

COURSE # POLS 1100

American National Government

*2021-2022*

**Instructor**

**Instructor:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

**Office Hours:**

**Course**

## Course Description

***This is a Concurrent Enrollment Course, offering both high school credit through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ High School and college credit through Utah Valley University. Credit from this course is transferable to all colleges and universities. Contact the receiving institution for how the credits will be applied.***

In this introductory course, students will learn the foundations of American government and how the political process works. Students who take an active approach in their learning will not only understand the history, institutions, and actors in American politics, but they will also be able to critically analyze current political issues. We will explore the political structures (legislative, executive, judicial, and bureaucratic), behaviors (interest group activity, public opinion, participation in campaigns and elections), and processes (democracy, conflict, power) through which we are governed.

Commentary: This course will teach students to analyze, critique, and reflect upon the important theories, concepts, and institutions that affect all of us as citizens in a democracy.

**Catalog Description**

Studies history and structure of American National Government, rights and responsibilities of citizens, political institutions, political processes, and governmental policies.

**Course Prerequisites**

This class is available to all junior and senior high school students in good academic standing. High school prerequisites apply.

## Course Objectives or Learning Outcomes

* Develop a strong understanding of the Constitution and how it has shaped our American democracy
* Learn about the structure of the American political system
* Explore the ways in which public opinion impacts political outcomes
* Become educated consumers of political communication
* Apply traditional theories and concepts to the current political environment in the United States

**Required Text and Materials**

* Example: American Government: Historical, Popular and Global Perspectives. Dautrich, Kenneth and Yalof, David A. Wadsworth Publishing
* Example: A More Perfect Constitution. Sabato, Larry.

**Department Policies**

**Assessment - Example**

BOOK REVIEW

You will be required to read A More Perfect Constitution by Larry Sabato and respond to the arguments he makes. The paper should be 3-5 pages, double-spaced. This will constitute 10% of your grade.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

There will be a writing assignment that constitutes 10% of your grade. This assignment will require you to find out who represents you in the House or Senate and write a letter to them about an issue that is important to you. You will need to provide me a copy of the letter and any response you receive.

PAPERS

There will be three papers assigned throughout the course that constitute 10% of your grade. These will be on issues facing our political culture and process.

EXTRA CREDIT PAPER

Using the website, Thomas Thomas.loc.gov, write a 5-7-page paper on the legislative process. You can earn up to 5% extra credit toward your final grade.

This assignment will require you to follow a piece of legislation through the legislative process. Most of the information that you will need for this paper can be found at the following website: thomas.loc.gov . Your paper should consist of 5-7 double-spaced pages. You should document all of your sources using one of the major style guides, APA, Turabian, etc.

1. Title of Legislation

2. Biography of Main Sponsors

This section should contain a short biography about the members of Congress who sponsored the legislation. You should include the state they are from, when they were first elected, the committees that they serve on, and the margin of victory in their last election.

3. List of co-sponsors

4. Committee(s)/sub-committee(s) to which the bill was referred

5. Summary of the bill

6. Summary of the main public policy issue(s) that the bill addresses

7. Status of the legislation

8. If applicable, summary of speech given on the floor of the House or Senate in regards to this legislation

9. Why you feel this piece of legislation is important

All exams will be taken in class. The exams will consist of multiple-choice and true-false questions taken from the lectures and your readings. Some of the material on the exam will not be covered in class, but you are still responsible for it.

**Topics**

Public Opinion

Campaigns and Elections

The media

Political Parties

Interest Groups

Federalism and Nationalism

The Constitution

Congress

Judiciary

Course Procedures and Assignments

**Grading Scale**

A = 100-93 B - = 82-80 D+ = 69-67

A - = 92-90 C+ = 79-77 D = 66-63

B+ = 89-87 C = 76-73 D - = 62-60

B = 86-83 C - = 72-70 F = 59-0

**Grades and Credit**

Your grade for this class will become part of your permanent college transcript and will affect your GPA. A low grade in this course can affect college acceptance and scholarship eligibility.

Grades are determined by instructors, based upon measures determined by the instructor and department and may include: evaluation of responses, written exercises and examinations, performance exercises and examinations, classroom/laboratory contributions, mastery of pertinent skills, etc. The letter grade “A” is an exceptional grade indicating superior achievement; “B” is a grade indicating commendable mastery; “C” indicates satisfactory mastery and is considered an average grade; “D” indicates substandard progress and insufficient evidence of ability to succeed in sequential courses; “E” (failing) indicates inadequate mastery of pertinent skills or repeated absences from class.

**University Policies**

**Academic Integrity**

Utah Valley University expects all students to maintain integrity and high standards of individual honesty in academic work, to obey the law, and to show respect for others. Students of this class are expected to support an environment of academic integrity, have the right to such an environment, and should avoid all aspects of academic dishonesty. Examples of academic dishonesty include plagiarizing, faking of data, sharing information during an exam, discussing an exam with another student who has not taken the exam, consulting reference material during an exam, submitting a written assignment which was authored by someone other than you, and/or cheating in any form.

In keeping with UVU policy, evidence of academic dishonesty may result in a failing grade in the course and disciplinary review by the college.  Any student caught cheating will receive, at minimum, zero points on that particular assignment for the first offense.  A second offense can result in failing the course and will entail being reported to Student Advising.  Academic dishonesty includes, in part, using materials obtained from another student, published literature, and the Internet without proper acknowledgment of the source.   Additional information on this topic is published in the student handbook and is available on the UVU website.

### **Student Code of Conduct**

All UVU students are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner acceptable at an institution of higher learning. All students are expected to **obey the law**, to **perform contracted obligations**, to **maintain absolute integrity and high standards** of individual honesty in academic work, and to observe a **high standard of conduct for the academic environment**.

The Student Rights and Responsibilities Code, or Code of Conduct, outlines for students what they can expect from the University and what the University expects of them.

Students should review their Rights and Responsibilities. The Code of Conduct also outlines the process for academic appeals, and appeals related to misconduct and sanctions. It can be found at <http://www.uvu.edu/studentconduct/students/>

**Student Responsibilities**

You are expected to take an active role in the learning process by meeting course requirements as specified in written syllabi. Faculty members have the right to establish classroom standards of behavior and attendance requirements. You are expected to meet these requirements and make contact with faculty members when unable to do so.

**Withdrawal Policy**

If you do not wish to take this course or find that you are unable to continue, you should officially withdraw by the deadline stated in the current semester UVU Student Timetable.

You can officially withdraw from a course by dropping it through the online registration system or the campus One Stop desk (BA 106) by the listed date. If you officially withdraw from a course by the "Last Day to Drop and Not Show on Transcript," the course will not appear on your academic transcripts. If you officially withdraw from a course by the "Last Day to Withdraw," a "W" will appear on your transcripts. Although your GPA will not be affected — a "W" will indicate that you chose to withdraw. If you fail to complete the course and do not drop it before the "Last Day to Withdraw," a "UW" or "E" (a failing grade) will appear on your transcripts.

Withdrawing from a course may impact your financial aid status. For more information, see: UVU Financial Aid.

**Cheating and Plagiarism Policy Procedures**

This document was taken from the Utah Valley University Policy 541, The Student Rights and Responsibilities Code

5.4.4 Each student is expected to maintain academic ethics and honesty in all its forms, including, but not limited to, cheating and plagiarism as defined hereafter:

1) Cheating is the act of using or attempting to use or providing others with unauthorized information, materials, or study aids in academic work. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, passing examination answers to or taking examinations for someone else, or preparing or copying another's academic work.

2) Plagiarism is the act of appropriating another person's or group's ideas or work (written, computerized, artistic, etc.) or portions thereof and passing them off as the product of one's own work in any academic exercise or activity.

3) Fabrication is the use of invented information or the falsification of research or other findings. Examples include but are not limited to:

a) Citation of information not taken from the source indicated. This may include the incorrect documentation of secondary source materials.

b) Listing sources in a bibliography not used in the academic exercise.

c) Submission in a paper, thesis, lab report, or other academic exercise of falsified, invented, or fictitious data or evidence, or deliberate and knowing concealment or distortion of the true nature, origin, or function of such data or evidence.

d) Submitting as your own any academic exercise (written work, printing, sculpture, etc.) prepared totally or in part by another.

### **Students with Disabilities**

**Students who need accommodations because of a disability** may contact the UVU Office of Accessibility Services (OAS), located on the Orem Campus in LC 312. To schedule an appointment or to speak with a counselor, call the OAS office at 801-863-8747. Deaf/Hard of Hearing individuals, email [nicole.hemmingsen@uvu.edu](https://owa.uvu.edu/owa/redir.aspx?C=r3xUa4y2bkalWljgIj1VXM3KzYlusNIIESMqIpkF5USfG-H3cUMstYl8DNScKc_quB49PvOQ-l0.&URL=mailto%3anicole.hemmingsen%40uvu.edu) or text 385-208-2677.

**Religious Accommodations**

At the beginning of each semester, you shall promptly review the course syllabus and class schedule and notify faculty to request an accommodation for sincerely held religious beliefs and practices using the *Religious Accommodation Request Form*.

**Dangerous Behavior**

The faculty member has the right to demand and secure the immediate removal of any person from the classroom whenever the faculty member determines, to the best of his or her knowledge or belief, that the person's actions are threatening or dangerous to students or themselves. If the faculty member cannot resolve a disruptive situation, the faculty member may request that the disruptive person(s) leave the classroom. If the disruptive person(s) will not leave voluntarily, the faculty member may call University Police for assistance. The incident shall be reported to the Dean of Students and to the Director of Judicial Affairs in accordance with Policy 541 *Student Rights and Responsibilities Code*.

**Discriminatory, Exclusionary, or Disruptive Behavior**

Faculty members observing discriminatory, exclusionary, or disruptive behavior follow procedures described in UVU Policy 541 *Student Rights and Responsibilities Code.* 5.6

**Attendance**

Attendance in this class is not mandatory due to the different learning preferences with each student. However, class will be held according to the schedule on the top of this syllabus. Chapters will be covered in class as listed in the semester schedule below. Class will consist of chapter reviews, discussion and group activities.

**Policies/References**

1. Policy 541: Student Rights and Responsibilities Code <https://www.uvu.edu/catalog/current/policies-requirements/student-rights-and-responsibilities.html>
2. Policy 601: Classroom Instruction and Management. <https://policy.uvu.edu/getDisplayFile/5750ed2697e4c89872d95664>
3. Policy 635: Faculty Rights and Professional Responsibilities. <https://policy.uvu.edu/getDisplayFile/563a40bc65db23201153c27d>

**Definitions**

* 1. Syllabus: An agreement between faculty and students that communicates course structure, schedule, student expectations, expected course outcomes, and methods of assessment to students.

### **Dropping the Class**

### \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the last day to drop the course without it showing on your transcript.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the last day to withdraw from the class.   
If you drop the high school class, you must also withdraw from the UVU class to avoid receiving a failing grade.

Due dates and this syllabus may change at the instructor’s discretion due to the needs of the class members.