



## Political Science

United States Government: (Govt. 2305.9EE (83293) Dual Credit CHS 114  
(Govt.) 2305.A1E-82532, A2E-83941, A3E-83940; Pride Prep THL 303

### COURSE SYLLABUS:

Fall 2025

7:20-8:15

Ad astra per aspera/To the stars through difficulty

Not totally constructed

**Instructor: Dr. von Neuhaus**

**Office Location:** Ferguson Room 130

**Office Fax: (903) 886.5318**

**Main Office (903) 886.5317**

**University Email Address:** [Frank.vonNeuhaus@etamu.edu](mailto:Frank.vonNeuhaus@etamu.edu)

† Preferred form of Communication: Email. Response Time: 24 hours on business days.

*"There is a passion in the human heart that is called aspiration. It flares with the noble flame, and by its light, Man has traveled from the cave of darkness to the darkness of outer space. But when this passion called aspiration becomes lust, then aspiration degenerates, becomes vulgar ambition, by which sin the angels fell."*

Text: See below, these books are online, and will not cost you. [With these online books, the chapters will not correspond to my lectures \(chapters.\)](#)

American Government and Politics in the Information Age: <https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks/textbooks/american-government-andpolitics-in-the-information-age>

or

Required Texts: Krutz, Glen, and Sylvie Waskiewicz. 2016. American Government.

OpenStax. <https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government>

\*\*\* (Click "Download a PDF" link for free download) \*\*\*

## COURSE INFORMATION

### Course Description

This course is a survey of the underlying ideas, principles, and participatory practices of Constitutional government in the United States and Texas. Topics considered include Constitutionalism, Federalism, ideology, pluralism, political culture and socialization, Political parties and interest groups, public opinion, republicanism, and Voting and Electoral politics.

**Course Objectives:** In addition to developing critical thinking skills, this course is designed to give you an understanding of the interaction between circumstances and institutions by which the American experiment in self-government with justice occurs. It will also give you a broad overview of the historical events that have helped to shape the regime into what it is today in terms of public policy and the ends pursued by it.

### **Learning Objectives:**

- 1.) Students will be able to differentiate between facts and opinions.
- 2.) Students will be able to form substantive and evidence-driven arguments to propose solutions to problems or explain phenomena.
- 3.) Students will be able to recognize their position as being subjective, follow the arguments of others objectively, and interpret data.
- 4.) Students will demonstrate the ability to synthesize a cogent body of knowledge from various sources of information, acknowledge the contributions/insights of others, and make independent judgments.
- 5.) Students will demonstrate creative thinking by linking content and insights from multiple disciplines.
- 6.) Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances or data.

### **Communication**

- 1) In written, oral, and/or visual communication, A&M-Commerce students will communicate in a manner appropriate to the audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.
- 2) Student communication will be clear, purposeful, and make appropriate use of evidence, data, and technology as applicable.
- 3) Student communication will follow conventions of grammar and syntax appropriate to the audience, purpose, and message.

### **Personal Responsibility**

- 1) Students will be able to understand their role in their education.
- 2) Students will understand and practice academic honesty.

### **Social Responsibility**

- 1) Students will demonstrate awareness of societal and/or civic issues.
- 2) Students will recognize and understand the roles of diversity in society.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

At the end of the course

- Students will understand and employ significant theoretical and analytical approaches to understanding political behavior and interaction between citizens, institutions of government, and the U.S. Constitution.
- Students will understand and employ significant theoretical and analytical approaches to understanding political behavior, the interaction between citizens and institutions of government in Texas, and the Texas constitution.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments**

Lecture format. Students are expected to complete the assignments as scheduled.

### **GRADING**

Grades will be determined as follows:

Quizzes (online) (8)	25%
Papers (online) (2)	25%
Miscellaneous (online)	25%
Photo Essay (online)	25%

Total	100%

**Grades:** Late work can be accepted; however, complete everything assigned in the first eight weeks by the 8th week. In weeks 11 to 15, all assignments assigned in this period **must be completed by Week 15**. **Exception:** Quizzes are automatically graded and must/should be completed on time, but at the latest % December.

Grading Scale	
90-99	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
Below 60	F

Make deadlines and follow instructions.

### **Grading Policy**

This is not a self-paced course, so keep up; however, if problems arise, please contact all faculty and me immediately.

Grades are based on eight quizzes, two papers, miscellaneous assignments, and a project/photo essay.  
No extra credit; we gave plenty of class work.

*Rounding off of grades*—Excessive absences will result in points lost; above-average students do not miss classes excessively. *No letter grade (A) can be earned with excessive absences.*

Deadlines are deadlines. The instructor has the discretion over final grades.

**Quizzes – (25%)** The exams will consist of multiple-choice and true/false questions (6.25% each)- 50 questions per exam; the exams will be administered online. On each exam, several questions can be based strictly on classroom lectures, videos, etc., not covered in the readings. The instructor will cover the main points of the chapters, and the students will be responsible for reading the entire chapter and asking questions for clarification. You need access to a computer and a flash drive. \* \*\*

- \* It is highly recommended that you take your quizzes on a laptop or a computer in a computer lab, as cell phones are less reliable than laptops and regular computers.
- Once you open the quizzes the timing begins.
- \*\* If you have any trouble while taking your quizzes, please call the D2L help desk at 1-877-325-7778

**\*Papers-(2)** (25%) Topics will be assigned.—There will be specific due dates. Remember that points will be deducted if your paper is acceptable, but the instructions were not followed. Please contact a Reference and Learning Librarian for help at 903.886.5714.

Be creative with your assignments, as they do not have to be all in essay form, as other formats are acceptable such as PowerPoints, recordings, videos, audio, questions with answers, task cards, a comic strip, start a blog, survey students on Facebook interview students, create documentary film, Q R code, etc. **You may use written, oral, and/or visual communication to fulfill the requirements for this course; again, it is okay to be creative.**

**PowerPoint Project/Photo Essay -25% (US Government....** Compare one great (good) president with one failed (poor) president. **This assignment should be comprised almost entirely of images you create and or collect, so you must have a works cited page.** Something to consider: leadership, world conditions, social problems, foreign policy, domestic policy, personality, morals, communications... **Some scripts** will be necessary, e.g., bullets and keywords, but you do not want complete sentences/paragraphs. The essay should be more than a collection of images. Your images should help tell a story. Think about what this assignment involves: an argument, a beginning, a middle, and an end (an arc). In other words, you are using your images—a kind of rhetoric—to tell a story about a theme/concept. This showcase piece takes effort and time, especially planning and some critical thinking about what defines great from failure.

– Be creative. You will need roughly fifteen slides/photos with some script. Consider (1) summarizing your selection holistically (essay form one page), or (2) selecting a few parts--- be detailed. ----- *Groups can be formed.* **This can be a group project or an individual assignment.** **If group work, you need a leader(s), researchers, technology people, to create the PowerPoint presentation, and someone to oversee the project.**

You will have a minimum of text explaining each image. Your images should tell a story about your theme. This showcase piece takes effort, time, and especially planning and critical thinking about the concept/theme... means to you, and what you have learned about it. (PowerPoint... use – Microsoft Word.)

If you decide to be a part of a group. *Each group will determine the presentation format, e.g., PowerPoint, lecture, debate, panel discussion, by a mock trial... Each group member will be assigned a specific task, and the group itself will decide that. Each group will need a (1) group leader, (2) researchers, (3) presenters, (4) organizer, and (Find out who does what*

*BEST. Part of the objective of this assignment is group interaction; the aim is to work in groups (teamwork). If you join a group and become a dead weight, your group can expel you, as you are useless to them.*

**Misc. 25%** various assignments during the semester

**Discussions** 10% two choices: ~~(1) come to class on Fridays and discuss specific topics; you are required to talk and participate in the discussions, or you will not receive full credit, merely showing up does not count~~ **or** ~~(2) participate in the online discussions.~~ Some students are more comfortable discussing their thoughts in written words (online would be best for you) while other students enjoy the face to face debating issues (in class discussions would be best for you.) You make the choice.

Grading Scale	
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
Below 60	F

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

- To fully participate in online courses you will need to use a current Flash-enabled internet browser. For P.C. and Mac users the suggested browser is Mozilla Firefox.
- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
  - 512 MB of RAM, 1 G.B. or more preferred
  - Broadband connection required courses are heavily videoed intensive
  - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
  - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
  - Speakers or headphones.
  - \*For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam, and microphone are required.

- Both versions of Java (32-bit and 64-bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at the [JAVA website http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.
- Run a browser check through the Pearson LearningStudio Technical Requirements website. [Browser Check http://help.ecollege.com/LS\\_Tech\\_Req\\_WebHelp/en-us/#LS\\_Technical\\_Requirements.htm#Browset](http://help.ecollege.com/LS_Tech_Req_WebHelp/en-us/#LS_Technical_Requirements.htm#Browset) Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed.

JavaScript is enabled.

Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
  - [Adobe Reader https://get.adobe.com/reader/](https://get.adobe.com/reader/) ○ [Adobe Flash Player \(version 17 or later\) https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/) ○ [Adobe Shockwave Player https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/) ○ [Apple Quick Time http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007, or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.
- For additional information about system requirements, please see: [System Requirements for LearningStudio https://secure.ecollege.com/etamuc/index.learn?action=technical](https://secure.ecollege.com/etamuc/index.learn?action=technical)

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

### *Pearson LearningStudio (eCollege) Access and Log-in Information*

This course will be facilitated using Pearson LearningStudio, the learning management system used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to [myLeo](http://myleo.etamu.edu), and from the top menu ribbon select eCollege. Then on the upper left side of the screen click on the My Courses tab. <http://www.etamu.edu/myleo.aspx>

You will need your campus-wide I.D. (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for I.T. Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@etamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@etamu.edu).

**Note:** It is strongly recommended you perform a "Browser Test" prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test login to Pearson LearningStudio, click on the My Courses tab, and then select the Browser Test link under Support Services.

### **Pearson LearningStudio Student Technical Support**

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students with technical support for the use of Pearson LearningStudio.

Technical assistance is available 24/7 (24 hours, 7 days a week).

If you experience LearningStudio technical problems, contact the LearningStudio helpdesk at 1-???-???-???? (toll-free) or visit [Pearson 24/7 Customer Support Site](http://247support.custhelp.com/) <http://247support.custhelp.com/>

The student help desk may be reached in the following ways:

- **Chat Support:** Click on 'Live Support' on the tool bar within your course to chat with a Pearson LearningStudio Representative.
- **Phone:** 1-866-656-5511 (Toll-Free) to speak with Pearson LearningStudio Technical Support Representative.

**Accessing Help from within Your Course:** Click on the 'Tech Support' icon on the upper left side of the screen inside the course. Then you will be able to get assistance via online chat or by phone.

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all coursework in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup P.C. at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

### ***Policy for Reporting Problems with Pearson LearningStudio***

Should students encounter Pearson LearningStudio-based problems while submitting assignments/discussions/comments/exams, the following procedure must be followed:

1. Students must report the problem to the help desk. You may reach the helpdesk at **1-866-656-5511**.
2. Students must file their problem with the helpdesk and obtain a helpdesk ticket number
3. Once a helpdesk ticket number is in your possession, students should email me to advise me of the problem and provide me with the helpdesk ticket number.
4. I will call the helpdesk to confirm your problem and follow up with you

**PLEASE NOTE:** Your personal computer and internet access problems are not legitimate excuses for filing a ticket with the Pearson LearningStudio Help Desk. Only Pearson LearningStudio-based problems are legitimate reasons to contact the Help Desk.

You strongly are encouraged to check for your internet browser compatibility **BEFORE** the course begins and take the Pearson LearningStudio tutorial offered for students who may require some extra assistance in navigating the Pearson LearningStudio platform.

### **myLeo Support**

Your myLeo email address is required to send and receive all student correspondence. Please email [helpdesk@etamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@etamu.edu) or call us at 903-468-6000 with any questions about setting up your myLeo email account. You may also access information at [myLeo](https://leo.etamu.edu). <https://leo.etamu.edu>

## Learner Support

The [One Stop Shop](http://www.etamu.edu/admissions/onestopshop/) was created to serve you by providing as many resources as possible in one location. <http://www.etamu.edu/admissions/onestopshop/>

The [Academic Success Center](http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/) provides academic resources to help you achieve academic success. <http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/academicSuccessCenter/>

## FREE Mobile Apps

The Courses apps for phones have been adapted to support the tasks students can easily complete on a smaller device. Due to the smaller screen size course content is not presented.

The Courses app is free of charge. The mobile Courses Apps are designed and adapted for different devices.

	<b>App Title:</b>	<b>iPhone – Pearson LearningStudio Courses for iPhone</b> <b>Android – LearningStudio Courses - Phone</b>
	<b>Operating System:</b>	<b>iPhone</b> - O.S. 6 and above <b>Android</b> – Jelly Bean, Kitkat, and Lollipop O.S.
	<b>iPhone App URL:</b>	<a href="https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/pearson-learningstudiocourses/id977280011?mt=8">https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/pearson-learningstudiocourses/id977280011?mt=8</a>
	<b>Android App URL:</b>	<a href="https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.pearson.lsphone">https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.pearson.lsphone</a>

Once downloaded, search for East Texas A&M University, and it should appear on the list. Then you will need to sign into the myLeo Mobile portal.

The Courses App for Android and iPhone contains the following feature set:

- View titles/code/Instructor of all Courses enrolled online
- View and respond to all discussions in individual Courses
- View Instructor Announcements in individual Courses
- View Graded items, Grades, and comments in individual Courses
- Grade to Date
- View Events (assignments) and Calendar in individual Courses
- View Activity Feed for all courses

- View course filters on activities
- View link to Privacy Policy
- Ability to Sign out
- Send Feedback

### **LearningStudio Notifications**

Students can be alerted to course activities via text on their mobile phones or up to two email addresses.

Based on their preferences, students can automatically receive a push notification with every new: course announcement, threaded discussion post, grade, and/or assignment without having to log in to the course. Enrolled students will automatically receive email notifications for announcements and can opt-out of this feature. To receive text notifications, students must opt-in.

To begin setting up notifications, go into your course in LearningStudio and click on the bell-shaped Notifications icon on the main menu ribbon.

By default, the student's university email address will appear. This cannot be changed in LearningStudio. Additional email addresses may be added by clicking the Add button. After all of the other selections are completed be sure to click the Save and Finish button.

Students should have the following.

1. Access to a good quality computer.
2. Students will use (My Leo) to turn in specific assignments, testing, PowerPoint creation, papers, discussions... 3. Students will need access to an Internet browser such as Internet Explorer and access to Microsoft Word or to word processing software that they can save files in "Microsoft Word" compatible style. You will need a flash drive.

## **ACCESS AND NAVIGATION II**

### **D2L Access and Log-in Information**

This course will be facilitated using D2L, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.etamu.edu>. To log in, students will need both their CWID and password to access the myLeo site. If you do not know what your CWID or password is, please contact Technology Services at (903)468-6000 or by email, [helpdesk@etamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@etamu.edu).

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

### **Interaction with Instructor Statement**

Students should rely on email and office visits for communication. Also, please note that the system will only send an email to your official University Email address, so you will need to check that account regularly. I will try to email you as soon as I can. From M-F you can expect a reply within 24 hours.

#### **2L Student Technical Support**

Technical support for eCollege is provided around the clock (24 hours day/7 days a week), so if students experience technical issues with the class page itself, they should contact the student help desk for assistance. Students can access support through one of following three methods:

- Chat support: Students can access real-time chat support from within the course page by clicking on "Tech Support" in the toolbar and then clicking on "Chat Online."



- Phone: Students can access phone support by calling the toll-free phone number for eCollege, 1-877-325-7778.
- E- mail: Student can request assistance by email directly at [helpdesk@online.etamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@online.etamu.edu) . please note that you might not receive a response for 24 Hours if you use the email option.
- Help: Click on the 'Help' button on the toolbar for information regarding working with D2L (i.e., how to submit to Dropbox, and how to post to discussions, etc.)
- I do not handle technical problems.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

#### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

### **University Specific Procedures**

#### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.

<https://inside.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>.

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

#### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedures 13.99.99.R0.01](#)

<http://www.etamu.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

#### **Academic Integrity**

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

#### **Graduate Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form**

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<https://inside.etamu.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

### **Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

#### **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

East Texas A&M University  
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148  
Email: [studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu)

Website: [Student Disability Services](http://www.etamu.edu/student-disability-services/)

<https://www.etamu.edu/student-disability-services/>

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.etamu.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

### **East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.etamu.edu/counsel](http://www.etamu.edu/counsel)

### **Mental Health and Well-Being**

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html>

### **AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]**

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

There is a passion in the human heart that is called aspiration. It flares with the noble flame, and by its light, Man has traveled from the caves of darkness to the darkness of outer space. But when this passion called aspiration becomes lust, then aspiration degenerates become vulgar ambition, by which sin the angels fell." Stay honest.

### **Plagiarism Statement**

If in doubt, cite. A general rule, if the information is not common knowledge, like stats, then cite your source.

Many people think of plagiarism as copying another's work or borrowing someone else's original ideas. But terms like "copying" and "borrowing" can disguise the seriousness of the offense:

### **According to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, to "plagiarize" means**

1. to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own
2. to use (another's production) without crediting the source
3. to commit literary theft
4. to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.

In other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else's work and lying about it afterward.

### **But can words and ideas be stolen?**

According to U.S. law, the answer is yes. The expression of original ideas is considered intellectual property and is protected by copyright laws, just like original inventions. Almost all forms of expression fall under copyright protection as

long as they are recorded in some way (such as a book or a computer file). **All of the following are considered plagiarism:**

1. turning in someone else's work as your own
2. copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
3. failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
4. providing incorrect information about the source of a quotation
5. changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
6. copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not (see our section on "fair use" rules)

Most cases of plagiarism can be avoided, however, by citing sources. Simply acknowledging that specific material has been borrowed, and providing your audience with the information necessary to find that source, is usually enough to prevent plagiarism. If you have retained the essential idea of a source, and have not cited it, then no matter how drastically you may have altered its context or presentation, you have still plagiarized." ([www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org))

**If you plagiarize, you will receive a ZERO for the assignment in question. I also reserve the right to give you an F in the course. The matter will be referred to the Office of the Dean of the College of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Arts.**

### **Electronic Devices**

Electronic devices are allowed if used appropriately.

This includes (but not limited to):

Cell phone,  
Laptops, iPads,  
iPods, MP3  
Players/Recorders,  
Translation Devices  
Video Cameras  
Smart Phones/Watches

Or any other audio and/or video recorders of any kind.

2

If any of these devices are present in class, you will be asked not to use them for entertainment—email, Facebook, etc., your pleasure, or classwork from another course. If anyone is found violating the rule, see me after class.

### **Important Fall Dates**

First Class Day – August 25, 2025

Labor Day – Monday, September 1, the University is closed

Thanksgiving Break. No Classes November 27-28

Last **class** day-- December 5 (Friday)

Finals-- December 6 to December 12

Pride Prep class only: no Friday classes, but there will be assignments. **Attendance Policy:** as required by the university.

**Weekly Schedule:**

The instructor reserves the right to adjust this schedule throughout the semester to accommodate for class needs, unexpected weather, etc. This is highly likely to change due to the fluidity of the semester. All changes will be announced within D2L.

**Week 1**

08/25                      Course Overview and  
                                  Ch. 1 Introduction to American Government  
                                  Miscellaneous 1 & Miscellaneous 2 due (online)  
                                  Due by Sunday, August 31 by 11:59 pm

**Week 2**

09/01                      Ch. 2 the Constitution  
                                  Monday, Labor Day: no class  
                                  **Quiz 1 (take online)**  
                                  Chapters 1 & 2  
                                  Due by Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> :

**Week 3**

09/08                      Chapters 3 & 4 (Federalism & Civil Liberties)  
                                  **Quiz 2 (take online)**  
                                  Chapters 3 & 4  
                                  Due by Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>

**Week 4**

09/15                      Chapters 5 & 6 (Civil Rights & Public Policy)  
                                  **Quiz 3 (take online)**  
                                  Chapters 5 & 6  
                                  Due by Sunday, September 21st

**Week 5**

09/22                      Video (movie)  
                                  Paper one due (submit online)  
                                  Miscellaneous 3  
                                  Due by Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>

**Week 6**

09/29                      Chapters 7 & 8 (The Media & Political Parties & Interest Groups)  
                                  **Quiz 4 (take online)**  
                                  Chapters 7 & 8  
                                  Due by Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>

**Week 7**

10/06                      **Fall Break for CHS—no classes at the high school; however,**  
                                  The university has classes  
                                  Miscellaneous 4 and Miscellaneous 5 due **October 13**

**Week 8**

10/13

To Be Announced: presidents  
 Paper two due (submit online) due October 19, by 11:59 pm  
 Due by Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>

**Week 9**

Chapters 9 & 10 (Participation, Elections, Congress)

**Quiz 5 (take online)**

10/20

Chapters 9 & 10

Due by Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> (little German for you)

**Week 10**

10/27

Chapters 11 & 12 (The Presidency & The Bureaucracy)

**Quiz 6 (take on line)**

Chapters 11 & 12

**Due by Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Week 11**

11/03

Chapters 13 & 14 (The Federal Courts and Domestic Policy)

**Week 12**

11/10

To Be Announced (videos)

**Quiz 7 (take online)**

Chapters 13 & 14

Due by Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>

**Week 13**

11/17

Chapter 15 Foreign Policy

**Quiz 8 (take online)**

Chapter 15 only

Due by November 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday

### Week 14

Thanksgiving Week

11/24

Class on Monday

Miscellaneous 5 due December 1.

### Week 15

12/01

Last week of classes

### Week 16

**Final Week**

No classes

12/08-12

work on final project

Novel/Movie

12/12 Thursday

**Final Project due by 11:59 pm**

Date	Topic	Readings
Docendo discimus “the best way to learn is to teach”/We Learn by Teaching		
<b>Week 1</b>		
Aug 25 M	Syllabus & course introduction	
Aug 27 W	Introduction	Ch 1
Aug 29 F	. Misc 1 & 2 due	
<b>Week 2</b>		
Sept 1 M	Labor Day	No Class
Sept 3 W	The Constitution	Ch. 2
Sept 5 F	<b>Quiz I take online</b>	<b>Due by Sunday, Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>.</b>
<b>Week 3</b>		
Sept 08 M	Federalism	Ch. 3
Sept 10 W	Civil Liberties	Ch. 4

Sept 12 F	<b>Quiz II take online</b>	Due by Sunday, Sept. 15 <sup>h</sup>
<b>Week 4</b>		
Sept 15 M	Civil Rights	Ch. 5
Sept 17 W	Public Policy	Ch. 6
Sept 19 F	<b>Quiz III take online</b>	Due by Sunday, Sept. 21 <sup>st</sup> .
<b>Week 5</b>		
Sept 22 M	TBA (videos)	
Sept 24 W	TBA (videos	
Sept 26 F		
Sept 28 Sunday	<b>Paper one due, submit online</b>	
<b>Week 6</b>		
Sept 29 M	The Media	Ch. 7
Okt 01 W	Political Parties & Interest Groups	Ch. 8
Okt 03 F	<b>Quiz IV take online</b>	Due by Sunday, Okt. 5 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Week 7</b>		
Okt 06 M	<b>Fall Break-----Misc 3</b>	
Okt 08 W	<b>Fall Break -----Misc 4</b>	
Okt 10 F	<b>Fall Break</b>	
<b>Week 8</b>		
Okt 13 M	<i>To be Announced (TBA)</i>	
Okt 15 W	<b>TBA Mic.5</b>	
Okt 17 F	<b>TBA Misc. 6</b>	
Oct 19 Sunday	<b>Paper two due, submit online</b>	



<b>Week 9</b>		
Okt 20 M	Participation, Elections	Ch. 9
Okt 22 W	Congress	Ch. 10
Okt 24 F	<b>Quiz V take online</b>	<b>Due by Sunday, Okt. 26<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Week 10</b>		
Oct 27 M	The Presidency	Ch. 11
Oct 29 W	The Bureaucracy	Ch. 12
Oct 31 F	<b>Quiz VI take online</b>	<b>Due by Sunday, Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>.</b>
<b>Week 11</b>		
Nov 03 M	The Federal Courts	Ch. 13
Nov 05 W	Domestic Policy	Ch. 14
Nov. 07 F		
<b>Week 12</b>		
Nov. 10 M	To be announced	
Nov. 12 W	TBA	
Nov. 14 F	<b>Quiz VII take online</b>	<b>Due by Sunday, Nov. 16<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Week 13</b>		
Nov. 17 M	Foreign Policy	Ch. 15
Nov. 19 W		
Nov. 21 F	<b>Quiz VIII due online</b>	<b>Due by Sunday, Nov 23<sup>rd</sup></b>
<b>Week 14</b>		
Nov 24 M	<b>Thanksgiving Week Misc. 7</b>	
Nov 6 W	<b>Misc 8</b>	
Nov 28 F		
<b>Week 15</b>		
Dec 01 M	To be announced (TBA)	All missed work must be completed
Dec 03 W	Tba	This week.
Dec.05 F	<b>Last formal class day</b>	
Dec 07 Saturday		

Week 16/Finals		
Dec. 08 M		No Class
Dec 10 W		
DEC 11 Thursday		
Dec. 12 F	Photo Essay due	

Modifications in this schedule are possible. They will be appropriately announced. **Subject:** Excessive absences and final grade. The last day to drop with W is **December 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

Have a plan

Consider the following for this course and in life

WHAT (what are we doing?)

WHY (why are we doing this?)

HOW (how are we doing this?)

**What** are we doing in this course--learning ...?

**Why** are we taking this course, because ...?

**How** are we going to cover this course?

**Students, one must have curiosity, in order for one's imagination to flourish.**

**For a greater life experience, you need the following: (1) a purpose in life; (2) goals, a passion, and a plan; which ultimately will give meaning to your life.**

Modifications in this schedule are possible. They will be appropriately announced.

**Subject:** Excessive absences and final grade. Last day to drop with **W is Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

Have a plan

Consider the following in life

1. WHAT (what are you doing?)

2. WHY (why are you doing this?)

3. HOW (how are you doing this?)

**What** are we doing in this course--learning ...?

**Why** are we taking this course, because ...

**How** are we going to cover this course?

- "A man's reach should exceed his grasp." Words from the poet, Robert Browning, suggest that to achieve anything worthwhile, a person should attempt even those things that may turn out to be impossible. Do not let anybody limit your desires and ambition.
- "Love must be learned, and learned again and again; there is no end to it. Hate needs no instruction, but only waits to be provoked." Katherine Anne Porter
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- Explain. You have LOVE and you have work/your job/your passion, but you only have one heart. So, with one heart, can you find both love, your passion and be successful in both?

**Subject:** Excessive absences and final grade. Last day to drop with W is Dec.2<sup>nd</sup>.