https://uwstp.instructure.com/courses/437257/assignments/3715950)**	
	📝 **QUIZ: The Federal Courts** **(https://uwstp.instructure.com/courses/437257/assignments/3715961)**	
	📝 **QUIZ: The Presidency** **(https://uwstp.instructure.com/courses/437257/assignments/3715954)**	
	📝 **Roll Call Attendance** **(https://uwstp.instructure.com/courses/437257/assignments/3809556)**	