

## **Introduction to American Government (Fall 2017)**

POLI 2051  
MWF 2:30-3:20  
Allen 0023

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### **Course Description**

This course will cover topics related to American government and politics. Students will learn about the foundations of American government, the structure of American institutional arrangements, and the influence of these structures and the political behavior of citizens on electoral and policy outcomes. *LSU graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference.*

### **Course Requirements**

There will be two exams and two quizzes in this course. Each exam (midterm and final) will be worth 30% of your final grade. Each quiz will be worth 15% of your final grade. Material for the exams and quizzes will be taken from content in the textbook and lectures. The remaining 10% of your grade will be composed of pop quizzes and participation points.

Pop Quiz and Participation	10%
Quizzes	30%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%

### **Grading scale**

97.0 to 100 A+  
93.0 to 96.9 A  
90.0 to 92.9 A-  
87.0 to 89.9 B+  
83.0 to 86.9 B  
80.0 to 82.9 B-  
77.0 to 79.9 C+  
73.0 to 76.9 C  
70.0 to 72.9 C-  
67.0 to 69.9 D+  
63.0 to 66.9 D  
60.0 to 62.9 D  
below 60.0 F

## **Textbook**

*Gateways to Democracy*, 3rd Edition

John G. Geer; Wendy J. Schiller; Jeffrey A. Segal; Richard Herrera; Dana K. Glencross

ISBN-10: 1-285-85291-5

ISBN-13: 978-1-285-85291-1

## **Reading and Exam Schedule**

Below is a schedule of the chapters that will be covered and the exam dates. Students should read the book chapters prior to the class.

### **Week 1**

August 21

August 23

August 25

### **Introduction**

No Class: Read the Syllabus

Chapter 1: Gateways to American Democracy

Chapter 2: The Constitution

### **Week 2**

August 28

August 30

September 1

### **Constitution and Federalism**

Chapter 2: Constitution

Chapter 3 Federalism

Chapter 3: Federalism

### **Week 3**

September 4

September 6

September 8

### **Civil Liberties**

No Class (Labor Day)

Chapter 4: Civil Liberties

Chapter 4: Civil Liberties

### **Week 4**

September 11

September 13

September 15

### **Civil Rights**

Chapter 5: Civil Rights

Chapter 5: Civil Rights

Quiz One

### **Week 5**

September 18

September 20

September 22

### **The Presidency**

Chapter 11: Presidency

Chapter 11: Presidency

### **Week 6**

September 25

September 27

September 29

### **The Bureaucracy**

Chapter 12: The Bureaucracy

Chapter 12: The Bureaucracy

### **Week 7**

October 2

October 4

October 6

### **The Judiciary**

Chapter 13: The Judiciary

Chapter 13: The Judiciary

### **Week 8**

### **Midterm Exam Week**

October 9                      Review  
October 11                     Exam  
October 13

**Week 9                        Congress**  
October 16                    Chapter 10: Congress  
October 18                    Chapter 10: Congress  
October 20                    No Class (Fall Break)

**Week 10                     Interest Groups**  
October 23                    Chapter 7: Interest Groups  
October 25                    Chapter 7: Interest Groups  
October 27

**Week 11                     Political Parties**  
October 30                    Chapter 8: Political Parties  
November 1                    Chapter 8: Political Parties  
November 3                    Quiz Two

**Week 12                     Elections, Campaigns and Voting**  
November 6                    Chapter 9: Elections, Campaigns and Voting  
November 8                    Chapter 9: Elections, Campaigns and Voting  
November 10

**Week 13                     Public Opinion and the Media**  
November 13                   Chapter 6: Public Opinion and the Media  
November 25                   Chapter 6: Public Opinion and the Media  
November 17

**Week 14                     Economic, Domestic, and Foreign Policy**  
November 20                   Chapter 14: Economic, Domestic, and Foreign Policy  
November 22                   No Class (Thanksgiving)  
November 24                   No Class (Thanksgiving)

**Week 15                     Review Week**  
November 27                   Chapter 14: Economic, Domestic and Foreign Policy  
November 29  
December 1                    Review

**Week 16                     Exam Week**  
December 5  
5:30-7:30pm                   Final Exam