

Course Syllabus

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Political Science 101: American Politics

Course Description: Survey of American politics and government.

Credits: 3

GEP: Social Science; US Diversity

Instructor Information

Instructor: Brad Mapes-Martins

Office: D333 Science Building

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00pm-2:00pm (and by appointment)

E-mail: bmapesma@uwsp.edu (<mailto:bmapesma@uwsp.edu>).

Expected Instructor Response Times

For simple issues (e.g., assignment clarifications, due dates, scheduling meetings), I will attempt to respond to student emails within one business day. During busy parts of the semester such as around midterm exams or during registration it may take me slightly longer. If you have a question that requires a lengthy answer, I may request that you speak with me (in-person or electronically). You are always welcome to ask questions at the beginning or end of class periods as well.

Textbook & Course Materials

Required Text: Available through UWSP Text Rental.

Lowi, Benjamin, et al. 2019. *American Government: Power and Purpose*, 15th ed. W.W. Norton

ISBN: 978-0-39365-5537

Other Materials: All other materials will be provided through Canvas.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students will identify important examples and explain how ...

- a plurality of ideas and interests leads to competing goals.
- political preferences are expressed in many forms.
- laws and rights guide and restrict government.

GEP - Social Science (SS) Learning Outcomes

1. Explain or apply major concepts, methods, or theories used in the social sciences to investigate, analyze, or predict human behavior.

2. Examine and explain how social, cultural, or political institutions influence individuals or groups.

GEP - US Diversity (USD) Learning Outcomes

1. Describe how people or institutions in the United States have constructed diverse identities and cultures based on ability, ethnicity, gender, language, nationality, race, religion, sexuality, socio-economic status, etc.

2. Explain how individuals or groups in the United States have responded to the experience of discrimination and inequality.

3. Demonstrate understanding of and empathetic insight about diverse cultural perspectives in the United States.

Course Schedule

| Week | Module |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Welcome |
| 2 | Principles of Politics |
| 3 | Founding and Constitution |
| 4 | Federalism and Separation of Powers |
| 5 | Civil Liberties |
| 6 | Civil Rights |
| 7 | Exam - Unit 1 |
| 8 | Congress |

| | |
|----|--------------------|
| 9 | The Presidency |
| 10 | The Federal Courts |
| 11 | Exam - Unit 2 |
| 12 | Public Opinion |
| 13 | Elections |
| 14 | Political Parties |
| 15 | Interest Groups |
| 16 | Exam - Unit 3 |

Grading Policy

| Assignment | Quantity | Points per Assignment | Subtotal |
|----------------------------|----------|-----------------------|----------|
| Quizzes | 12 | 20 | 240 |
| Unit Exams | 3 | 100 | 300 |
| Attendance & Participation | 1 | 160 | 160 |
| | | Total | 700 |

Grade Scheme

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| A | 700-651 | B+ | 630-611 | C+ | 560-541 | D+ | 490-456 |
| A- | 650-631 | B | 610-581 | C | 540-511 | D | 455-421 |
| | | B- | 580-561 | C- | 510-491 | F | 420-0 |

Student Expectations

In this course you will be expected to complete the following types of tasks.

- communicate via email
- complete basic internet searches
- download and upload documents to the LMS (Canvas)

- read documents online
- view online videos
- participate in in-person or online discussions
- complete quizzes/tests online
- upload documents to Canvas to submit an assignment

Expectations for Student Communication

All communication with the instructor or with other students is to be formal and professional. This means writing in Standard English with appropriate grammar and correct spelling.

The following guidelines for email messages should be followed to ensure the fastest, most useful response to your communications:

1. Include the course number you are writing about at the beginning of the subject line. [**Example:** "POLI 101: Subject of message"]
2. Include the 'main point' of your message in the subject line. [**Example:** "POLI 101: Assignment clarification" or "POLI 101: Meeting about quiz grade"]
3. The body of your message should clearly state what you are writing about. Don't worry about niceties; get straight to the point!
4. Always include both your first and last name. If you are writing regarding an administrative issue you should also include your student identification number. If you are in doubt about whether you are asking about something administrative, include your student identification number just in case.

Complete Assignments

All graded assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through Canvas unless otherwise instructed. Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from instructor *before the due date*. Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment except under extreme circumstances.

All discussion assignments must be completed by the assignment due date and time. Late or missing discussion assignments will affect the student's grade.

Late Work Policy

Pay close attention to deadlines—there will be no make-up assignments or late work accepted without a serious and compelling reason and instructor approval.

NOTE: *If your assignment is late, just because a dropbox in Canvas allows you to upload it does **NOT** mean it will be graded.*

Technology

Protecting your Data and Privacy

UW-System approved tools meet security, privacy, and data protection standards. For a list of approved tools, visit this website. <https://www.wisconsin.edu/dle/external-application-integration-requests/>
(<https://www.wisconsin.edu/dle/external-application-integration-requests/>)

Tools not listed on the website linked above may not meet security, privacy, and data protection standards. If you have questions about tools, contact the UWSP IT Service Desk at 715-346-4357.

Here are steps you can take to protect your data and privacy.

- Use different usernames and passwords for each service you use.
- Do not use your UWSP username and password for any other services.
- Use secure versions of websites whenever possible (HTTPS instead of HTTP).
- Have updated antivirus software installed on your devices.

Course Technology Requirements

- View this website to see [minimum recommended computer and internet configurations for Canvas](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10721) (<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10721>).

UWSP Technology Support

Visit with a [Student Technology Tutor](https://www.uwsp.edu/tlc/Pages/techTutoring.aspx) (<https://www.uwsp.edu/tlc/Pages/techTutoring.aspx>)

Seek assistance from the [IT Service Desk](https://www.uwsp.edu/infotech/Pages/ServiceDesk/default.aspx)

(<https://www.uwsp.edu/infotech/Pages/ServiceDesk/default.aspx>) (Formerly HELP Desk)

- IT Service Desk Phone: 715-346-4357 (HELP)
- IT Service Desk Email: techhelp@uwsp.edu (<mailto:techhelp@uwsp.edu>)

Understand When You May Drop This Course

It is the student's responsibility to understand when they need to consider unenrolling from a course.

Refer to the UWSP [Academic Calendar](https://www.uwsp.edu/regrec/Pages/calendars.aspx) (<https://www.uwsp.edu/regrec/Pages/calendars.aspx>) for dates and deadlines for registration. After this period, a serious and compelling reason is required to drop from

the course. Serious and compelling reasons includes: (1) documented and significant change in work hours, leaving student unable to attend class, or (2) documented and severe physical/mental illness/injury to the student or student's family.

Equal Access and Disability Accommodations

If you have a condition that may impact your learning and/or participation in course activities, please contact the Disability Resource Center (<https://www.uwsp.edu/disability-resource-center/>) (DRC). The DRC will engage in an interactive process with students and identify appropriate academic accommodations and auxiliary services in accordance with the University's legal obligations. Instructors, students, and DRC staff work collaboratively to establish any necessary adjustments or supports. Accommodations are rarely applied retroactively so it is vital that students make timely requests.

Please let me know if you have any questions. The DRC is located in 108 Collins Classroom Center and can be reached at 715/346-3365 and drc@uwsp.edu (<mailto:drc@uwsp.edu>).

UWSP Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures

****Any detection of the use of ChatGPT for assistance will be considered academic misconduct for the sake of this course.****

Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures

UWSP 14.01 Statement of principles

The board of regents, administrators, faculty, academic staff and students of the university of Wisconsin system believe that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental to the mission of higher education and of the university of Wisconsin system. The university has a responsibility to promote academic honesty and integrity and to develop procedures to deal effectively with instances of academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Students who violate these standards must be confronted and must accept the consequences of their actions.

UWSP 14.03 Academic misconduct subject to disciplinary action.

- (1) Academic misconduct is an act in which a student:
 - (a) Seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation;
 - (b) Uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise;





- (c) Forges or falsifies academic documents or records;
- (d) Intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others;
- (e) Engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance; or
- (f) Assists other students in any of these acts.















(2) Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to: cheating on an examination; collaborating with others in work to be presented, contrary to the stated rules of the course; submitting a paper or assignment as one's own work when a part or all of the paper or assignment is the work of another; submitting a paper or assignment that contains ideas or research of others without appropriately identifying the sources of those ideas; stealing examinations or course materials; submitting, if contrary to the rules of a course, work previously presented in another course; tampering with the laboratory experiment or computer program of another student; knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above, including assistance in an arrangement whereby any work, classroom performance, examination or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the student under whose name the work is submitted or performed.















Religious Beliefs




Relief from any academic requirement due to religious beliefs will be accommodated according to UWS 22.03, with notification within the first three weeks of class.

Course Summary:

| Date | Details | Due |
|------------------|--|---------------|
| Tue Sep 5, 2023 |  <u>INSTRUCTIONS: Welcome</u> | to do: 9:30am |
| Tue Sep 12, 2023 |  <u>QUIZ: Principles of Politics</u> (https://uws.instructure.com/courses/612324/assignments/6544157) | due by 9:30am |
| |  <u>INSTRUCTIONS: Principles of Politics</u> | to do: 9:30am |
| Tue Sep 19, 2023 |  <u>QUIZ: Founding and Constitution</u> | due by 9:30am |

| Date | Details | Due |
|------------------|--|----------------|
| | https://uws.instructure.com/courses/612324/assignments/6544148 | |
| |  <u>INSTRUCTIONS: Founding and Constitution</u> | to do: 9:30am |
| Tue Sep 26, 2023 |  <u>QUIZ: Federalism and Separation of Powers</u> https://uws.instructure.com/courses/612324/assignments/6544152 | due by 9:30am |
| |  <u>INSTRUCTIONS: Federalism and Separation of Powers</u> | to do: 9:30am |
| Tue Oct 3, 2023 |  <u>QUIZ: Civil Liberties</u> https://uws.instructure.com/courses/612324/assignments/6544146 | due by 9:30am |
| |  <u>INSTRUCTIONS: Civil Liberties</u> | to do: 9:30am |
| Tue Oct 10, 2023 |  <u>QUIZ: Civil Rights</u> https://uws.instructure.com/courses/612324/assignments/6544162 | due by 9:30am |
| |  <u>INSTRUCTIONS: Civil Rights</u> | to do: 9:30am |
| Thu Oct 19, 2023 |  <u>EXAM: Unit 1 - Short Answer</u> https://uws.instructure.com/courses/612324/assignments/6544160 | due by 9:30am |
| |  <u>EXAM. Unit 1</u> https://uws.instructure.com/courses/612324/assignments/6544156 | due by 10:45am |
| Tue Oct 24, 2023 |  <u>QUIZ: Congress</u> https://uws.instructure.com/courses/612324/assignments/6544154 | due by 9:30am |
| |  <u>INSTRUCTIONS: Congress</u> | to do: 9:30am |
| Tue Oct 31, 2023 |  <u>QUIZ: The Presidency</u> https://uws.instructure.com/courses/612324/assignments/6544147 | due by 9:30am |
| |  <u>INSTRUCTIONS: The Presidency.</u> | to do: 9:30am |
| Tue Nov 7, 2023 |  <u>QUIZ: The Federal Courts</u> https://uws.instructure.com/courses/612324/assignments/6544158 | due by 9:30am |

| Date | Details | Due |
|------------------|---|----------------|
| |  INSTRUCTIONS: The Federal Courts | to do: 9:30am |
| Thu Nov 16, 2023 |  EXAM. Unit 2 https://uws.instructure.com/courses/612324/assignments/6544161 | due by 10:45am |
| |  QUIZ: Public Opinion https://uws.instructure.com/courses/612324/assignments/6544149 | due by 9:30am |
| Tue Nov 21, 2023 |  INSTRUCTIONS: Public Opinion | to do: 9:30am |
| |  VIDEO: Public Opinion (Optional) | to do: 9:30am |
| |  QUIZ: Elections https://uws.instructure.com/courses/612324/assignments/6544155 | due by 9:30am |
| Tue Nov 28, 2023 |  INSTRUCTIONS: Elections | to do: 9:30am |
| |  VIDEO: Elections (Optional) | to do: 9:30am |
| |  QUIZ: Political Parties https://uws.instructure.com/courses/612324/assignments/6544151 | due by 9:30am |
| Tue Dec 5, 2023 |  INSTRUCTIONS: Political Parties | to do: 9:30am |
| |  VIDEO: Political Parties (Optional) | to do: 9:30am |
| |  QUIZ: Interest Groups https://uws.instructure.com/courses/612324/assignments/6544153 | due by 9:30am |
| Tue Dec 12, 2023 |  INSTRUCTIONS: Interest Groups | to do: 9:30am |
| Tue Dec 19, 2023 |  EXAM: Unit 3 https://uws.instructure.com/courses/612324/assignments/6544150 | due by 4:45pm |

| Date | Details | Due |
|------|---|-----|
| |  <u>Attendance</u> (https://uws.instructure.com/courses/612324/assignments/6544165) | |
| |  <u>Participation</u> (https://uws.instructure.com/courses/612324/assignments/6544163) | |
| |  <u>Quiz 12 (Not Taken)</u> (https://uws.instructure.com/courses/612324/assignments/6544164) | |