

Fall 2022 Syllabus

POLI 101-08- American Government (3 Credit Hours)

CRN 16171

MWF -12:00 P.M.-12:50 P.M.

Maybank Hall 307

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Course Description and Objectives

As Americans we live under a constitutional form of government defined by the United States Constitution. The legislative enactments, executive decisions and judicial rulings made by the three branches of government- the United States Congress, the Executive Branch headed by the President and the United States Supreme Court – have broad implications for how we define, experience and express our roles as citizens in a democracy.

Under this constitutional form of government distinct roles are provided for both the federal government and the governments of the 50 states. States in turn influence the affairs of 97,000 local governments. All of these inter-related government functions have profound impact and consequences on the lives, welfare and freedoms of 335 million Americans (U.S. census count 7/15/2022).

This course will begin with a “snapshot” of American government 2022- the leaders- the population demographics – the electoral politics and the major challenges before the country that government and citizens must address.

We will then explore the evolution of our American system of government including the basic principles, the founding documents , the key constitutional amendments and the major issues that have challenged and shaped our country since the House of Burgess (1619-1776) was established as the first English representative government in North America. We will also explore the historic and continuing struggles to define “We, The People” and achieve this “More Perfect Union.”

Political Science Department Learning Objectives

Students who complete this course should be able to (a) identify and explain the central principles, institutions, procedures and decision-making processes of the American political system; (b) evaluate the basic strengths of the American political system through the application of political concepts and ideas; (c) relate the historical events and/or developments to contemporary political issues, debates and outcomes in the U.S. and (d) develop an analytical, social science disposition toward American politics.

General Education/Social Science Learning Outcomes

Students will earn 3.00 hours of social science general education credit for successfully completing this course. Upon completion, students should be able to apply social science concepts, models or theories to explain human behavior, social interactions and/or social institutions. Students will be assessed on this outcome on the fourth assignment.

Required Textbook: Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, Tolbert, Campbell and Spitzer: **“ We, The People”**, 2021 Essentials Edition.

Additional Required Readings: Note: The underlined documents satisfy the requirements of South Carolina Act 26 of 2021- the “REACH ACT.”

- The United States Constitution and Amendments (In Text)
- The Declaration of Independence (In Text)
- The Emancipation Proclamation. <https://Archives.gov/exhibits/featured-documents/emancipation-proclamation/transcript.hmt/>
- The Federalist Papers: Nos. 10, 45, 51, 54 and 84.
- The Oxford Frederick Douglass Reader, Chapter Four (pp.108-119): Frederick Douglass’ Fourth of July Speech: “ What to the slave is the Fourth of July?”, 1852.
- John Lewis’ “ Speech at The March on Washington” , August 28, 1963. <https://voicesofdemocracy/umd.edu./lewis-speech-at-the-march-on-washington-speech-text/>
- U.S. Census Bureau-<https://www.census.gov-facts-table-u.s.> PST 045221
- The Electoral College: A 2020 Presidential Election Timeline. Updated October 22,2020. <https://crsreports.congress.gov.>
- Congressional Research Service: Membership of the 117th Congress: A Profile. Updated 2/22/2022. <https://crsreports.congress.gov> R46705.

Graded Assignments

Over the course of the semester, you will complete the following graded assignments: two position papers; one research paper and one demographic analysis of the U.S. Congress; a Midterm Examination and a Final Examination.

Note: The MLA format is required for citation of all references and works cited.

Assignment # 1- Analysis of Frederick Douglass’s 1852 Speech: “What to The Slave is the Fourth of July?” . Overview:

The Declaration of Independence, signed on July 4, 1776, explained why the colonialists found it necessary to sever their relations with Britain after 200+ years. Frederick Douglass, a former slave and anti-slavery abolitionist, raised the cited question in a speech on July 5, 1852. Your assignment: read the article (pages 108-119) and answer the following questions:

- (1) Read the Declaration of Independence. List the first three “self-evident truths” the founders believed should be available to all men.
- (2) List three reasons made by the colonialists – i.e., charges against King George - for why they were seeking their freedom from Britain.
- (3) State three comparisons Douglass made with the colonialists’ struggle for fairness and dignity that resulted in the Declaration of Independence and the abolitionists struggle in 1852 to abolish American slavery.
- (4) Douglass provides eight (8) specific examples of what the Fourth of July means to a slave. Provide five of these specific examples.
- (5) Do you agree that there are similarities between the colonialists struggle for freedom in 1776 and the antislavery movement in 1852? If yes, cite one common belief or principle. If no, state why you believe that there is no apparent common beliefs or principle in the two struggles.

Date Due: September 14

Assignment # 2 – Overview: Federalist Paper 51 argues for the separate, independent power of each branch of the new government that was being established. This assignment requires you to **(a) read Federalist 51** and state its principal arguments for the separation of powers in the new constitution and **(b) read “Membership of the 117th Congress: A Profile”** – and create a demographic profile of the current United States Congress.

1. Name the author of Federalist 51 and the date it was published.
2. Provide two arguments put forward by the author for why there should be three branches of the new government.
3. State why, according to Federalist 51, the Legislature (Congress) is determined to be the strongest branch of government.
4. Name five specific powers provided to the Congress in the Constitution.
5. Review “Membership in the 117th Congress: A Profile” and answer the following :
 - a. The membership of each political party in the House and in the Senate as of the 2/22/2022 update.
 - b. The total number of women in each chamber.
 - c. The youngest and oldest member in each chamber.
 - d. The number of members in each chamber who held previous offices as state governors or lieutenant governors.

Due Date: September 30

Assignment # 3- The Electoral College – Overview: Article II of the U.S. Constitution provides specific procedures for the election of the U.S. President. Section I provides specific direction for the selection of Electors to oversee the process of determining who becomes President following a general election. Based on this constitutional mandate, the Congressional Research Service’s document: The Electoral College: A 2020 Presidential Election Timeline outlines nine (9) date specific steps in this process. This assignment requires you to read this document and provide the following information:

1. State the Constitutional Amendments **and** U.S. Code of Laws that direct this process.
2. Provide the nine (9) dates mandated in the process and provide **(a)** a summary of the **specific (mandated) activities** that must occur at each date and **(b)** the political party, elected official or governmental entity that has principal responsibility for carrying out this activity.
3. If a date involves or clarify a court ruling, state the court’s ruling on the particular issue and cite the decision.

Due Date: October 24

Assignment # 4- Summary of John Lewis’ Speech at the March on Washington-August 28,1963.

Overview: The adoption of the 14th Amendment added the concept of civil rights to the U.S. Constitution. The Equal Protection Clause launched a century of political and legal movements that addressed the history of slavery and legalized racial discrimination. The 1960s defined an active struggle for the full participation of all Americans in these rights. The 1963 March on Washington led by Dr. Martin Luther King is often noted for his famous “I Have a Dream” speech. Another critical view of civil rights policy in America was provided by John Lewis, a young student who was a protégé’ of Dr. King and ultimately one of the most significant voices of the civil rights era. This assignment requires you to do the following:

1. Summarize Section 1 of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution and state the date on which it was ratified.
2. Read John Lewis’ speech at the 1963 March on Washington and answer the following questions:
 - a. State 5 specific reasons Lewis gives for the reservations of the civil rights community on the Civil Rights bill that was then being debated by U.S. Congress.
 - b. Summarize Lewis’ description of the actions that the civil rights community was prepared to take if the proposed law did not address the critical issues he described.
3. Provide the stated purposes (goals, intent) of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 that was signed into law as defined in Chapter 5 (Civil Rights) of the textbook.

Due Date: November 21

The grade distribution for these assignments will be as follows:

Midterm Examination	20%
Final Examination	20%
Paper # 1	15%
Paper # 2	15%
Paper # 3	15%
Paper #4	15%

Grade Policy:

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

Student with Disabilities

The College abides by Sec. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1974 and the American with Disabilities Act. If you have a documented disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require special accommodations, please see an administrator at the Center for Disability Services (SNAP) or contact me so that accommodations can be made.

Center for Student Learning

Students are encouraged to utilize the Center for Student Learning (CSL) academic support services for assistance in study strategies, writing papers, etc. These services are available at no cost. Visit the CSL website at: <http://csl.cofc.edu> or call (843)953-5635.

Honor Code and Academic Integrity

Lying, cheating, attempted cheating and plagiarism are violations of the College's Honor Code and will be investigated. Each incident will be investigated to determine the degree of deception. Incidents where the instructor determines the student's actions reflect misunderstanding and/or confusion will be handled by the instructor. The instructor designs an intervention or assigns a grade reduction to help prevent the student from repeating the error. The response is recorded on a form, is signed by both the instructor and the student, and is forwarded to the Dean of Students and placed in the student's file. Cases of significant academic dishonesty will be reported directly to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board will receive an XXF in the course, indicating failure of the

course due to academic dishonesty. The status indicator will appear on the student's transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the XX to be expunged. The F is permanent. For any question, please consult the Student Handbook.

Class Schedule

August 2022

Wednesday, August 24

Introductions and Semester Overview

Part I – The Foundations of Government

The Citizen and Government -Ginsberg -Chapter 1

Friday, August 26

The Concept of " Government" – definitions, forms and functions

Monday, August 29

American Government – a 2022 Overview

Wednesday, August 31

No Class

September 2022

Friday, September 2

American Government and the roles of citizenship

Monday, September 5

American government vs American politics

Wednesday, September 7

Who are Americans- " We, The People?"

Friday, September 9

Federalism

Monday, September 12

American Political Culture

Wednesday, September 14

American Political Culture

Assignment One Due

The Founding and the Constitution -Ginsberg Chapter 2

Friday, September 16

150 years of self-government (1607-1773)

Monday, September 19

The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts

Wednesday, September 21

The First Founding: Interests and Conflicts

Friday, September 23

The Declaration of Independence

Monday, September 26 The Articles of Association
Wednesday, September 28 The Articles of Confederation
Friday, September 30 Shay's Rebellion

Assignment # Two Due

October 2022

Monday, October 3 The Constitutional Convention
Wednesday, October 5 The Constitutional Convention
Friday, October 7
Monday, October 10 The Constitutional Convention

Civil Liberties- Ginsberg, Chapter Four

Wednesday, October 12 The Bill of Rights- Amendments 1-2
Friday, October 14 The Bill of Rights- Amendments 3-4
Monday, October 17 The Bill of Rights- Amendments 5-6
Wednesday, October 19 The Bill of Rights – Amendments 7-8
Friday, October 21 The Bill of Rights – Amendments 9-10
Monday, October 24 Amendments 11-12

Assignment # 3 Due

Civil Rights – Ginsberg- Chapter Five

Wednesday, October 26 The Struggle for Equality
Amendments 13-15

Part Three- The Institutions of Government

The Congress- Ginsberg, Chapter 10

Friday, October 28 The Congress- Constitutional Powers and Authority
Monday, October 31 The United States Congress

November 2022

The Executive Branch – Ginsberg, Chapter Eleven

Wednesday, November 2	The President- Executive Powers and Authority
Friday, November 4	Executive Office of the President
Monday, November 7	Fall Break- No Class
Wednesday, November 9	The Federal Cabinets
Friday, November 11	The Federal Cabinets
Monday, November 14	The Federal Agencies
Wednesday, November 16	The Regulatory Commissions

The Federal Judiciary – Ginsberg, Chapter 12

Friday, November 18	Constitutional Powers and Authority
Monday, November 21	The Federal Courts
	<u>Assignment #4 Due</u>
Wednesday, November 23	Thanksgiving Holiday-No Class
Friday, November 25	Thanksgiving Holiday-No Class
Monday, November 28	The Federal Courts
Wednesday, November 30	The U.S. Supreme Court

December 2022

Friday, December 2	The U.S. Supreme Court
Monday, December 5	Last Day of Fall Semester Classes
Tuesday, December 6	Reading Day
Friday, December 9	FINAL EXAMINATION 10:30 A.M.- 12:30 P.M.
Wednesday, December 14	Final Semester Grades Due at Noon
Saturday, December 17	Fall 2022 Commencement

