

PURDUE UNIVERSITY FORT WAYNE

AP U.S. Government and Politics/POLS Y10300 Introduction to American Politics
Room Number D-215
Fall 2022

Instructor	
Office Hours	
Phone	
Email	

Course description: AP U.S. Government and Politics/Y10300 is a course based on content established by the College Board and the PFW Department of Political Science. Topics include: (1) the constitutional underpinnings of the United States government, (2) political ideologies, (3) political behavior (parties, interest groups, public opinion, and the media), (4) the institutions of national government, (5) public policy, and (6) civil rights and civil liberties.

Required text: Keeping the Republic; Power and Citizenship in American Politics. Christine Barbour and Gerald C. Wright. 7th Edition. 2015

Required materials: Notebook

Assignments: All assignments must be completed by their due date for full credit.

Assignment	Total Point Value
Tests 1-6	800
Lecture Quizzes	200
Ideology Paper	100
Final Exam	200
Total	1300

Tests—Each unit exam will consist of 75 to 100 multiple choice questions and one essay; the essay should be around **three paragraphs** in length. The unit exams will cover several chapters and be worth 100 points apiece. Study guides will be available for each test, including the final exam. Test questions will come from both the book and lecture. Due to time restraints, lectures cannot cover all the material on the exams...you are very much advised to complete the study guides and read the book.

Lecture Quizzes—quizzes will periodically be given which will focus on information shared during class lecture. These quizzes will consist of 20 to 30 short answer questions. The source for these questions will be the lecture notes. A one-day advance warning may or may not be given for these quizzes. Students are advised to take thorough notes while in class and to review them often.

Ideology paper—In short, which political party matches your ideology? This paper is to be a discussion concerning how the Democrats and Republicans compare to your beliefs and values concerning at least four of the following issues:

environmental protection	terrorism (domestic and international)
education	gun control
unemployment	immigration
international trade	crime and punishment
defense/national security	social issues (e.g., abortion, same-sex marriage)
welfare/Social Security	health care reform

Your grade will be determined by how thorough your discussion is on the above-mentioned issues and by how well you relate those issues to your own personal beliefs and values. You should also be clear about where your values come from, i.e., how were you socialized into these particular beliefs and by whom. Be certain to use the official websites of the Democratic National Committee (www.democrats.org) and the Republican National Committee (www.rnc.org) in researching this paper. The conclusion of the paper must contain your party preference and the reasons for that preference based on the above-mentioned issues and beliefs. Would a third party (e.g., Libertarian, Green, Natural Law Party) fit your personal ideology better?

This four-page paper must be written using APA citations and is due on a date to be announced.

Final exam—A semi-comprehensive final will be given during Belmont's finals week. It will consist of two hundred multiple choice questions, fifty of which will be taken from the last few weeks' worth of material and the remainder from the rest of the semester.

Course Policies:

Academic misconduct—No form of academic misconduct will be tolerated in this class. If the instructor discovers that plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, or any other form of misconduct has occurred on an exam or another assignment, the penalty will be *an F for that particular assignment* and referral to the relevant academic authorities.

Classroom civility—Occasionally, we may discuss sensitive subjects in this course and individuals' opinions will clash. The classroom is a place for emotional arguments and debate, so polite disagreement is welcome. However, I expect professionalism from everyone in the class; any intimidation, threats or bullying violate the student code and will be dealt with by the instructor in an appropriate manner. I also expect students to refrain from rude behavior such as reading the newspaper, working on other courses, listening to music, or making snide comments about the class or fellow students during lecture. For my part, I pledge to treat appropriate student contributions with respect, and encourage everyone to participate in discussion as far as they feel comfortable.

Graduation requirements fulfillment—PFW political science majors who complete Y10300 with a C- or better can apply these credits towards their major. All PFW students who successfully finish this course with a C- or better can use it to satisfy part of their general education requirements (1.1, 1.3, 1.5; 5.1-5.6).

Schedule:

Chapters/Topics

Ch. 1 – Politics: Who Gets What, and How?

Ch. 2 – American Citizens and Political Culture

Ch. 3 – Politics of the American Founding

Chapters 1, 2, and 3 – Exam 1

Political Ideology Paper Due

Ch. 4 – Federalism and the U.S. Constitution

Ch. 4 Quiz

Ch. 5 – Fundamental American Liberties

Ch. 6 – The Struggle for Equal Rights

Ch. 10 – The American Legal System and the Courts

Chapters 5, 6, 10 – Exam 2

Ch. 7 – The Congress

Ch. 8 – The Presidency

Ch. 9 – The Bureaucracy

Chapters 7, 8, 9—Exam 3

Ch. 11 – Public Opinion

Ch. 12 – Political Parties

Ch. 13 – Interest Groups

Chapters 11, 12, and 13 – Exam 4

Ch. 14 – Voting, Campaigning, and Elections

Ch. 15 – The Media

Chapters 14 and 15 – Exam 5

Ch. 17 – Social and Environmental Policy

Ch. 18 – Economic Policy

Ch. 19 – Foreign Policy

Chapters 17, 18, and 19—Exam 6

Ch. 16 – State and Local Government/Indiana Government

(State and Local Government questions will be on the final)

A cumulative final exam will consist of 200 multiple choice questions and will be given on the last day of class. The final exam will be worth 20-25% of the overall grade.

General Education Competencies

This course satisfies the B5 (Social and Behavioral Ways of Knowing) portion of students' general education requirements. In particular, Y103 meets the following standards that allow it to be labeled as a B5 course.

A1 (Foundational Intellectual Skills: Written Communication) Learning Outcomes

1.1--Produce texts that use appropriate formats, genre conventions, and documentation styles while controlling tone, syntax, grammar, and spelling.

1.3--Read critically, summarize, apply, analyze, and synthesize information and concepts in written and visual texts as the basis for developing original ideas and claims.

1.5--Develop, assert and support a focused thesis with appropriate reasoning and adequate evidence.

B5 (Ways of Knowing: Social and Behavioral Ways of Knowing) Learning Outcomes

5.1--Demonstrate knowledge of major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical patterns, or historical contexts within a given social or behavioral domain.

5.2--Identify the strengths and weaknesses of contending explanations or interpretations for social, behavioral, or historical phenomena.

5.3--Demonstrate basic literacy in social, behavioral, or historical research methods and analyses.

5.4--Evaluate evidence supporting conclusions about the behavior of individuals, groups, institutions, or organizations.

5.5--Recognize the extent and impact of diversity among individuals, cultures, or societies in contemporary or historical contexts.

5.6--Identify examples of how social, behavioral, or historical knowledge informs and can shape personal, ethical, civic, or global decisions and responsibilities.

Attendance Policy—Attendance is very important as material covered in class through lecture and discussion CANNOT be made up simply by reading the textbook. Therefore, students will be allowed to miss a maximum of **five class periods**. After seven missed class periods, students will be docked one-third of a letter grade for every missed day beyond the seventh. Example: a student receiving a B+ will have her grade lowered to a B after the eighth missed day; upon missing the ninth day, that same student's grade will be lowered to B-, and so forth.

Make-up tests – If you are going to be absent from class on the day of a test, please contact the instructor well ahead of time so appropriate arrangements can be made for a substitute exam time. Emergencies do occur, but no make-up test can be granted unless the instructor is notified by e-mail or phone prior to the start time of the test. **Only one make-up test per semester will be allowed under any circumstances. Students will be allowed to make up one missed test; after that, a zero will be given for all missed tests. That zero cannot and will not be changed unless the student has extenuating circumstances involved with missing that test.**

Parent/guardian signature required: _____