

American Government
Political Science 2051
Spring 2022
Tuesday and Thursday 12pm-1:20pm (Lockett Hall 235 or Zoom*)
*At least the first 2-weeks of the course will be held via Zoom.

Victoria Jeansonne
Vwells5@lsu.edu

Office Hours: Virtual or in-person, by appointment.

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of American government and politics. The course is broken into 4 parts. The first part focuses on Constitutional foundations (i.e. the Constitutions, civil rights and liberties, federalism. Second, the material focuses on the interaction between people and politics (i.e. political behavior, voting, campaigns, etc.). The third part of the course focuses on policymakers---studying the ins-and-outs of each branch of government. Finally, the last part will focus on policy---policy such as economic and social welfare, the environment, and foreign policy. By the end of the course, students should be well-introduced to American government and politics, through assigned readings, class discussion, and assignments aimed to foster learning and critical thinking.

LSU Integrative Learning Core

Integrative learning allows students to make simple connections among ideas and experiences and across disciplines and perspectives. The LSU Integrative Learning Core (ILC) curriculum is designed to develop student abilities to transfer their learning to new situations and demonstrate a sense of self as a learner. A fundamental goal of the ILC is to foster students' practical and intellectual capacities associated with integrative learning in preparation for high competence and functionality in their post-baccalaureate careers. This course fulfills the BOR Area of Social/Behavioral Sciences and provides students experience with the ILC proficiency of Inquiry and Analysis.

Required Reading Materials

We will primarily use the following text. E-book and printed texts are available, see the LSU Bookstore or the vender (Pearson) for more information.

Government in America: 2020 Presidential Election Edition

The bookstore ISBNs for this are: 9780136966456 print-rental and 9780136966265 Vital Source eBook.

--Any other required readings will be posted on Moodle.

Official Communication

The best way to contact me is via e-mail. Note, **all** e-mail communication must be made through the LSU e-mail system. I **WILL NOT** answer any e-mail sent from a non-LSU account. Please include the course name and subject matter in the 'Subject' line (e.g. POLI 2051: Jan. 18 Class).

Recording Lecture

Visual and/or audio recordings are not permitted, without permission.

Make-up Policy/Late Assignments

No late assignments will be accepted. If an assignment is missed due to an excused absence, the student and instructor will communicate accordingly.

Student Evaluations and Policies

Assignment	# of Assignments	Points	Total Points	Percent Conversion
Syllabus/Chapter Quiz*	7	30	180	22.5%
Vocabulary Quiz	6	15	90	11.25%
Short Paper	2	100	200	25%
Exam	2	150	300	37.5%
Participation/Attendance	---	10	10	1.25%
Paper Topic Due	2	10	20	2.5%
Extra Credit	1	10	10	---
Course Total (Points)			800 (excludes bonus)	100%

*Drop lowest quiz (x1)

Grading Scale:

97.0 to 100 A+, 93.0 to 96.9 A, 90.0 to 92.9 A-, 87.0 to 89.9 B+, 83.0 to 86.9 B, 80.0 to 82.9 B-, 77.0 to 79.9 C+, 73.0 to 76.9 C, 70.0 to 72.9 C-, 67.0 to 69.9 D+, 63.0 to 66.9 D, 60.0 to 62.9 D-, below 60.0 F

Explanation of course requirements

- **Quizzes:** There are 7 content quizzes in this course. Each quiz is worth 30 points. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Quizzes sum to be 180 of the 800 course points. All quizzes will be on Moodle. 1 quiz is on the syllabus and the textbook; 6 quizzes cover chapter content.
- **Vocabulary Quizzes:** There are 6 vocabulary quizzes. These quizzes are also on Moodle and are 15 points each, summing to 90 of the 800 course points.
- **Short Papers:** There are 2 short papers for the course. More detail regarding topics and guidelines (font, length, citations etc.) will be posted on Moodle, as well as a grading rubric. One paper will cover content from Parts 1 and/or 2 of the course/textbook; the second paper will cover Parts 3 and/or 4 of the course/textbook. Each assignment is worth 100 points, making up 200 of the 800 course points.
- **Paper Topic:** Each Short Paper topic must be approved by the instructor. The topic must be submitted via Moodle. More details will come. The topic submissions are 10 points each, totaling 20 of the 800 course points.
- **Exams:** In this course, there are 2 Exams. You will have a Midterm Exam and a final exam. The midterm exam will cover topics and/or material from textbook Chapters 1-10. The final exam is NOT cumulative. The Final Exam will cover all topics and/or material from Chapter 11-18 of the course textbook. The exam may include content from lecture notes, the text, and other readings posted to Moodle. Each exam is worth 150 points, totaling 300 of the 800 course points.
- **Attendance and Participation.** Attendance will be recorded at random throughout the semester. If you are present at all classes (or have an excused absence), you will receive full credit for attendance, if you are not present, and do not have an excused absence, your grade will reflect it. **Participation** is expected. Willingness to provide opinion, questions, or feedback during class—IN A RESPECTFUL MANNER—is expected. Attendance is worth a total of 10 of the 800 course points.

Extra Credit

There is one opportunity for extra credit. The assignment is worth 10 points. More information will be provided later in the course.

General Policies

Attendance Policy

Attendance will be checked at random throughout the semester. If you are present at all checked times, you will receive all attendance points. If not, the grade for attendance will reflect your absence.

Absences may be excused with proper documentation and notice.

Information regarding the University's policy can be found here: "The LSU student code of conduct explains student rights, excused absences, and what is expected of student behavior. Students are expected to understand this code as described on the [Code of Conduct page](#). Any violations of the LSU student code will be duly reported to the Dean of Students." More information is also found at PS-22.

COVID-19

During the first 2-weeks of the semester, we will meet via Zoom. Be prepared to have the video feature ON during at least the first-class meeting---so I can put names with faces. Beyond the first class, if I feel students are not participating or are otherwise distracted, I will enforce a "camera-on" policy for Zoom classes. We will readdress the delivery platform of the course after the first 2-weeks. All policies in accordance with LSU's COVID-19 Roadmap are to be followed if meeting in-person. Most recent information on LSU's policies can be found here: [COVID-19 Roadmap \(lsu.edu\)](#)

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

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As a student, it is your responsibility to abstain from plagiarizing the academic property of another and you are to utilize appropriate citation methods for coursework. If you have questions regarding what is appropriate, please see the library's tutorials on avoiding plagiarism and proper citation formats.

I will report all instances of plagiarism. If you are caught plagiarizing you may fail the assignment, fail the course and/or be reported to University Officials.

Expectations:

"LSU's general policy states that for each credit hour, you (the student) should plan to spend at least two hours working on course related activities outside of class. Since this course is for three credit hours, you should expect to spend a minimum of six hours outside of class each week working on assignments for this course. [Visit here](#) for more information regarding general information for courses."

Computer Problems

If you have any technical issues, please reach out to LSU IT Services. Additionally, If you have issues that affect Moodle assignments, you MUST communicate via LSU e-mail as soon as possible. It is also beneficial to include Print Screens (screen shot images) of the issue to include in your e-mail.

Moodle Questions: [Student Moodle Course FAQs - GROK Knowledge Base \(lsu.edu\)](#)

LSU ITS Service Desk: [LSU ITS Service Desk | LSU Information Technology Services](#)

Disability Services

"Louisiana State University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. The syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request.

If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see a [staff member in Disability Services](#) so that such accommodations can be

considered. Students that receive accommodation letters, please meet with me to discuss the provisions of those accommodations as soon as possible.”

Course Schedule

A course schedule will be posted to the class Moodle page.

Disclosure:

This syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be communicated to students and a revised version will be available.