



Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: <https://catalog.uvu.edu/>

Semester: Spring

Year: 2025

Course Prefix: POLS

Course and Section #: 1100-004

Course Title: American National Government

Credits: 3

Course Description

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

Course Attributes

This course has the following attributes:

- General Education Requirements
- Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
- Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
- Discipline Core Requirements in Program
- Elective Core Requirements in Program
- Open Elective

Other: *Click here to enter text.*

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Richard Cho

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Explain the key principles and philosophies that influenced the creation of the U.S. Constitution and the American system of government.
 2. Differentiate between the civil rights and civil liberties protected by the U.S. Constitution.
 3. Discuss the development and influence of public opinion in the American system of government.
 4. Describe the American election process, including the nomination and general election processes for local, state, and national offices.
 5. Explain the function and operation of the institutions of government at the national, state, and local levels of the American political system.
 6. Analyze current political debates, trends, and challenges facing American society and government.
-

Course Materials and Texts

6-month digital subscription to iClicker account.

Recommended (supplementary) textbook: “By The People: Debating American Government” by James Morone and Rogan Kersh.

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

3 non-cumulative exams (60%).

Weekly quizzes (10%)

Online discussions (10%)

Short paper assignment (10%)

iClicker quizzes (10%)

Final letter grades based on the following rubric:

A	93-100
A-	90-92.9
B+	87-89.9
B	83-86.9
B-	80-82.9
C+	77-79.9
C	73-76.9
C-	70-72.9
D+	67-69.9
D	63-66.9
D-	60-62.9
E	Below 60

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

No required readings.

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

1: US Constitution

- Articles of Confederation
- Constitutional Convention
- Debate over Ratification
- Articles I – VII and Bill of Rights

2. Federalism

- Enumerated vs. Reserved Powers
- Dual vs. Shared Federalism
- Judicial Precedents

3. Public Opinion

- Measuring Public Opinion
- Content of Public Opinion
- Political Knowledge
- Information Shortcuts

4. Campaigns & Elections

- Categories of Elections
- Logistics of Elections
- Presidential Election Cycle

5. News Media

- News Media as a Consumer Product
- News Media as a Fourth Branch

6. Political Parties

- Party in Government
- Party Organization
- Party in Electorate

7. Interest Groups

- Pluralism
- Regulation of Lobbying
- Policy Influence

8. US Congress

- Party Leadership
- Committee System
- Legislation Process

9. Federal Judiciary

- Historical Eras of Judicial Review
- Operation of the Court
- Public Opinion of the Court

10. Presidency

- Categories of Presidential Powers
- The Bully Pulpit

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

This course requires you to complete assignments that assess your understanding and application of the material. You are expected to do your own work, and the use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, such as chatbots, text generators, paraphrasers, summarizers, or solvers, is strictly prohibited for any part of your assignments. Using these tools will be considered academic dishonesty and will be handled according to the university's policy. If you have questions about acceptable use of AI tools, please consult the instructor before submitting your work.

Using Remote Testing Software

This course does not use remote testing software.

This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic

honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

Required University Syllabus Statements

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities

Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](#) at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at DHHservices@uvu.edu

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

Academic Integrity

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their [rights and responsibilities](#). In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in [UVU Policy 541: Student Code of Conduct](#).

Equity and Title IX

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – TitleIX@uvu.edu – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

Religious Accommodation

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.

To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu. If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a [specially dedicated space](#) for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.