

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WINTER ONLINE (POL 1200-80)

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Course Objectives:

This online course is intended to introduce you to both the formal and informal processes and institutions of American political life. In particular, the course will focus the institutional and ideological landscape of U.S. politics from the founding through present on selected topics. Institutional topics will include the “Founding”, constitutional design, separation of powers, federalism, civil liberties and civil rights, and the meaning of the shift from congressionally centered government to presidential government in modern era. Themes will include the relationship between an active electorate, strong and competitive parties and limits on special interests and the quality of democratic governance.

Required Texts:

Lowi, Shepsle & Ginsberg, **American Government-BRIEF (2013- Election Update)**,
NORTON Publishers (NYC)

New York Times, 3 week online subscription

- You will be expected to have completed all the assigned reading before taking any online textbook quizzes. This means not just the textbook chapter, but any Power points and assigned "Prof's Notes" for each topic.
- When indicated an assignment is due, for example, on "THURS", it is due by 11:59pm of that day—timers are often set on the quizzes and opportunities for completing the assignment will “disappear” from sight. Any late assignments must be completed with my permission and will be penalized.
- For the two NYT's Assignments, you will be guided with specific directions to be posted. All NYT assignments will be posted to Discussion Board. My comments on your thread will be public, your grade will be private. **THE PLAIGIARISM POLICY APPLIES TO ALL MATERIAL YOU POST!**

Grading:

1. Regular Log-in and Timely Completion of Assignments..... 10%
2. Syllabus Quiz3%
3. 3pp Essay.....15%
4. Chapter TESTS (5).....40%.
5. New York Times DB Assignments (2).....12%
6. FINAL EXAM.....20%

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Course Introduction

TH 12/26 **Syllabus Quiz ONLINE**

I. Introduction to Studying American Government

FR 12/27 Read Chapter Two: “Constructing a Government: The Founding and the Constitution”

SA 12/28 View Powepoint; Read Prof Notes

SU 12/29 **Take Chapter Test**

II. Foundations of American Government

M 12/30 Read "The Constitutional Framework: Federalism & Separation of Powers”

TU 12/31 View Power point and Prof Notes
(3 pp ESSAY ASSIGNMENT POSTED)

W 1/1 NEW YEAR’S DAY --NO CLASS

TH 1/02 **Take Chapter Test**

FR 1/03 Work on ESSAY ASSIGNMENT—Thesis Statement Check on DB!!

SA 1/04 **ESSAY DUE (Must be submitted through Turnitin.com—Link on Bb) 11:59pm**

III. Civil Liberties & Civil Rights

SU 1/05 Read Chapter Four, “The Constitution and the Individual: Civil Liberties & Civil Rights”

M 1/06 View FILM (Bb) Eyes on Prize—“Ain’t Afraid of your Jails”; Read Prof Notes

TU 1/07 **Take Chapter Test (includes Eyes on Prize!)**

IV. Congress & Presidency

W 1/08 Read Chapter Five "Congress the First Branch"

TH 1/09 Read Prof Notes; **NYT #1 : Congress** (See Assignments for Instructions)

FR 1/10 Read Chapter 6 "The President and the Executive Branch"

GUIDE POSTED STUDY FOR FINAL!!!

SA 1/11 View Powerpoint; Read Prof Notes -- **NYT # 2 Executive Power**

Su 1/12 **Take Combined Chapter Five/Six Test**

M 1/13 STUDY STUDY STUDY

FR 1/14 **FINAL ONLINE 1/14 ANY 2 Hour Window TIMED!**