



Lincoln University

POL SCI 10 – United States Government

COURSE SYLLABUS

Spring 2021

Instructor: Prof. Alex Anokhin, PhD.

Credits: 3 units / 45 lecture hours

Lecture Hours: Wednesday, 3:30 pm - 6:15 pm

Virtual Zoom

Classroom: <https://lincolnuca-edu.zoom.us/j/4929867479>

Office Hours: By appointment

e-mail: aanokhin@lincolnuca.edu

Textbooks: American Government: Brief Version, 11 edition (previous editions are acceptable) by James Wilson, John Dilulio, Meena Bose.

ISBN-13: 978-1133594376

ISBN-10: 1133594379

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Catalog Description

This course is an introductory survey of the institutions and processes of government in the United States. Although we examine the basic structure of state governments, the major emphasis is on the Federal Government. The course includes a close reading of the United States Constitution. Building knowledge of the Constitution, we look at the most important political institutions as they work in the world. Institutions studied include Congress, the Presidency, the courts and the national security apparatus. We also try to identify the interaction between political structure, ideology, public opinion, the press, money and of external events. (3 units)

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

In times of political and social turmoil, it is crucial to be able to understand the causes and motivations behind current events. In this course, we will aim at developing a solid understanding of the American system of government, the principles it is based on and the realization of these principles over time.

Course Learning Outcomes		General Education Learning Outcomes	Institutional Learning Outcomes	Assessment Activities
CLO 1	Be able to create effective analytical written communication	GELO 1	ILO 2a, ILO 4a, ILO 5a	Course Project
CLO 2	Demonstrate a developed ability to lead an effective discussion of matters related to American politics	GELO 2	ILO 2a, ILO 4a, ILO 5a	In-class discussions, Course Project
CLO 3	Identify and effectively analyze relevant primary sources	GELO 4	ILO 7a	Course Project
CLO 4	Critically analyze political and social problems with special attention given to historical, sociological, political, and cultural context	GELO 5	ILO 6a, ILO 7a	Course Project
CLO 5	Understand the ethos of American political systems and the importance and paths to becoming and informed member of the public	GELO 6	ILO 3a, ILO 5a	Assignments
CLO 6	Demonstrate an understanding of philosophical, legal, and historical foundations of the American political system.	GELO 7	ILO 1a, ILO 7a	Assignments

Procedures and methodology

This is an online course.

Lecture method is combined with in-class discussions, debates, readings, and home assignments. Core concepts identified from textbooks and supplementary sources will be applied to the real life situations during class activities.

Class Rules

1. Class attendance is required. Attendance will be taken each class at a time chosen by the instructor.
2. Students are required to login to class on time.
3. Submissions of home assignments will be conducted via the course website only (Canvas Instructure). The acceptable format for assignment submission is .txt, .doc, .docx, and .pdf.
4. The class website will contain course syllabus, announcements, assignments and supplementary materials.
5. All quizzes, exams, assignments, and projects must be completed and handed in on time. Late submissions will result in lower grade.
6. Detected cheating/plagiarism will result in "F" for the assignment.

Course Project

Every student must complete a research paper for graded submission at the end of the course. In this research paper students are expected to identify a current problem in American political system and analyze it taking into consideration the contents of the course. The paper should place such problem into a proper historical context, explain its origins, internal logic, impact, as well as identify existing or potential solutions.

Research paper must be formatted according to APA style guidelines. Research projects must comply with the Lincoln University requirements.

Exams

Midterm and final exams will consist of questions based on lectures, assigned chapters, and supplementary reading and will include a combination of multiple choice and essay/short answer questions.

Assessment Criteria

All assignments, projects and exams are evaluated using the indicated system:

94-100	A	73-76	C
90-93	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	60-66	D
80-82	B-	0-59	F
77-79	C+		

Tentative Weights

Course Project	25%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	30%
Class activity	20%

Course Outline

	Topic	Chapter
1	The Principles of American Government	Ch. 1
2	The Constitution	Ch. 2
3	Civil Liberties and Civil Rights	Ch. 3-4
4	Federalism	Ch. 6
5	Midterm Exam	Ch. 1 - 6
6	Political Parties and Interest Groups	Ch. 7
7	Campaigns and Elections	Ch. 8
8	Congress	Ch. 9
9	The Presidency	Ch. 10
10	The Bureaucracy	Ch. 11

	Topic	Chapter
11	The Judiciary	Ch. 12
12	Policymaking: Domestic, Military, and Foreign	Ch. 13, 14
13	How American Government Has Changed	Ch. 15
14	Course Project Presentations	
15	Final Exam	Comprehensive