

American Government  
Political Science 2051  
Fall2021

Dr. Hogan  
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Office Hours: 9:00-11:00am Mondays (240 Stubbs Hall)

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of American government and politics. The first part of the course examines the ideological, historical, socioeconomic, and constitutional contexts of politics in the United States. The second part explores components of the political process: interest groups, political parties, and elections. The third part focuses on the institutions of government (executive, legislative, and judicial branches) that create and implement public policies. Most of our focus will be on national level politics, although at points we will cover some aspects of state and local governments as well.

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 I X Q G D P H Q W D O J R D O R I W K H , / & L V W R I R V W H U V W X G H Q W V . S U D F integrative learning in preparation for high competence and functionality in their postsecondary careers. This course fulfills the BOR Area Social/Behavioral Sciences and provides students experience with the ILC proficiency of Inquiry and Analysis

the Moodle site regularly. I provide updates and reminders on the 0 R R G O H S D J H X Q G H U ' \$ Q Q R X Q I Occasionally I will send emails, but do not expect email reminders of upcoming deadlines. Again, it is imperative that you check the Moodle site regularly.

Required Reading Materials

The textbook for the course is listed below. The book version is available for purchase in the bookstore. You may prefer to rent or purchase a physical copy

The best way to contact me is by email. I will make every effort to answer your questions in a timely manner (usually within 24 hours during the normal work week). If you would like to set up a specific time to talk with me directly, email me and we can schedule a time that is mutually convenient to speak by phone or through Zoom.



### Practice Quizzes

A practice quiz on Moodle has been designed to accompany each chapter of the text. Each quiz contains approximately 12 multiple-choice questions on concepts covered in the text. While these quizzes are not comprehensive in their coverage, they should help you assess your grasp of some key concepts and hopefully help you learn more of the material in preparation for the exams. Occasionally, some of the quiz questions appear on the exams. NOTE: You may take each quiz as many times as you want to improve your score up until the time when the quiz is closed (note the times listed on the syllabus). Each quiz is worth 5 percent of your course grade (for a total of 9 percent of your course grade). Note that the practice quizzes are due at 6:00 p.m. on the dates listed on the syllabus (usually on Fridays). Because you may encounter technical difficulties, I urge you to begin these quizzes well in advance of the dates. Again, you may take these as many times as you like to improve your grade up until the time listed on the syllabus. Note for all quizzes there is a 3-day grace period. This means that if you do not complete a quiz that is due by 6:00 p.m. Friday deadline, you have 3 additional days to complete it without penalty. Please note, I will not accept quizzes past the grace period unless a documented excuse is provided demonstrating genuine extenuating circumstances that prevented you from finishing the quiz prior to the original deadline. What this means is that you should make your best effort to complete the quizzes prior to the deadlines and rely on the grace period only when an unexpected problem arises. My strong suggestion is to check the schedule each week to make certain you have completed

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### Exams

There are three exams and scores on these comprise the largest portion of your course grade. Note the final exam is not cumulative. You have a 48-hour window in which to take each exam (see schedule below). This means you may select any 30-minute period within this window to take your exam. Note that you will only have one attempt and only 30 minutes to take the exam. It is therefore imperative that you have a reliable internet connection. Should you lose internet access while taking your exam, you will not be allowed to repeat it. These are multiple-choice exams (50 questions) and you are free to use your textbook and your notes. However, recognize that you will only have 30 minutes, so it is imperative that you study in advance in order to do well. Given the time constraint (50 questions in 30 minutes), it will not be possible to look up answers to each question. While you may use your book or notes, you may not rely on the assistance of others. Makeup exams will not be given unless the instructor is notified in advance and agrees that the absence is a university-excused absence (Note 22). Makeups are all essay exams. There are no grace periods for the exams.

### Writing Assignments

There are seven reports that in combination count for 21% of the course grade. The due dates for uploading these reports through the Moodle site are listed on the schedule. Remember that these are individual assignments that you must complete without the assistance of others. The due dates for the assignments vary throughout the semester. It is your responsibility to keep track of the deadlines and complete the assignments on time. There are no grace periods for these assignments and submitting them after the deadline will result in a substantial reduction of points (usually 5 points for each day that it is late). Recognize, however, there are legitimate reasons for missing a deadline. If you experience a significant problem that prevents you from submitting a report, it is your responsibility to let me know about it in a timely manner and

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### General Policies

### Academic Honesty

plagiarism. I reserve the right to investigate ~~whenever~~ a violation of any of these policies. All violations  
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### Computer Problems

If you experience a computer difficulty in submitting a report or in taking a quiz, ~~it is your~~  
responsibility to email me about this when it occurs and to document the problem. Quizzes and exams are  
graded automatically so check to see that your grade appears soon after ~~each one~~ **it is your**  
**responsibility that once you take a quiz or exam to make certain that the grade shows** up in the  
**gradebook**. If it does not appear, then there was a problem with your internet connection and you need to  
contact me immediately

### Policy on Deadlines

To provide a level playing field, I take deadlines very seriously and hold everyone to an identical standard. If  
you encounter a problem that prevents you from meeting a deadline, please contact me. I understand that  
problems can arise, and I will accommodate difficulties that you may encounter. But please be prepared to  
provide documentation. Finally, please note that that all listed times on the schedule are calibrated to  
the Central Time Zone

### Adding the Course Late

If you add the course after the ~~first~~ day of the semester, it is your responsibility to make up any work that you  
missed. Assignments that are past due must be completed within one week of your adding the course. If  
quizzes have closed or if submissions are no longer accepted through ~~Moodle~~, contact me for  
instructions on how to complete this work. Requests made more than one week after adding the course are  
usually not granted.

### Special Needs

For students who have special needs or who require accommodations through ~~Disability~~ **Base**  
advise me of your situation so arrangements can be made. If you are a student registered through Disabilities  
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this course, please ~~email~~ the appropriate form at the beginning of the semester. I will then post the code  
listed on the form to the course Moodle page to enable volunteers to contact you through Disabilities  
Services. If you are a student interested in volunteering to ~~serve~~ **De á1RWH 7DNHUµ SOHDVH UHD**  
instructions indicated on the course Moodle page.

## Course Schedule

Please pay careful attention to the due dates for the various practice quizzes, assignments, and exams. Note that the schedule is subject to minor changes.   
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top of the course Moodle page.

### Week #1 August 23-28

Introduction to U.S. Government and Politics

Carefully read the course syllabus.

Read *Government in America* Chapter 1.

Video Presentations: Chapter 1.

Practice Quiz Chapter 1 to be completed **Friday, August 24 at 6:00 p.m.**

### Week #2: August 29- September 4

U.S. Constitution

Read *Government in America* Chapter 2 and Appendix D (Declaration of Independence, Federalist No. 10 & N 51, and U.S. Constitution with Amendments).

Video Presentations: Chapter 2.

Practice Quiz Chapter 2 to be completed **Friday, September**

Week #7: October 3-9

Mass Media and Interest Groups

Submit Report #3 by Tuesday, October 5

Week #14: November 21-27

Health Care, Environment, and Energy Policymaking

Submit Report #6 by Tuesday, November 21 at 6:00 p.m.

Read Government in America Chapter 17.

Video Presentations: Chapter 17.

Practice Quiz for Chapter 17 to be completed Monday, November 29 at 6:00 p.m.

Work on Report #7 (due on Tuesday, November 30)

Week #15: November 28 - December 4

National Security Policymaking

Submit Report #7 by Tuesday, November 30 at 6:00 p.m.

Read Government in America Chapter 18.

Video Presentations: Chapter 18.

Practice Quiz for Chapters 18 to be completed Friday, December 3 at 6:00 p.m.

Exam #3 (Covering Chapters 1-18): May be taken anytime from 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 7 through 6:00 p.m. Thursday, December 9.