

Poli 2051 Fall 2019
9:00-10:20am, Tuesday and Thursdays
Location: Atkinson Hall 0015

Introduction to American Government

Instructor Dan Qi Email: dqj2@lsu.edu
Office Hours: 10:30

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 of the political system; to answer questions at the state and national level; to analyze, critically assess, and develop creative solutions to public policy problems; to read, listen to, and view mass media reports about politics and public policy with critical insight; and to recognize the similarities and differences between the U.S. political system and other political systems.

Integrated learning allows students to make simple connections among ideas and experiences and across disciplines and perspectives. The LSU Integrative Learning Core

GENERAL POLICIES

Academic Integrity: Students are required to abide by the academic conduct policies outlined in the LSU Code of Student Conduct (<https://www.lsu.edu/saa/students/codeofconduct.php>). Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to: cheating on exams, plagiarizing, buying or selling assignments, altering grades, and collaborating with others without permission. I reserve the right to investigate when I suspect a violation of any of these policies. All violations of WKH XQ Academic Conduct policies are turned over to the Dean of Students.

Classroom Decorum: Please be kind to those around you who are trying to listen, take notes, and

lectures might be difficult, so ask questions whenever necessary. In addition, feel free to stop my lecture and ask, to e-mail me, and to stop by my office. The general philosophy is that students who are eager to learn should be rewarded.

Final grades are based on attendance/participation, four quizzes, two writing assignments and three in-class examinations (two midterm and one final exam) for a total of 100 points.

Quizzes: There will be a series of four quizzes, which will be taken on Moodle. These will all be open for 24 hours and you will be given two attempts, with the highest score out of the two being recorded. There are absolutely no makeups for missed quizzes. You have the right to change quizzes into in-class format if necessary.

Writing Assignment: There will also be two short writing assignments in which you will choose from a selection of the readings on Moodle that have been assigned up to that point. For these assignments, you will read your selection in 300-500 words, briefly summarize it and, more importantly, critically analyze it. So, for these writing assignments, I want to see that you did the reading, followed by you essentially telling me what you like/agreed with/disagreed with, but most importantly, you explain why.

Exams: The course consists of two class exams and a final exam. Class exams will not be cumulative and could consist of a mix of multiple choice, short answer, and short essay questions. The dates of all of the exams will be listed in the reading calendar. The dates of all of the exams will make it abundantly clear that short of a real conflict (familial or personal harm), there are absolutely no makeups for exams. If you do end up having an emergency and miss an exam, you will be required to provide documentation pertaining to a family, or other emergency.

GRADING POLICY & IMPORTANT DATES

- 1) Attendance and participation (10%)
- 2) Four Quizzes (20%) - Sep 12th

READING ASSIGNMENTS AND SPECIFIC TOPICS
(subject to change)

PART I: FOUNDATION OF GOVERNMENT

Week 1(08/27) Introduction

Week 2(09/03, 09/05) American Roots, Context, & Culture. The Constitution

Week 3(09/10, 09/12) The Constitution The Federal System Quiz 1

Week 4 (09/17, 09/19) Civil Liberty & Civil Right

Week 5 (09/24, 09/26) Review First Midterm Examination

PART II: INSTITUTION OF GOVERNMENT

Week 6 (10/01, 10/03) Congress.

Week 7(10/08, 10/10) The Presidency Quiz 2

Week 8 (10/15) Bureaucracy and Judiciary First Writing Assignment

PART III POLITICAL BEHAVIOR

Week 9(10/22, 10/24) Political Party; Elections and Voting

Week 10(10/29, 10/31) The Campaign Process; The News Media

Week 11(11/5, 11/7) Public Opinion Quiz 3

Week 12(11/12, 11/14) Review Second Mid Term Exam

PART IV: PUBLIC POLICY

Week 13(11/19, 11/21) Domestic Policy Second Writing Assignment

Week 14(11/26) Economic Policy; Thanksgiving Quiz 4

Week 15(12/3, 12/5) Foreign and Defense Policy

Week 16(12/12) Final Exam 12:30-2:30 pm