



AMERICAN GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

POLITICAL SCIENCE 122Y, SECTION 8, FALL 2021

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Physical Office Hours: T and TH, 11 am – noon (just stop by!)

Zoom Office Hours: W noon – 2 pm (email for link!)

Office Hours Don't Work? Individual Appointments Available (let me know!)

Class Meeting Time & Place: 12:30-1:45 pm, T&TH, Morgan Hall 308

In this course, we study the philosophical and constitutional underpinnings of our democracy, the institutions of contemporary American government, and the links between people and government. Our goal, though, is not just academic; rather, the purpose of this course is to help each member of the class become a more well-informed, critical, and thoughtful participant in our democracy. As part of this goal, the course is designed to help you to identify and develop your own political values and to challenge you to clearly and persuasively articulate those values in both discussions with others and in writing. By the end of the semester, you should have a better understanding of the American political process and, more importantly, the importance of and avenues for your own engagement in this process.

This course has been designated a First Year Experience course and is intended to help you learn to think critically, understand multiple perspectives on issues, and improve your skills in research and problem solving. It will also provide an environment in which to apply the academic skills you learn and help prepare you to transfer those skills to your other courses.

Requirements

Writing Assignments:	200 points
Short Assignments:	100 points
Three Exams:	50 points each
Quizzes:	100 points

Grades

A:	513 points and above
A-:	495-512 points
B+:	477-494 points
B:	458-476 points
B-:	440-457 points
C+:	422-439 points
C:	403-421 points
C-:	385-402 points
D+:	367-384 points
D:	348-366 points
D-:	330-347 points
F:	329 points and below

Required Reading

The following text is available at the student bookstore and at most online book retailers and textbook rental services:

Keeping the Republic (Brief 8th Edition)

ISBN: 9781544316215

Chicago, 1968

ISBN: 9780393533002

Additional readings will be available on Western Online. Readings from *Keeping the Republic* are designated in the course schedule as “KR.” Readings from *Chicago, 1968* are designated in the course schedule as “CH.” Western Online readings are designated in the course schedule as “WO.”

Writing Assignments

Throughout the semester, you will complete several writing assignments. The first assignment will be worth 80 points, will be approximately 900 words (about 3 pages) long, and will include multiple parts that lead up to a final draft. Due dates are listed in the course schedule, and detailed instructions will be distributed in advance. Additional writing assignments will be associated with the Chicago, 1968 game (see below) and will vary in number, length, and genre based on each student's role in the game; however, each student will write approximately 1500 words total (6 pages), worth 120 points. Late assignments will incur a penalty; assignments are considered late after the specific time they are due and will incur a five-point penalty if submitted after that time on the due date. Assignments submitted after the due date will incur a ten-point penalty for each day they are late.

Short Assignments

Throughout the semester, small (usually one-paragraph-or-less) assignments will be due in Western Online by 12:15 pm before some class meetings. In many cases, these are listed under assignments in the course schedule (designated SA). In these cases, I will provide the questions and instructions for these short assignments no later than the class period before they are due. Other times, short assignments will be completed during class time as in-class assignments. Acceptable assignments will receive a check (100%), while unacceptable assignments will receive a check minus (50%). The average of all of these assignments taken together will be worth 100 points. Short assignments are late after the time they are due; late short writing assignments will be accepted after the original due date, but will automatically earn a check minus (which is WAY better than a zero!).

Exams

You will take three exams, each worth 50 points. The first two exams will be administered during class time and will consist of fifty multiple-choice questions worth one point each. For these exams, questions will be drawn from the quizzes administered in class (see below). The third exam will be administered during the final exam period; this exam will consist of twenty-five multiple-choice questions worth two points each and will not be cumulative, covering only the material from our Chicago, 1968 game. All exams will be taken using either Western Online or Socrative (I'm still deciding...). No makeup exams will be administered without prior permission and no final exams will be rescheduled, except in accordance with university policy.

Reading Quizzes

On most days of class, two five-to-ten-question quizzes will be administered using Socrative, one at the beginning of class and one at the end; you will need to have a phone, laptop, or tablet with you to take the quiz. These quizzes will cover the reading and the lecture, will be **open note**, and will have a time limit. After the second quiz is completed in class, a coin flip will determine whether or not the quizzes for that day count toward your quiz average. Your **four lowest** quiz scores will be dropped from the calculation of your final quiz average, which will be worth 100 points.

Chicago, 1968

In the last third of the course, you will compete with and against your classmates in an elaborate game set during the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago. The game will take you beyond the mere study of politics, thrusting you into the roles of conventional delegates, protestors, and journalists who are working to achieve their goals during a politically tumultuous era. Considerable class time will be dedicated to preparing for and playing the game; **each game session's attendance will count for two quizzes.**

Attendance

Please be advised that over the years I have been teaching this course, student attendance has directly correlated with students' final grades. Students who miss class do *much worse* than students who attend regularly, and often fail the course, for three main reasons: 1) they earn zeros on quizzes 2) they miss lectures and in-class activities, pulling down their exam scores and 3) they miss in-class explanations and instructions for assignments, scoring lower on those assignments. Attendance will be taken daily. Please be aware that there are **no make-up quizzes given**. If you need to miss class for **any reason** and would like to earn credit for that day's missed quizzes and/or any missed in-class short assignments, please contact me via email **before the end** of the class you will be missing (by **1:45 pm**). If the quizzes counted that day, I will send you a writing prompt related to the topic discussed in class and you will have the opportunity to complete a 600-word assignment to make up for the missed quiz. If there was an in-class short assignment, I will also send you instructions to make up that assignment. This make-up work will be due to me via email before the next class period unless you ask for (and I agree to!) alternate arrangements. Please note that you **must** email me **before the end** of the class you are missing to have these make-up options **available**. No matter why you miss class and whether or not you choose to notify me or do the make-up work, it is **your responsibility** to find out what you missed from me or one of your classmates.

Lateness

When class begins, the door will be closed and locked. Each of you will receive one "Get Into Class Late" card at the beginning of the semester (attached); to be allowed late entry, you must hold your card up to the window and I will open the door for you and take your card. If you do not have a card in your possession, you will **not** be admitted into class late. If you do not use, lose, sell, or give away your card by the end of the semester **and** have not missed more than four quizzes, your card can be redeemed for 10 extra credit points!

Cellular Phones, COVID-19, and Other Standards of Classroom Behavior

You will need a phone, laptop, or tablet with you in class to take our daily quizzes, but phones should be put away when not taking quizzes. At the beginning of the semester, there will be a bank of five extra credit points available. Each time I see a phone when it's not quiz time, I will deduct one point from this bank. At the end of the semester, the number of points left in the bank will be added to each student's total points.

Members of this class are expected to adhere to all current university COVID-19 protocols, which are available at http://www.wiu.edu/policies/covid_safety.php and on the course's Western Online page. WIU's COVID policy requires that faculty for all face-to-face classes maintain a seating chart and take attendance to facilitate contact tracing. Students are required to sit in their designated seats during all face-to-face class sessions. Non-compliance with any university COVID-19 policy may be considered disruptive student behavior and disciplinary action will follow general process outlined in disruptive student behavior procedures (<http://www.wiu.edu/policies/disrupst.php>) and/or other applicable enforcement measures applicable to the Code of Student Conduct.

Finally, students who disrupt class in any way will receive one warning and then will be asked to leave. Activities that disrupt class and that are prohibited include (but are not limited to):

1. Tobacco use of any kind.
2. Repeated and/or daily restroom visits.
3. Talking when I am lecturing or when one of your classmates is speaking.
4. Sleeping during class.

Email

During the workday (8 am to 5 pm), I usually respond to email within hours, but it does take me longer in the evenings and on weekends, when I try to spend time away from screens. For this reason, you should just assume that a) if you email me in the evening, you will hear back from me the next day and b) if you email me over the weekend, you will hear back from me on Monday. It will help me get back to you more quickly when you include the number or name of the course (POLS 122 or American Government) in your subject heading.

Students with Disabilities

In accordance with University values and disability law, students with disabilities may request academic accommodations where there are aspects of a course that result in barriers to inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement. To file an official request for disability-related accommodations, please contact Disability Resources at 309-298-1884, sdsc@wiu.edu or in 125 Memorial Hall. Please speak with me as soon as possible to ensure that this course is accessible to you in a timely manner.

Sex Discrimination and Sexual Assault or Misconduct

University values, Title IX, and other federal and state laws prohibit sex discrimination, including sexual assault/misconduct, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. If you, or someone you know, has been the victim of any of these offenses, we encourage you to report this to the Title IX Coordinator at 309-298-1977 or anonymously online at:

http://www.wiu.edu/equal_opportunity_and_access/request_form/index.php.

If you disclose an incident to a faculty member, the faculty member must notify the Title IX Coordinator, no matter when or where the incident occurred. The complete Title IX policy is available at: <http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/policies/titleIX.php>.

Student Rights and Responsibilities & Academic Integrity

You are required to familiarize yourself with the university's Student Rights and Responsibilities and Academic Integrity Policies, which are available at the following URLs:

<http://www.wiu.edu/provost/students/> <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php>

Please pay special attention to the Academic Integrity Policy. I take academic integrity seriously, and all violations of this policy will be punished in accordance with the guidelines it describes; **all assignments submitted containing *any* plagiarism will automatically earn zeroes.**

Writing Center

The University Writing Center (UWC) offers online (real-time) and e-tutoring (asynchronous) appointments Monday through Friday 7am - 10pm and Saturday and Sunday 8am -10pm. The UWC supports writers on any academic or professional writing project across disciplines at any stage of the process. The UWC is not an editing service, but provides extensive feedback as well as tips and strategies for a wide-range of writing challenges such as citation style formats, grammar, research development, and organization. Visit wiu.edu/uwc to learn more or to make an appointment.

Calendar

Readings and assignments should be completed by the date by which they are listed. **Always have all readings nearby during class!** In-class short assignments are scheduled for days marked with a 🇺🇸 symbol, but please be aware that additional in-class short assignments may be added at my discretion.

This schedule may be changed if the needs of the class change or for COVID-related reasons. Changes will be announced in class and online, either via email or on Western Online. It is your responsibility to come to class, to check your email, and to visit the course's Western Online page regularly.

Readings are marked as follows so that you can find them easily: (KR) – *Keeping the Republic* textbook, (CH) – *Chicago, 1968* game book, or (WO) – Western Online.

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments Due
T Aug 24	Course Introduction		
TH Aug 26	Intro to Political Science	POLS 122 Course Syllabus	
T Aug 31	Democracy & Its Challenges	Chapter 1, pp. 1-24 (KR)	Dear Erin SA
TH Sep 2	American Political Culture I	Chapter 1, pp. 25-42 (KR)	
T Sep 7	American Political Culture II		Political Culture SA
TH Sept 9	Founding Ideas & The Constitutional Convention	Declaration of Independence, pp. A7-A9 (KR) U.S. Constitution, Preamble pp. A10 (KR) Chapter 2, pp. 46-78 (KR)	Political Culture Narrative Phase 1 Due
T Sept 14	Congress	U.S. Constitution, Article I, pp. A10-A13 (KR) Chapter 6, pp. 183-201 (KR)	
TH Sept 16	Congress	Chapter 6, pp. 202-221 (KR)	Congress SA
T Sept 21	President 🇺🇸	U.S. Constitution, Article II, pp. A13-A14 (KR) Chapter 7, pp. 223-235 (KR)	Political Culture Narrative Phase 2 Due
TH Sept 23	President	Chapter 7, pp. 236-258 (KR)	
T Sept 28	Exam 1 & Conferences		
TH Sept 30	No Class - Conferences		
T Oct 5	Bureaucracy 🇺🇸	Chapter 8, pp. 261-288 (KR)	
TH Oct 7	Courts	U.S. Constitution, Article III, pp. A14-A15 (KR) Chapter 9, pp. 291-321 (KR)	
T Oct 12	No Class – Submit Narrative		Political Culture Narrative Phase 4 Due
TH Oct 14	Federalism	U.S. Constitution, Articles IV & VI, pp. A15-A16 (KR) Chapter 3, pp. 81-104 (KR)	
T Oct 19	Civil Liberties	Bill of Rights, pp. A16-A17 (KR) Chapter 4, pp. 106-126 (KR)	
TH Oct 21	Civil Liberties 🇺🇸	Chapter 4, pp. 126-141 (KR)	
T Oct 26	Civil Rights 🇺🇸	Chapter 5, pp. 143-180 (KR)	

TH Oct 28	Constitutional Amendment Process	U.S. Constitution, Article V, pp. A15-A16 & Amendments XI-XXVII, pp. A17-A21 (KR)	Constitutional Amendment SA (WO <i>and bring hard copy</i>)
T Nov 2	Exam 2		
TH Nov 4	Democracy's Challenges, Part II	Bowling Alone (WO)	
T Nov 9	Chicago, 1968: Game Setup 1	Overview and Prologue, pp. 3-8 (CH) Historical Background and Narrative, pp. 14-27 (CH)	
TH Nov 11	Chicago, 1968: How to Play Reacting to the Past	Basic Features, pp. 8-11 (CH) The Game, pp. 29-44 (CH) Assignments, pp. 54-56 (CH)	
T Nov 16	Chicago, 1968: Game Setup 2	Individual Role Sheets REVIEW The Game, pp. 29-44 (CH)	Getting to Know Your Character Short SA Due
TH Nov 18	Chicago, 1968, Game Session 1: Domestic Policy	Character-Specific Readings (see Individual Role Sheet)	Online Quiz Due by 12:15 pm
T Nov 23	FALL BREAK - NO CLASS		
TH Nov 25	HAPPY THANKSGIVING!		
T Nov 30	Chicago, 1968, Game Session 2: The War in Vietnam	Character-Specific Readings (see Individual Role Sheet)	
TH Dec 2	Chicago, 1968, Game Session 3: Choosing a Nominee	Character-Specific Readings (see Individual Role Sheet)	
T Dec 7	Chicago, 1968, Game Debriefing Part 1		
TH Dec 9	Chicago, 1968, Game Debriefing Part 2		
T Dec 14 1:00 pm	Exam 3		