

# American Government

## Political Science 2051

Spring 2022

Conrad Sharpe

[cshar18@lsu.edu](mailto:cshar18@lsu.edu)

### **Course Description**

This course is dedicated to introducing students to the fundamentals of American government and politics. There are three parts to this course. The first examines the ideological, contextual, and developmental aspects of American politics and government. The second part builds upon this understanding and outlines the exact political processes that help create and participate in American politics. The third part focuses on how policies are introduced, debated, decided, and implemented by the legislative, judicial, and executive branches. Students will be exposed to a variety of material that will showcase, explain, explore, and endeavor to understand American Government and American political behavior.

### **Required Reading Materials**

The textbook for the course is listed below. The e-book version is available for purchase in the bookstore. You may prefer to rent or purchase a physical copy of the book and these are available from on-line vendors. Note that we are using the 18th edition.

Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy, 2020 Presidential Election edition, 18th Edition (by George C. Edwards, Martin P. Wattenberg, and William G. Howell, Pearson: ISBN: 9780136966456).

### **LSU Integrative Learning Core**

LSU Integrative Learning Core Integrated 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



### **Make-up Policy**

Students with an **excused absence** have one week to make up the material, quiz, or exam. It is not the responsibility of the instructor to remind a student to make up what the student has missed.

### **Special Needs**

For students who have special needs or who require accommodations through Disability Services, please advise me of your situation so arrangements can be made. If you are a student registered through Disabilities Services and you are seeking me 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

### **Extra Credit**

There will be various opportunities to earn extra credit points throughout the spring semester. These extra credit points will be used on each of the three exams as the students see fit. Points are earned in the following ways:

1. Attending a political science lecture and then writing a 250-word essay detailing the lecture and the
2. A written response to relevant American political science material that is, or will be discussed, throughout the spring semester.

I reserve the right to offer and distribute extra credit points, and there will not be any extra credit points beyond what I provide as the instructor. Extra credit is a privilege and is not a guaranteed.

### **How to read the Syllabus**

**Green**

**Yellow**: Chapter (Example: Introducing Government in America)

**Pink**: Chapter quiz for that class.

Read you will need to read that chapter and or section before the beginning of the next class. Always assume you will have a chapter quiz at the beginning of each class.

**Gray**: Study Session!

## **Part 1: Constitutional Foundations: What is American Government?**

### **January 18<sup>th</sup> : Introduction to the Course**

- Review of Syllabus
- What is American Government?
- What does politics mean?

Read Chapter 1

## **January 20<sup>th</sup> : Fundamental aspects of American Government**

-Important to Know:

-Scope

-Purpose

-Types of Democracy

### **Chapter 1 Quiz**

Read Declaration of Independence, Federalist 10 and 51

## **January 25<sup>th</sup> : Founding Documents.**

-How does Factionalism relate to politics today?

-What is an example of a faction?

-Did the founders think of themselves as Englishmen or Americans?

### **Quiz on the Declaration of Independence, Federalist 10 and 51**

Read Constitution and Bill of Rights (Located in the Appendix of your Textbook)

## **January 27<sup>th</sup> : The Constitution and the birth of the American Republic**

- What does the Constitution mean for American democracy?
- How does the Bill of Rights factor into what the Constitution outlines?
- How does the Bill of Rights add on to Constitution?
- Is the Bill of Rights necessary?

### **Quiz on the Constitution and the Bill of Rights**

Read Chapter 2

**February 1<sup>st</sup>: Revolutionaries and the Importance of Revision**

Important to Know:

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**March 3<sup>rd</sup> : Political Parties**

Important to Know









