
POLI 101 American Politics (Online)University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Fall 2023

Instructor	Dr. Saemyi Park
Instructor's Office	SCI D335
In-Person Office Hours	T/TH 9:30AM-10:30AM or by appointment You are more than welcome to visit my regular office hours to discuss the course and/or your performance in class. Feel free to stop by my office if you are around the campus. I can also meet you on Zoom during this time.
Online Office Hours	M 2:00PM-4:00PM If it does not work for you, you can also request an online meeting with me. Please email me at least 48 hours prior to your preferred time.
Email	spark@uwsp.edu (Please DO NOT use the Canvas inbox for communication.) I will check my e-mail at least once a day EXCEPT for the weekend. Please follow the specific email format for online communication with me. I may not respond to your email if it does not follow the email communication guideline on pages 7-8.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This 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:

- LO1: Explain the foundations and significance of the US Constitution
- LO2: Example the structure and function of each branch of government
- LO3: Analyze conflicts and challenges in the civil liberties and civil rights debate
- LO4: Evaluate the influence of mass media in public opinion and elections as well as its consequences on the policy-making process
- LO5: Identify the components of the US electoral process

ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Discussion & Simulation & Debate (LO1 & LO3)
- News Story Analysis (LO2 & LO4 & LO5)
- Exam (for all LOs)
- Data Analysis (LO4 & LO5)
- Research Project (LO2 & LO5)

REQUIRED READING

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

- Title: ***American Politics Today*** (7th Core Edition, 2021)
- 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. 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
Module Activities	240 pts	
12 Module Activities	120 pts (10 pts per each)	by each Saturday
12 Sets of Peer Reviews	120 pts (10 pts per each)	by the following Tuesday
Exams	180 pts	
Exam I	60 pts	The week of Sept. 25
Exam II	60 pts	The week of Oct. 23
Exam III	60 pts	The week of Dec. 18
Special Activities	30 pts	
Syllabus Quiz (Module 1)	10 pts	The week of Sept. 5
Poli Sci Careers (Module 12)	20 pts	The week of Nov. 20
Total	450 pts	

Meeting the due dates for the required work is critical to passing the course. Although the volume of weekly activity is not heavy, you are asked to be diligent in completing module work each week. If you miss one week's assignment, it will be a burden for you because you cannot move on to the next module unless your missing work is submitted. Please make sure to check the course calendar in Canvas for the deadlines and make every effort to respect them. **Please note that you cannot receive a passing grade if you have incomplete assignments that are more than 30% of the total coursework.**

Points you receive for graded activities will be posted to the Grades section of the Canvas course. Look at your recent feedback on the home page or click on the Grades link to view your points. I will update the online grades each time a grading session has been completed - typically 7-10 days following the completion of a module. You will receive a notification from Canvas when new grades are posted depending on your notification settings.

GRADING SCALE

Outstanding	A	423 to 450	A-	405 to 422		
Above average	B+	392 to 404	B	373 to 391	B-	360 to 372
Average	C+	346 to 359	C	328 to 345	C-	315 to 327
Below average	D+	301 to 314	D	283 to 300		
Unsatisfactory	F	below 232				

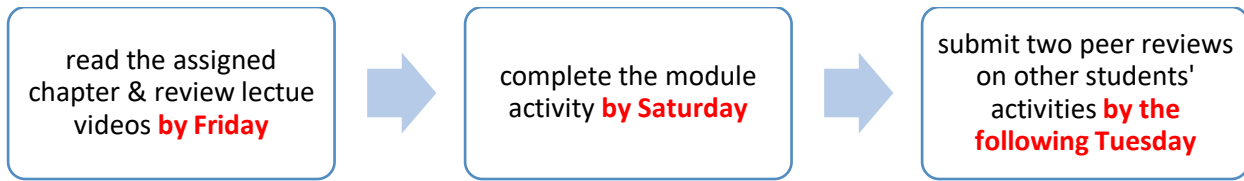
Grades will be determined according to the university's standard scale. If you meet the basic requirements for assignments, you can expect to pass the course. If you want an A or B, you need to go above and beyond the exact requirements for an assignment. There is NO curve.

MODULE CALENDAR & DESCRIPTIONS

Module	Topic	Date	Reading	
	Module 1	Introduction	The week of Sept. 5	None
<i>Foundation</i>	Module 2	Understanding AP	The week of Sept. 11	Ch. 1
	Module 3	The Constitution	The week of Sept. 18	Ch. 2
	Module 4	Federalism	The week of Sept. 25	Ch. 3
	Module 5	Exam I	The week of Oct. 2	
	Module 6	Civil Liberties	The week of Oct. 9	Ch. 4
<i>Institutions</i>	Module 7	Civil Rights	The week of Oct. 16	Ch. 5
	Module 8	Congress	The week of Oct. 23	Ch. 11
	Module 9	The Presidency	The week of Oct. 30	Ch. 12
	Module 10	Exam II	The week of Nov. 6	
	Module 11	The Courts	The week of Nov. 13	Ch. 14
<i>Politics</i>	Module 12	Introducing Poli Sci Careers	The week of Nov. 20	
	Module 13	Public Opinion	The week of Nov. 27	Ch. 6
	Module 14	Campaigns & Election	The week of Dec. 4	Ch. 9
	Module 15	The Media	The week of Dec. 11	Ch. 7
	Module 16	Exam III	The week of Dec. 18	

All course activities occur on the course site at Canvas. There are 16 modules in total (1 introduction module & 11 topic modules & three exam modules & one special module). **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.

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 Friday.

- It is in your best interest to read the assigned textbook chapter first BEFORE watching the lecture videos.
- After reading the textbook chapter, please review the lecture videos along with other supplementary information.
- 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 7.
- This activity will appear on the course calendar, and all you need to do is to review the course materials.

2. Submit the Module Activity by Saturday.

- 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 will be provided in each module.
- It is **worth 10 points**. You must incorporate class materials to complete these exercises.

3. Complete TWO Peer Reviews on the Module Activity by the following Tuesday.

- For each module activity, you are also invited to review two other students' assignments.
 - It is designed to promote in-depth class discussion and "in-person feeling" of interaction between peers.
- Once you submit the original activity by the deadline, you will be automatically assigned to TWO peers to review their work.
 - Canvas may need a few hours to complete the automatic assignment, so it would be safe for you to check the course site the next morning to see your assigned peers.
- Each set of peer reviews is **worth 10 points**.
 - Your comments on peers should be written in a respectful way.
 - It must be about the contents, not about its format.
 - You should share what you learned from the posts if you agree or disagree with your peers' arguments/thoughts.

- You may compare similarities and differences in the contents between your and your peers' assignments.
- Your response should have more than 50 words. Thus, each set of peer reviews should have 50 words or more.
- Please read the page "Information about Peer Review Requirements" under the module "Important Information (Must Read)."

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 9 AM on Thursday and close at 11:59 PM on Friday during the scheduled week. It will be open for two days, but you will be given **one attempt for two hours**. Once you start the test, you are not allowed to take a break to return. If you need accommodation for the exam, please contact the UWSP Disability Resource Center (<https://www.uwsp.edu/disability-resource-center/>) and arrange for your official letter to be delivered to me as soon as possible.

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. I will share a study guide for each exam. After the grading is over, the exam will be reopened for you to review the questions. Because it is an online exam that is open for a day, students would NOT have a make-up exam opportunity.

B. Two Special Modules (15 points each)

During the first week of the semester, you are asked to take a syllabus quiz. It is designed to invite you to carefully read the syllabus and the information shared on the course site in Canvas. It is graded and worth 15 points.

During the Thanksgiving recess (the 12th week), you are invited to explore the module to learn more about the political science major. You will be informed about what kind of career pathways are available with a degree in political science. You will be asked to complete a brief activity, and it will be graded (15 pts).

COURSE POLICIES

A. Netiquette

Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online. Your instructor and fellow students wish to foster a safe online learning environment. All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea but you are not to attack an individual. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful course community.

The following netiquette tips will enhance the learning experience for everyone in the course:

- Do not use offensive language. Present ideas appropriately.
- Be cautious in using Internet language. For example, do not capitalize all letters since this suggests shouting.
- Popular emoticons such as 😊 can be helpful to convey your tone but do not overdo or overuse them.
- What you write on the course site must be written in an academic writing format. Avoid using vernacular and/or slang language. This could possibly lead to misinterpretation.
- Never make fun of someone's ability to read or write.
- Keep an "open mind" and be willing to express even your minority opinion. Minority opinions must be respected.
- Do not hesitate to ask for feedback.
- Think and edit before you push the "Post Reply" button. Please remember that our course site is a public place.

B. Late Work

General Note: Please keep in mind that this class is an online class. All assignments will be open in advance and have a sufficient deadline. This means that you can submit the module assignments earlier than the original dues. **If you complete the module, you can move to the next module and complete it in advance.** Therefore, late submission is technically not permissible.

Submission Error: You are responsible for attaching/submitting the correct assignment to the correct submission folder. When you submit your assignment, you should always click on the submitted file(s) to make sure the assignment is there. You can tell if it is attached by clicking on the submitted file(s) and actually opening and viewing the document. You also need to double-check if your post was actually submitted to the discussion forum when it was a text entry. Submitting an incorrect document/post, a blank document/post, or no document/post is counted as a failure to complete the assignment on time.

Technical Difficulties: Technical difficulties with the student's equipment or internet provider are not excused. When such difficulties occur, students are expected to locate an alternative source for submitting assignments, e.g., a neighbor, workplace, public library, etc. Technical difficulties caused by the University or Canvas can be excused provided the student obtains documentation from technical support. Students should always have a backup in mind for unexpected glitches in technology.

Unexcused Late Work: I understand that you may encounter unforeseen circumstances that prevent you from completing the module activities on time. To ease your burden with the dues, I will accept your late submission **within 4 days from its original deadline**. Unexcused late submission of coursework will incur **a 10% deduction per day**. Nonmajor sicknesses that do not require your surgery and/or hospital admission will be an example of unexcused late submission. In this case, I will NOT require proof of document so that you can simply complete the module activity when it is possible within 4 days from its original due.

Excused Late Submission: For extremely rare cases, your late submission may be excused without penalty. As I explained, all activities will be open in advance so that you will have enough time to complete them. Nonetheless, you may not be able to complete the module activities in advance if **university-sponsored activities** (ROTC, UWSP athletic teams, etc.) are **recurring events**. If you have **MAJOR medical treatments/surgery that require extensive recovery time**, you may not be able to complete the module activities in advance.

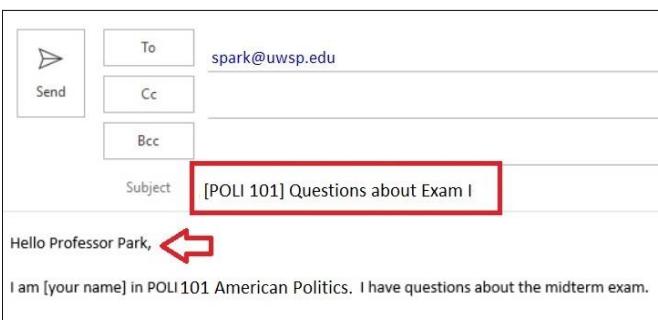
If this is the case, you must explain what happened and request a make-up opportunity in writing **with proof of document**. Then, **I will verify your request on a case-by-case basis** and notify you of my permission for a late submission. If your proof of document contains private information when you encounter unforeseen medical and/or personal emergencies, you may want to contact UWSP DATC and/or the Dean of Students to submit your document. Then, the office will verify your excuse for me. Then, I will determine if you will be granted excused late submission. There is **NO** exception to this policy.

C. Communication Policy

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: Email is a convenient way to continue contact between the professor and students outside of class. Email is best for 1-2 sentence responses, and conceptual questions do not lend themselves well to email. If you have any questions regarding your papers, please visit my office hours for an in-depth consultation. I will **NOT** consult on your written assignment via email. While students should take advantage of this email communication opportunity with me, you should also do so in a professional manner as follows:



The image shows a screenshot of an email composition form. The 'To' field contains 'spark@uwsp.edu'. The 'Subject' field contains '[POLI 101] Questions about Exam I', which is highlighted with a red box. Below the form, the text 'Hello Professor Park,' is followed by a red arrow pointing to the name 'Professor Park'. Below that, the text 'I am [your name] in POLI101 American Politics. I have questions about the midterm exam.' is shown.

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

a proper salutation

indicate your name

I will NOT reply to emails that do not include a salutation (“Dear Prof. ...” or “Hello Dr. ...”). Please avoid using words such as “hey” or calling me by my first name. I may not respond to emails that ask for answers to questions that can easily be found on the syllabus or the course site. I will only respond to questions about coursework or academic requirements, and I will not respond to questions of a personal nature. I will be able to respond to your email during weekdays (not weekends) and attempt to get back to you within 24 hours. But, please email me again if you do not receive my response within 48 hours.

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. In addition, there is a great resource for your study on campus. The Tutoring-Learning Center provides a variety of services to support your needs such as Writing Lab and One-On-One Assistance for Study Skills. Please contact Learning Resource Center (715-346-3568 & tlctutor@uwsp.edu & www.uwsp.edu/tlc) for more information.

Academic Coaching: if you feel you need help with any of the following skills - time management strategies, note-taking, study skills, communication on campus, or preparing for mid-terms, please consider scheduling an appointment with an Academic Coach on campus or virtually. They are here to help you be successful in your online courses when you feel you need extra support. Email **Kari Van Den Elzen** (kvandene@uwsp.edu) to schedule an appointment or use the Navigate student app by selecting Tutoring Learning Center (<https://www3.uwsp.edu/tlc/Pages/Kari-Van-Den-Elzen.aspx>). You can meet as many times as you need. Coaches are also available to review campus technology platforms with you. (Canvas, AccesSPoint, Office 365, Navigate, etc.)