

**POLI 2051-6 American Government**

Professor Christopher Kenny

Fall 2021 T/TH 10:30-11:50; 100 Dodson

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Office Hours: by appointment

**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).

Integrated learning allows students to make simple con

402 – 419 (67-70%)	D+
378 – 401 (63-67%)	D
360 – 377 (60-63%)	D-
Below 360 (60%)	F

Class attendance is expected. It is quite possible that the lectures will contain material not found in either of the books, and that not all of the reading material will be covered in lectures. In addition, attending class can earn you bonus points. On random class days throughout the semester you will be asked to give your opinion on various controversies in American politics. These "attendance checks" are worth 2 points each and will be done through an assignment button on moodle. It is therefore in your interest to attend class as often as possible. You can also earn bonus points by doing the practice quizzes in CONNECT. These will be discussed the first week of class.

## TEXTBOOKS

Required texts for this class:

*We the People 14<sup>th</sup> Edition* by Thomas E. Patterson (at the bookstore as an ebook using CONNECT).