
POLI 2051: Introduction to American Government

Instructor: Kirby Goidel
Time: 2:40 – 4:00 MW
Place: 229 Tureaud
Office Hours: 1:30 – 2:30 MW
Office: 231 Hodges
130B Manship Research

Phone: 225-578-7588
E-mail: kgoidel@lsu.edu
Twitter: @Louisiana_Poll
Blog: www.Louisiana-Poll.com

Course Description

This is an introductory level course intended to give students a comprehensive understanding of the institutions, processes and actors which constitute political American government. The course will focus on the individual citizen and the citizenry as a whole in the success or failure of democratic regimes. It is expected and intended that students will be active, involved and educated citizens; democratic governments are destined to fail.

General Education Requirements:

This course fulfills the general education requirements by addressing the following in the human sciences (2) Different levels of organization including (1) the individual (2) the political organization (3) Nations (4) social analysis including historical data analysis (5) Systems of interaction and the integration of empirical and theoretical information particularly within the context of democratic theory and democratic governance.

Required Texts

Greenberg, Edward S. and Benjamin J. Ross. 2011. *America's Democratic Dilemma* (4th Edition). Dallas: Academics.

All students are also required to purchase and register an iClicker. To register your iClicker, go to clicker.com on 1.6.14, registration button (near the bottom left-hand side of the page). Your student ID number will be your email address (e.g. kgoidel@lsu.edu). Close to initiation and will be here!

Evaluation Criteria

Grades will be based on the following criteria:

	Percent
In-Class Assignments/Participation	25%

Exams will be based on reading and lectures and are intended to test the student's grasp of the key concepts, ideas, and theories of American government. Anything in the lecture or from the text is fair game. Makeup

90%-100%	A
80%-89%	B
70%-79%	C
60%-69%	D
59% and below	F

Tentative Reading Schedule

Section I: The Foundations of American Government

1. August 22 - 24: Course Introduction
Read: Greenberg & Page, Ch. 1
2. August 29 - 31: The Constitution
Read: Greenberg & Page, Ch. 2
3. September 7 - 12: Federalism
Read: Greenberg & Page, Ch. 3
4. September 14 - 19: Civil Liberties
Read: Greenberg & Page, Ch. 4
5. September 21 - 26: Civil Rights
Read: Greenberg & Page, Ch 5

Section II: Influencing American Government

7. October 3 - 5: Public Opinion
Read: Greenberg & Page, Ch 6
8. October 10: The News Media
Read: Greenberg & Page, Ch 7
9. October 12: Interest Groups
Read: Greenberg & Page, Ch 8
10. October 17-19: Political Parties
Read: Greenberg & Page, Ch 9

11. October 24-26: Decision Making
12. October 31: Second Exam

Section III American Political Institutions

13. November 7-9: Congress
Read: Greenberg & Page, Ch 11

14. November 14-16: The Presidency
Read: Greenberg & Page, Ch 12

15. November 21: The Federal Bureaucracy
Read: Greenberg & Page, Ch 13

16. November 23: ~~History~~ The Judicial

17. November 28: The Courts
Read: Greenberg & Page, Ch 14

18. November 30: Course Conclusions