Political Science 101 American Politics (*Online*)
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Spring 2022

Instructor	Dr. Saemyi Park
Office Hours	***Online***: Monday from 2 PM to 4 PM via Zoom
	In-Person: 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM (T/TH) @ SCI D335 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM (TH) @ SCI D335
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. It is the student's responsibility to check Canvas for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be clearly noted in a course announcement in Canvas and through email.

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 (for all LOs)
- Film Analysis Paper (LO1 & LO3 & LO4)
- 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
Introduction	**25 pts**	
Syllabus Quiz	10 pts	By Jan. 28
Introduce Yourself Forum	10 pts	By Jan. 28
Peer Reviews	5 pts	By Jan. 30
Module Activities	**165 pts**	
11 Module Activities	110 pts (10 pts per each)	By each Friday
11 Peer Reviews	55 pts (5 pts per each)	By each Sunday
Exams	**180 pts**	
Exam I	60 pts	The week of Feb. 21
Exam II	60 pts	The week of April 4
Exam III	60 pts	The week of May 16
Film Analysis Paper	**30 pts**	The week of April 11
Total	**400 pts**	

Note: because it is an online course, there is much more responsibility on your shoulders. 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 to complete a module work each week. If you miss one week's assignment, it would 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. Incomplete assignments that are more than 30% of the total course work will result in automatic F for the course.

GRADING SCALE

A	376-400	B+	348-359	C+	308-319	D+	268-279
A-	360-375	B	332-347	C	292-307	D	252-267
		B-	320-331	C-	280-291	F	below 251

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.
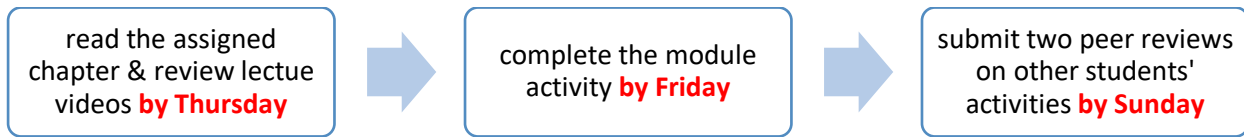

MODULE DESCRIPTION

All course activities occur on the course site at Canvas. There are 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.

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

Module		Topic	Date	Reading
Foundation	Module 0	Introduction	The week of Jan. 24	None
	Module 1	Understanding AP	The week of Jan. 31	Ch. 1
	Module 2	The Constitution	The week of Feb. 7	Ch. 2
	Module 3	Federalism	The week of Feb. 14	Ch. 3
	Module 4	**Exam I**	The week of Feb. 21	
	Module 5	Civil Liberties	The week of Feb. 28	Ch. 4
	Module 6	Civil Rights	The week of March 7	Ch. 5
Politics	Module 7	Public Opinion	The week of March 14	Ch. 6
	Module 8	Election	The week of March 28	Ch. 9
	Module 9	**Exam II**	The week of April 4	
	Module 10	**Film Presentation**	The week of April 11	
Institutions	Module 11	The Media	The week of April 18	Ch. 7
	Module 12	Congress	The week of April 25	Ch. 11
	Module 13	The Presidency	The week of May 2	Ch. 12
	Module 14	The Courts	The week of May 9	Ch. 13
	Module 15	**Exam III**	The week of May 16	

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

read the assigned chapter & review lectue videos **by Thursday**	→	complete the module activity **by Friday**	→	submit two peer reviews on other students' activities **by Sunday**

1. **Read the Reading and Complete Lecture Videos by Thursday.**
   - 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 lecture videos along with other supplement 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 8.

2. **Submit the Module Activity by Friday.**
   - 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 Sunday.**
   - 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 for reviewing 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 on the next morning to see your assigned peers.
   - Each set of peer reviews is worth 5 points.
     - Your comment on the peers should be written in a respectful way.
     - It must be about the contents, not about its format.
     - You should share what you newly learn from the posts if you agree or disagree with your peers' arguments/thoughts.
     - You may compare similarities and differences of the contents between your and your peers' assignments.
     - Your response should have more than 50 words. Thus, each set of peer reviews should have 100 words and more.
   - Please read the page "Information about Peer Review Requirements" in Module 0 on the course site.

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** to take the test **for two hours**. Once you start the test, you are not allowed to take a break for return. If you are given the accommodation for the exam, please send me a DATC letter (Disability and Assistive Technology Center) 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 day. 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. Film Presentation & Film Analysis Paper (30 points)

In Module 10, you will watch the film in light of the lecture materials and assigned readings for this course. It is schedule for the week of April 11. After watching the film, you are asked to write a brief analytic essay. Please keep in mind that this assignment is NOT a film review. You should NOT discuss if you like or dislike the film. Instead, you will find the theme that is relevant to our class topics and develop the thesis statement to lay out your thoughts on many pressing questions about American Politics. You are free to write on any topic related to American politics addressed in the films, as long as they are able to incorporate and demonstrate your thorough understanding of the different assigned course readings. The complete instruction will be shared on the course site.

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 have to 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 the 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 them 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 open and view the document. You also need to double check if your post is 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 of 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., 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 back-up in mind for unexpected glitches in technology.

Unexcused Late Work: I understand that you may encounter unforeseen circumstances that prevent you to complete the module activities on time. To ease your burden with the dues, I will accept your late submission **within 5 days from its original deadline**. Unexcused late submission of course work 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 5 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 requires an extensive recovery time, you may not be able to complete the module activities in advance. If it is the case, you must explain what happens 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 Student 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 for this policy.

C. Communication Policy

Muddiest Point Forum: for the general questions about the assignments, the readings, exams, and more, please use the Muddiest Point Forum. It is the Q&A forum where you can ask general questions. I will answer your questions here so that other students can also view my answers. I will attempt to check this forum every day to answer your questions. I also encourage students to respond to the questions if you know the answers. I will confirm if the answer(s) is/are right.

Email: Email is a convenient way to continue contact between professor and student 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. 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 with a first name.

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

a proper salutation

indicate your name

closing

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. 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.)

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.