

Introduction to American Government (Fall 2017)

Political Science 2051(2)
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235 Stubbs Hall
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Tues, Thurs 9:00 – 10:20
Lockett 9
Office Hrs: Monday 9-11
Thursday 11-12; by appointment

INTRODUCTION:

This course is designed to give you an overview of American government. We will discuss how the American system of government came to be and the forces that shaped its development. In addition, the basic structure of our governing system and the avenues for participation will be addressed. Examples of public policy are woven throughout the course.

GENERAL EDUCATION OBJECTIVES:

This course also aims to educate students about our political and social system and to instill a lifelong interest in the topic. Specifically the students will be able to demonstrate mastery of factual knowledge of the subject matter; understand the levels of association, from friends and family, to economy and polity. *LSU graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference.*

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

The textbook for the course is **REVEL for Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy - 2016 Presidential Election -- Access Card, 17/E (ISBN-13: 9780134628936)**. You will need four scantrons (Form No. 882-E).

Revel for Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy - 2016 Presidential Election, 17e by George C. Edwards, Martin P. Wattenberg, and William G. Howell is the digital text you'll be using to access assignments throughout the semester. To access your materials, follow the link address (unique to this course) below.

1. Go to: <https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/flipda>
2. Sign in or create a Pearson Account.
3. Click 'View access options' to redeem your access code or buy instant access. (Temporary access option for financial aid available.)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students should read the chapter under discussion **prior** to the class so that they can participate in class discussion and asked informed questions. There are four exams over the course of the semester. Each exam is worth 100 points and consists of 50 multiple choice questions. The exams are not cumulative in nature. If you miss an exam, you may take a makeup exam under certain conditions. A makeup exam requires a doctor's note, an obituary, university excuse, or proof of an actual emergency. Things like a family vacation, etc. are not emergencies. When at all possible, please notify me in advance that you will

miss the exam. Unless you are unconscious or behind bars, I must be emailed within 24 hours of the missed exam in order to discuss the makeup.

Each online chapter has mini quizzes scattered throughout and a quiz at the end of the chapter. You will hate these. However, it will help you determine whether or not you have mastered a particular chapter's concepts. You can take these mini quizzes and chapter quizzes as many times as you want in order to obtain the maximum number of points. At the end of the semester, I will take the point total and determine your percentage correct. You will then have that many points added to your total grade. In other words, if there are 1,000 points possible on the Revel site, and you earn 920 out of 1000 points, you will have 92 points added to your point total. This means these homework quizzes are worth as much as one exam.

Grading Scale

A+ 483-500	B+ 433-447	C+ 383-397	D+ 333-347	F 0-297
A 468-482	B 418-432	C 368-382	D 318-332	
A- 448-467	B- 398-417	C- 348-367	D- 298-317	

The lectures are intended to prepare you for the exam. Material will be presented in the lecture that is not in the textbook and **will be** on the exam. Class begins at 9:00 am. Students should come to class prepared and be attentive and responsive during the lecture **with cell phones off**. Students are expected to attend regularly, **punctually and for the duration of the class**.

Students are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct which can be located at [http://appl003.lsu.edu/slas/dos.nsf/\\$Content/Code+of+Conduct?OpenDocument](http://appl003.lsu.edu/slas/dos.nsf/$Content/Code+of+Conduct?OpenDocument). Violators will be referred immediately to the Dean of Students. During exams, **all** electronic devices must be turned off and put away. Failure to abide by this rule is considered cheating.

Louisiana State University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. The syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities: If you are seeking classroom accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you are required to register with Disability Services (DS). DS is located in 115 Johnston Hall. Phone is 225/ 578-5919. To receive academic accommodations for this class, please obtain the proper DS forms and meet with me at the beginning of the semester.

Readings Schedule and Topic Outline

August 22 Syllabus; Chapter One
August 24 Chapter One
August 29 Chapter Two
August 31 Chapter Three
September 5 Chapter Four
September 7 Chapter Five
September 12 Chapter Five
September 14 Review
September 19 Exam One

September 21 Chapter Six
September 26 Chapter Seven

September 28 Chapter Eight

October 3 Chapter Nine

October 5 Chapter Ten

October 10 Review

October 12 Exam Two

October 17 Chapter Eleven

October 19 Fall Holiday

October 24 Chapter Twelve

October 26 Chapter Twelve

October 31 Chapter Thirteen

November 2 Chapter Fourteen

November 7 Chapter Fifteen

November 9 Review

November 14 Exam Three

November 16 Chapter Sixteen

November 21 Chapter Seventeen

November 23 Thanksgiving Holiday

November 28 Chapter Eighteen

November 30 Review

December 7 Exam Four (Final) 12:30-2:30