

Political Science 2051
Sylvia Gonzalez
Fall, 2018
E-mail: sgonz25@lsu.edu

Office: Stubbs 328

Office Hours: Mon: 9:30-10:30 AM
T/Th: 8:30-9:30 AM

American Government

Purpose: The purpose of this course is to examine the environment, structure, and dynamics of the American political system. The course begins by examining the ideological, historical, socioeconomic, and constitutional context of politics in the United States. Components of the political process such as the branches of government, interest groups, and political parties will then be explored.

Core Curriculum Objectives: The core curriculum requirement in political science is designed to communicate an understanding of the nature of governments and of the actions of people concerning government and public policy. Such a requirement is intended to inform students in order that they may function more effectively as responsible citizens in their community, state, and nation. *Exemplary Educational Objectives:* to comprehend the origins and evolution of the American political systems, with a focus on the growth of democratic institutions, the Constitution, federalism, civil liberties, and civil and human rights; to understand the operation of the three branches (legislative, executive, judicial) of a national government; to explain the activities of various types of participants in politics – candidates, officials, voters, and others; to understand the evolution and current state of the U.S.'s role in the world; to understand current public policy queb8T TJ ET Q0.24 0 0 0.24 18.14 5

leave early only for emergencies. Turn cell phones and pagers to silent. Most importantly, do not talk during class. Disruptive students will be asked to leave immediately.

Recording Devices, Photography and Computers No audio or video recording devices are allowed unless special permission is granted by the instructor. Please do not take photographs of the overheads. This rule is strictly enforced during exams and during review of exam materials. All violations of this policy are turned over to the Dean of Students. You are free to use laptop computers and other electronic devices for class purposes (e.g., taking notes, looking up relevant information, etc.).

September 11 Review
September 13 Exam 1

Week 5
September 18 Congress
September 20 The Presidency

PART 2: Institutional Breakdown

Week 6
September 25 The Bureaucracy
September 27 The Judiciary

Week 7