
Political Science 101 American Politics – *Online*

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Spring 2021

Instructor	Dr. Saemyi Park
Online Office Hours	Every Monday from 2 PM to 4 PM I will hold the online office each week (from February 1 to May 10). Please feel free to utilize this opportunity to enhance your distance learning experience! Please read page 6 for more information.
E-mail	spark@uwsp.edu (please do not use the Canvas inbox.)
Important Note	Please keep in mind that this syllabus, along with course assignments and due dates, is subject to change. Any changes will be clearly noted in a course announcement in Canvas and through email.

A NOTE FOR ALL STUDENTS

I know that this is still a difficult time for all of us. Many of you are now working in non-ideal conditions. Many of you in this class are first-year college students who could not fully enjoy their campus life. In planning the semester, I have tried to accommodate this in several ways, as you will see below. Here is an outline:

1. **You do not need to be online at a specific time.** We have 11 main topics to cover, so I create eleven main modules along with two modules for film presentation. Each topic is supposed to be covered for a week. I will record lectures and put them on each module. You can watch them when you can. This means that you do NOT need to attend online classes on our regular class time. However, there is **an important exception**: you are asked to attend **THREE synchronous meetings** over the course of the semester. For more information, please read page 5.
2. **Modules are structured in a similar way, so you will know what you are expected to do for each module.** In each week, you will read the assigned textbook chapter, watch lecture videos, and/or review additional learning materials. You need to complete the module activity by Thursday, and you will provide feedback to other students by Friday. For more information, please read “Module Description” on pages 3-5.
3. **Grading:** My goal for this course is to invite you to discover the importance and relevance of American Politics to your everyday life, not mechanically evaluating your performance with a letter grade. So, I will take into account how hard, stressful, confusing, and complicated life currently is while grading. Everyone should expect to pass this course if you will complete the required coursework by its deadlines. You will complete a reasonable amount of work each week. And, I will do my best to be available when you need help. Please utilize my weekly online office hours and **The Muddiest Point Forum** (read page 6 for more information).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This *online* course is designed to study American government and politics with an emphasis on three themes: Foundations, Institutions, and Politics. The first part of the class will cover “the foundations” of American politics – the Constitution, federalism, civil liberties, and civil rights. Next, we will discuss “politics” by specifically focusing on public opinion, elections, and the media. The last part of the class will examine “three branches of government” – Congress, the presidency, and the courts.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

After the completion of this class, students will be able to:

1. Explain the foundations and significance of the US Constitution
2. Example the structure and function of each branch of government
3. Analyze conflicts and challenges in the civil liberties and civil rights debate
4. Evaluate the influence of mass media in public opinion and elections as well as its consequences to the policy-making process
5. Identify the components of the US electoral process

REQUIRED REDING

The following book has been ordered at University Bookstore for textbook rental:

- Title: ***American Politics Today*** (Sixth Core Edition, 2019)
- Authors: William T. Bianco and David T. Canon
- Publisher: W.W. Norton

Please find **Textbook Rental Information** for in-person pick up or shipping options at <https://www.uwsp.edu/centers/store/Pages/default.aspx>. Please make sure to have it with you BEFORE the first main module begins.

The Publisher, W.W. Norton, has a “study space” Web site for the textbook that you may find useful for the course. The address is: <http://www.wwnorton.com/college/polisci/american-politicstoday3/full/welcome.aspx>. It includes chapter reviews, study questions, on-line quizzes, links to other political sites, political blogs, vocabulary flashcards, plus other readings and resources.

Additionally, other learning materials such as newspaper articles, the report, data, documentaries, and more will be used for each topic. Learning materials will be shared at the course site in Canvas.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

	Points	Due
Introduction	25 pts	
Syllabus Quiz	10 pts	By Jan. 27 (W)
Introduce Yourself Forum	15 pts	By Jan. 28 (TH)
Module Activities	165 pts	
11 Module Activities	110 pts (11 Activities x 10 pts)	By each Thursday
11 Peer Reviews	55 pts (11 Peer Reviews x 5 pts)	By each Friday
Exams	180 pts	
Exam I	60 pts	Feb. 26 (F)
Exam II	60 pts	April 9 (F)
Exam III	60 pts	May 14 (F)
Three Synchronous Meetings	30 pts	Read Page X
Total	400 pts	

GRADING SCALE

A	376-400	C+	308-319
A-	360-375	C	292-307
B+	348-359	C-	280-291
B	332-347	D+	268-279
B-	320-331	D	260-267
		F	Below 259

I will use the point system and follow the university's standard grading scale for letter grade. There is no curve, so you receive what you earn.

MODULE DESCRIPTION

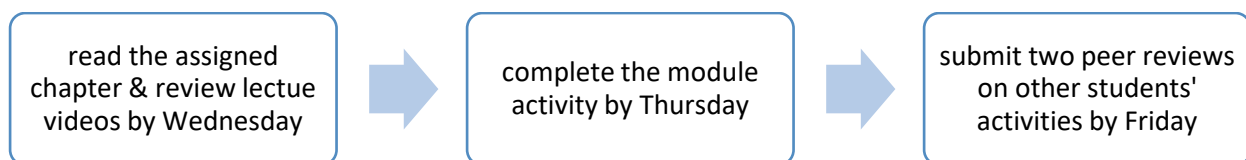
All course activities occur on the course site at Canvas. There are **15 modules in total** (11 topic modules plus three exam modules). Each module is supposed to be completed in a week, and it is structured similarly so that you can expect what you are invited to do. You need to complete all module activities to move to the next module. It means that you need to read and/or complete all pages under each module. I will publish several modules at once, so you can complete module activities in advance if you want.

The module's topic, dates, and the assigned readings are presented in the following table:

Module		Topic	Date	Reading
<i>Foundation</i>	Module 1	Introduction	The week of Jan. 25	None
	Module 2	Understanding AP	The week of Feb. 1	Ch. 1
	Module 3	The Constitution	The week of Feb. 8	Ch. 2
	Module 4	Federalism	The week of Feb. 15	Ch. 3
	Module 5	Exam I	The week of Feb. 22	
<i>Politics</i>	Module 6	Civil Liberties	The week of March 1	Ch. 4
	Module 7	Civil Rights	The week of March 8	Ch. 5
	Module 8	Public Opinion	The week of March 15	Ch. 6
	Module 9	Election	The week of March 29	Ch. 9
	Module 10	Exam II	The week of April 5	
<i>Institutions</i>	Module 11	The Media	The week of April 12	Ch. 7
	Module 12	Congress	The week of April 19	Ch. 11
	Module 13	The Presidency	The week of April 26	Ch. 12
	Module 14	The Courts	The week of May 3	Ch. 13
	Module 15	Exam III	The week of May 10	

Please note that there is no module assigned during the week of March 22 because I want you to fully enjoy the Spring break.

As shown in the figure below, you are invited to do the following activities for each module:



1. Read the Reading and Complete Lecture Videos by Wednesday.

- It is your best interest to read the assigned textbook chapter first BEFORE watching the lecture videos.
- Please keep in mind that **lecture videos and learning materials are NOT sharable outside of POLI 101**. For the detailed policy of FERPA, please read page X.

2. Submit the Module Activity by Thursday.

- Each module asks you to complete a brief activity. It could be answering the discussion questions or submitting the assignment featuring the class topic.
- It does NOT require any outside research. Reviewing lecture videos and reading the textbook chapter are sufficient to complete this task.

- Each module will have a different task. More information is provided in each module.
- It is worth 10 points.

3. Complete TWO Peer Reviews on the Module Activity by Friday.

- For each module activity, you are also invited to review two other students' assignments. It is designed to promote the free flow of opinions and interaction between peers.
- Once you submit the original activity by the deadline, you will be automatically assigned to TWO peers for reviewing their work.
- Your comment on the peers should be written in a respectful way. It must be about the contents, not about its format.
- More information and rubric about "Peer Reviews" is provided on the course site.
- It is worth 5 points.

DESCRIPTION OF OTHER WORK REQUIREMENTS

A. Three Exams (60 points each)

You will take THREE exams throughout the semester. All exams are NOT cumulative. Each exam will be open at 5PM on Thursday and close at 11:59 PM on Friday during the exam week. You will be given two hours to take the test. Once you start the test, you are not allowed to take a break for return. Because it is an online exam that is open for a day, students would not have a make-up exam opportunity (for exceptions, read page X). The format of exams is a combination of multiple-choice and short identification questions. There will be 30 questions (2 points per question), and each exam is worth 60 points.

Before each exam, I will have **TWO synchronous review sessions** on the dates during the scheduled class time (**11 AM-12:15PM**). You can attend one of two review sessions for each exam. You will also receive a study guide a week prior to each exam day.

	Due	Review Sessions (11AM-12:15PM)	
Exam I	Feb. 26 (F)	Feb. 23 (T)	Feb. 25 (TH)
Exam II	April 9 (F)	April 6 (T)	April 8 (TH)
Exam III	May 14 (F)	May 11 (T)	May 13 (TH)

B. THREE Synchronous meetings (30 points)

You are asked to attend one of two review sessions for each exam. It means that you need to attend THREE review sessions in total. POLI 101 is scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday from 11 AM and 12:15PM. I will use the scheduled class times for holding the review sessions, so there will be no schedule conflicts. Your attendance will be checked, and you are strongly encouraged to bring any questions you have about the topics.

VIRTUAL ONLINE OFFICE HOURS

I will do my best to help making your learning experience as smooth and enjoyable as possible. If you have questions, please email me via spark@uwsp.edu. I will check my email twice a day during the weekdays (in the morning & in the afternoon before 5pm). You can expect me to respond your email within 24 hours. If you don't, please email me again to remind your previous inquiry. Please note that I may not be able to respond you at late night and/or during the weekend. Please remember that email is a primary method of contact. **I seldomly check the Canvas inbox, so please do not use it for communicating with me.**

I will be also available for help **Every Monday from 2 PM to 4 PM** (from February 1 to May 10). You do NOT need to make an appointment with me in advance. Just join the office hours via the Zoom link provided at the course site. If my regular online office hours do not work for you, you can certainly schedule an online meeting for the different time and date. Just email me to set up the appointment. These two hours per each week are reserved for you in POLI 101. Please utilize these times for your own benefits. I want to meet you virtually!!!

THE MUDDIEST POINT FORUM

I create the forum where you can post questions. If you have a general course question (not confidential or personal in nature), please post it to the Muddiest Point Forum found on the course homepage.

- *Do you have hard time to understand concepts or theories?*
- *Do you want to be checked if you correctly comprehend the topics?*
- *Is the paper guideline unclear to you?*

Please post these questions to the Muddiest Point Forum. I will post answers to all general questions there so that all students can view them. Students are encouraged to answer each other's questions too.

FERPA: IMPORTANT POLICY ON INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Lecture materials and recordings for POLI 101 American Politics are protected intellectual property at UW-Stevens Point. Students in this course may use the materials and recordings for their personal use related to participation in this class. Students may also take notes solely for their personal use. If a lecture is not already recorded, you are not authorized to record my lectures without my permission unless you are considered by the university to be a qualified student with a disability requiring accommodation [Regent Policy Document 4-1].

Students may not copy or share lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting on internet sites or selling to commercial entities. Students are also prohibited from providing or selling their personal notes to anyone else or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the instructor's express written permission. Unauthorized use of these copyrighted lecture materials and recordings constitutes copyright infringement and may be addressed under the university's policies, UWS Chapters 14 and 17, governing student academic and non-academic misconduct.

EMAIL COMMUNICATION

I receive a lot of emails every day, and I do not want to miss your email hidden in my inbox. When you email me, please follow the professional email format. This will be extremely helpful to recognize your email from my full inbox. Please make sure to follow the following professional format when you email me:



The image shows a screenshot of an email composition form. The 'To' field contains 'spark@uwsp.edu'. The 'Subject' field is highlighted with a red box and contains '[POLI 101] Questions about Exam I'. The body of the email starts with 'Hello Professor Park,' followed by a red arrow pointing to the name 'Professor Park'. Below that, the text reads 'I am [your name] in POLI 101 American Politics. I have questions about the midterm exam.'

In parenthesis, include the course number and a brief topic of your inquiry in the subject line

A proper salutation

Indicate your name

Brief contents

LATE WORK POLICY

A late penalty of 10% will be applied for work turned in late, **within 5 calendar days** of the original due date. After this, late work will not be accepted. This applies to all types of work required in this course such as module activities, peer reviews, and exams.

Excused late work on the assignments:

- If you are required to attend the university-sponsored activities (athletic games etc.)
- If you are seriously ill and/or your immediate family members are seriously ill

For the first case, you need to contact me at the beginning of the semester to discuss your scheduled event(s). Please remember that all modules will be available in advance, so you can complete them before the deadline. In this way, you do not need to worry about late submission.

For the second case, you must contact me immediately after the unforeseen circumstance occurs (within 24 hours). You must provide an official document to prove your excuse, and I reserve the right to determine if you will be given an extension. If you are given the make-up exam, it will be all essay forms instead of multiple-choice questions. You will take it on the final day of class or on the date I chose.

HONESTY

Any instance of academic misconduct will be taken seriously and may result in failure of the course. Misconduct will result in notification to the Dean of Students. If you are having a problem, it is much better to talk to me about it. Do not struggle by yourself. I want you to learn and do well in this course, not punish you with a lower grade. Talk to me if you are having a problem so I can try to help you work out a solution.

GROUND RULE

This course is open to a variety of ways of interpreting history, theories, and policies. Students are encouraged to share their questions and ideas in class. Since there will be differences and disagreements, students are expected to show respect to the comments and positions of fellow students and me.