

Syllabus PS 2305



Course Introduction

Introduction:

A. An introductory, survey course on various United States government topics. This course includes study of the origin and development of the U.S. Constitution, the structure and powers of the national government, including the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, federalism, political participation, the national election process, public policy, and civil liberties and civil rights.

B. Through this course, students will prepare for contemporary challenges by developing and demonstrating the following core objectives: critical thinking skills, communication skills, social responsibility, and personal and civic responsibility.

C. This course satisfies three semester hours of the Social/Behavioral Sciences for the Associate of Science and Associate of Arts degrees. Please check your degree plan to determine the status of this course in your program of study.

D. Prerequisite(s): None

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this Federal Government course, you will be able to

1. Explain the origin and development of constitutional democracy in the United States.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the federal system.
3. Describe separation of powers and checks and balances in both theory and practice.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the federal government.
5. Evaluate the role of public opinion, interest groups, and political parties in the political system.
6. Analyze the election process.
7. Describe the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
8. Analyze issues and policies in U.S. politics.

Course Materials

These are the materials you will need for this course.

Dautrich, K., and Yalof, D., *The Enduring Democracy*, Custom 4th Edition, 2016, Cengage Learning.

(Complimentary E-Chapters have been provided for students who have not received their textbooks by the first day of class. The first 3 chapters of the text can be found in the course menu under **E-Chapters**. A textbook is **still required** in order to complete this course.)

Delivery and Terms

1. This is NOT a self-paced course. Your instructor has assigned deadlines for specific assignments as shown in the course schedule.
2. This is a blended course. This means that you may be required to meet in a classroom or other location at specified times throughout the course. Most coursework will be accomplished online in Blackboard.

Assignments and Course Schedule: Graded assignments for this course include the following:

- Eight Lesson Quizzes: One quiz at the end of each lesson. You will take a 40 question multiple choice quiz (each question is worth 1.25 points, for a total of 50 points for each quiz) covering information from the book and class lectures related to the lesson objectives. All quizzes are non-proctored and you have 90 minutes to complete each quiz.
- Eight Lesson Discussion Board Assignments: discussion board assignments are worth 25 points each. You will engage lesson material by selecting 1 discussion board question for each lesson, posting a response, minimum of 3 paragraphs, to the discussion board question, and responding to at least one post by another student, responding with a minimum of 2 paragraphs.
- Plagiarism Quiz: students are required to take the plagiarism quiz PRIOR to submitting the writing assignment. The plagiarism quiz is located in the Papers/Projects tab, and is worth 100 points.
- One Writing Assignment, worth 300 points. The writing assignment should be approximately 750 words in length on a selected topic and according to formatting requirements set forth in the writing assignment instructions. Refer to Papers/Projects on the course menu for additional instructions.
The schedule below provides you with recommended dates to help stay on track throughout the course. However, the following is required:
- You must submit the writing assignment not later than the fourteenth week of the course (11/30), to give the instructor ample time to grade and provide feedback to all students.

Course Schedule

Schedule of Assignments			
Lesson	Chapter(s)	Assignments	Due Dates
Plagiarism Quiz		No later than Friday 08/31	
1	LESSON 1: Foundations Chapter 1: The More Things Change ...The More They Stay the Same Chapter 2: The Founding and the Constitution Chapter 3: Federalism	Discussion Board Lesson 1 Quiz	09/07
2	LESSON 2: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights Chapter 4: Civil Liberties Chapter 5: Civil Rights, Equality, and Social Movements	Discussion Board Lesson 2 Quiz	09/21
3	LESSON 3: The National Legislature Chapter 6: Congress	Discussion Board Lesson 3 Quiz	10/05
4	LESSON 4: The National Executive Chapter 7: The Presidency Chapter 8: The Federal Bureaucracy	Discussion Board Lesson 4 Quiz	10/19
Writing Assignment		No Later than Friday 11/30	
5	LESSON 5: The National Judiciary Chapter 9: The Judiciary	Discussion Board Lesson 5 Quiz	11/02

6	LESSON 6: Public Opinion and Interest Groups Chapter 10: Public Opinion Chapter 11: Interest Groups Chapter 12: Media and American Politics	Discussion Board Lesson 6 Quiz	11/16
7	LESSON 7: Political Parties, Voting, and Elections Chapter 13: Political Parties and Voting Chapter 14: Campaigns and Elections	Discussion Board Lesson 7 Quiz	11/30
8	LESSON 8: Public Policy Chapter 15: American Domestic Policy Chapter 16: American Foreign Policy	Discussion Board Lesson 8 Quiz	12/14
All course work must be completed by no later than midnight 12/16		No later than midnight 12/16	

Course Grade

This is what you are graded on:

Course Grade Calculation	
Component	Possible Points
8 Lesson Quizzes, 50 points each	400 points
8 Discussion Board Assignments, 25 points each	200 points
Plagiarism Quiz	100 points
Writing Assignment	300 points
Total	1000 points

This is how your course grade will be determined:

Course Grade Calculation					
Grade	A	B	C	D	F
Points	900-1000	800-899	700-799	600-699	0-599

Monitor your progress

You can check your grades throughout the course by selecting the **Tools > My Grades** link in the menu.