



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-H42

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: Nathan Melton

Student Learning Outcomes

POLS 1100

Upon successful completion, students should be able to . . .

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

A More Perfect Constitution
GOVT10

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

Letter to Member of Congress

You will be required to find out who your member of the House of Representatives is or who your Senator is. You will then need to write a letter to them concerning an issue that is important to you. The letter should be a minimum of 1 page, single-space

Papers

There will several short papers that we write in class. Each assignment should be 1.5-2 double-spaced pages. They should express your opinion on the topic. Papers will be graded based on your ability to follow the above directions. All papers will be submitted through the assignments link.

Book Chapter Responses

You will be required to read several chapters from A More Perfect Constitution by Larry Sabato and write a response. The response should be 1-2 double-spaced pages. In the response you should discuss your thoughts on the proposal and whether or not you feel it is valid.

Exams

Exams consist of fifty multiple choice and true/false questions. Exams draw 50% from the chapter readings and 50% from the lectures. The study guides cover broad concepts and ideas, as well as specific ones.

Movie Responses

We will watch several documentaries during class. You will be required to take notes and submit them at the end of class. If you are not in class you will be unable to complete the assignment.

Projects

There will be several projects throughout the semester. They will require a substantial amount of

time to complete.

Grading

Category	Percent of Grade
Projects/Exams	30%
Assignments	70%

Grading Scale

Letter Grade Percentage A 94 - 100

A-	90 - 93
B+	88 - 89
B	84 - 87
B-	80 - 83
C+	78 - 79
C	74 - 77
C-	70 - 73
D+	68 - 69
D	64 - 67
D-	60 - 63

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

Reading assignments from the text that align with the topics below

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

- Contours of American Democracy
 - Explores basic principles of American democracy
- The Constitution
 - Discusses the Constitutional Convention
 - Explores the concepts of separation of powers and checks and balances

- Federalism
 - Discusses powers of national and state govt
 - Public Opinion and Voting
 - Explores public opinion polling
 - Examines the importance of voting
 - Political Parties
 - Examines the role that political parties play in the American system.
 - Campaigns and Elections
 - Discusses the rules governing American elections
 - Examines the Electoral College
 - Politics and the Media
 - Examines the role of the media in American politics
 - Interest Groups
 - Discuss the role that interest groups play in the American system
 - Congress
 - Explores the power and role of Congress
 - Presidency
 - Examines the role of the president and the structure of the executive branch
 - Judiciary
 - Examines the role of the judiciary in the American system
 - Bureaucracy
 - Explores the role that the bureaucracy plays in the US system
 - Civil Liberties
 - Discusses the Bill of Rights
 - Public Policy
 - Explores social, economic, and foreign policy.
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Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

I value writing as a way to express thinking. ChatGPT and other AI platforms are useful tools, but I want you to work through the challenges and victories of the writing process--this will strengthen your ability to think and communicate your ideas. You may not use AI to automate your writing, but we may use AI to help improve your writing. I will let you know when AI is acceptable to use for your assignments.

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.