POLI 2051-1 American Government
Professor Christopher Kenny
Spring 2020 T/TH 10:30-11:50; 143 Coates
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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 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 fundamental goal of the ILC is to foster students' practical and intellectual capacities associated with integrative learning in preparation for high competence and functionality in their post-baccalaureate careers.
gs and exams are listed on moodle. Your grade will be

determined as follows:

582 – 600 (97%+)   A+
558 – 581 (93-97%)   A

various controversies in American politics. These "attendance checks" are worth 1 point each and can be added directly to your total. 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 13th Edition by Thomas E. Patterson (at the bookstore as an ebook using CONNECT).