

## **POLI 2051-1 American Government**

Professor Christopher Kenny

Spring 2018 T/TH 10:30-11:50; 16 Lockett

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to acquaint you with the fundamentals of American government and politics; to improve your skills in evaluating and analyzing issues in American politics. The class will be organized into four main sections. The first describes the foundations of our American system including the Constitution and federalism. The second section examines public opinion and the role that parties, interest groups, and the media play in the political process. The third section covers voting, campaigns, elections and the US Congress, Presidency, and Executive branch. The final section looks at the courts and questions concerning the democratic nature of our government (civil liberties and rights). In this final section we will also read the book *Hardball*, which describes how the game of politics is really played. Throughout the course we will keep in mind the general education goal that, *informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic*

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Four exams will be given in this class. Each is worth 150 points. All reading materials and lectures are fair game. Questions coming from the reading materials will primarily focus on the key concepts identified in the text in boldface type and at the end of the c0 g[[Q)5(ueaTE299 0 11 0 0 1 175.111(a)-12(m)17(e. )]TE3 0 0 11 0 0 1 175

## TEXTBOOKS

Required texts for this class:

*We the People 12<sup>th</sup> Edition* by Thomas E. Patterson (at the bookstore as an ebook using CONNECT).