On-Campus Course Syllabus
POL 201 L00.A
Government of the United States
Spring 2019

Class Information

Day and Time: Tuesday 8:00am
Room Number: E207

Contact Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Brandon Seitzler
Instructor Email: bseitzler@criswell.edu
Instructor Phone: 214-818-1309
Instructor Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description and Prerequisites

An examination of the history, branches, and functions of the United States government, as well as how the public interacts with the government.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to think about historical and contemporary questions and problems in American government and politics using the tools and methods of political science. This course places a heavy emphasis on analyzing current political events and debates within a political science framework. Additionally, students will practice applying their Christian faith to the study of American politics in creative new ways.

Required Textbooks

- Lowi, et al. American Government: Power and Purpose. ISBN: 978-0-393-655553-7.
- Shively. The Craft of Political Research. 10th Edition.

Recommended Reading

Various U.S. Newspapers - We will discuss this more for your "American Government in the News" assignment.

Course Requirements and Assignments

- **Reading quizzes on Canvas (25%)** – Each week students will complete the chapter review quiz for that week's reading(s). These quizzes are available on Canvas. These quizzes may be completed until the time of class (8:00am) each week. No late quizzes may be submitted. You are allowed unlimited attempts at each quiz. Correct answers will be displayed Tuesdays at 8:00am.
- **American Government in the News / Attendance / Participation (10%)** – Each week students will post a link to the weekly Canvas discussion board with a news article dated within a week of that week's

reading quiz being due. This article must fit within the content of that week's readings. You must check your fellow students' posts to ensure that you don't choose the same news article as someone else. You will receive credit for both posting the link to the article and explaining the current event in class. Additionally, in class you will explain to your fellow students how they might use the concepts and tools learned in that week's readings to better understand the article and current event. This is a completion grade with 50% of your grade earned by posting the link and the other 50% coming from your presentation of the article in class or your commentary on other students' articles during the weeks we don't meet as a class. For the weeks that we do not meet as a class the article must be posted by 8am on Monday and your reply to another student's article must be posted by 10:30am Tuesday. You have until 8am Tuesday to post your article during weeks that we do meet as a class. No late-work accepted for this assignment.

- **Five Christianity and American Politics connection papers (15%)** – Students will write five short essays connecting content from course lectures and readings to scripture and the Christian faith. The assignments are due the weeks that we do not meet as a class. We will discuss these assignments in class the following week. I want you to think creatively about these assignments and move beyond a paper on Congress that more or less makes the point "Congress makes laws; they should make laws to outlaw things that God outlaws." Each paper must be two full pages, no more and no less, using a double-spaced and Times New Roman 12pt. font. Your paper must be uploaded as a PDF and the file name must follow the convention, "lastname_firstname_USGovConPaper#1.pdf." Failure to upload a PDF or name the file correctly will result in a 10-point deduction. Late assignments will be penalized seven points per day. You may choose to write your papers on any chapter that is due in a week that we are not meeting as a class.
- **Midterm Exam (25%)** – This is a multiple-choice exam.
- **Final Exam (25%)** – This is a multiple-choice exam.
- Additional quizzes and assignments will not count toward your final grade.

Class Attendance

Students are responsible for enrolling in courses for which they anticipate being able to attend every class session on the day and time appearing on course schedules, and then making every effort to do so. When unavoidable situations result in absence or tardiness, students are responsible for acquiring any information missed. Professors are not obliged to allow students to make up missed work. Per their independent discretion, individual professors may determine how attendance affects students' ability to meet course learning objectives and whether attendance affects course grades.

Grading Scale

A	97-100	4.0 grade points per semester hour
A-	93-96	3.7 grade points per semester hour
B+	91-92	3.3 grade points per semester hour
B	88-90	3.0 grade points per semester hour
B-	86-87	2.7 grade points per semester hour
C+	83-85	2.3 grade points per semester hour

C	80-82	2.0 grade points per semester hour
C-	78-79	1.7 grade points per semester hour
D+	75-77	1.3 grade points per semester hour
D	72-74	1.0 grade point per semester hour
D-	70-71	0.7 grade points per semester hour
F	0-69	0.0 grade points per semester hour

Incomplete Grades

Students requesting a grade of Incomplete (I) must understand that incomplete grades may be given only upon approval of the faculty member involved. An "I" may be assigned only when a student is currently passing a course and in situations involving extended illness, serious injury, death in the family, or employment or government reassignment, not student neglect.

Students are responsible for contacting their professors prior to the end of the semester, plus filing the appropriate completed and approved academic request form with the Registrar's Office. The "I" must be removed (by completing the remaining course requirements) no later than 60 calendar days after the grade was assigned, or the "I" will become an "F."

Academic Honesty

Absolute truth is an essential belief and basis of behavior for those who believe in a God who cannot lie and forbids falsehood. Academic honesty is the application of the principle of truth in the classroom setting. Academic honesty includes the basic premise that all work submitted by students must be their own and any ideas derived or copied from elsewhere must be carefully documented.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- cheating of any kind,
- submitting, without proper approval, work originally prepared by the student for another course,
- plagiarism, which is the submitting of work prepared by someone else as if it were his own, and
- failing to credit sources properly in written work.

Institutional Email Policy

All official college email communications to students enrolled in this course will be sent exclusively to students' institutional email accounts. Students are expected to check their student email accounts regularly and to respond in an appropriate and timely manner to all communications from faculty and administrative departments.

Students are permitted to setup automatic forwarding of emails from their student email accounts to one or more personal email accounts. The student is responsible to setup and maintain email forwarding without assistance from college staff. If a student chooses to use this forwarding option, he/she will continue to be responsible for responding appropriately to all communications from faculty and administrative departments of the college. Criswell College bears no responsibility for the use of emails that have been forwarded from student email accounts to other email accounts.

Disabilities

Criswell College recognizes and supports the standards set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, and similar state laws, which are designed to eliminate discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities. Criswell College is committed to making reasonable accommodations for qualifying students, faculty, and employees with disabilities as required by applicable laws. For more information, please contact the Student Services Office.

Intellectual Property Rights

Unless otherwise specifically instructed in writing by the professor, students must neither materially nor digitally reproduce materials from any course offered by Criswell College for or with the significant possibility of distribution.

Resources and Support

Canvas and CAMS: Criswell College uses Canvas as its web-based learning tool and CAMS for student data. Students needing assistance with Canvas should contact the Canvas Help Support line at (844) 358-6140. Tech support is available at this number twenty-four hours a day. Students needing help with CAMS should contact the Campus Software Manager at bstifle@criswell.edu.

Student Services: The Student Services Office exists to foster and encourage success in all areas of life—physical, intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional. Students are encouraged to reach out for assistance by contacting the office at 214.818.1332 or studentservices@criswell.edu. Pastoral and certified counseling services are also available to Criswell students. Appointments are scheduled through Dr. Jeff Campbell, Dean of Students, at jcampbell@criswell.edu.

Wallace Library: Students can access academic resources and obtain research assistance by visiting the Wallace Library, which is located on campus. For more information, go to the library website, or email the Wallace Library at library@criswell.edu.

Writing Center: Students are encouraged to consult with writing tutors to improve and enhance their skills and confidence by practicing techniques of clear and effective writing. To consult with a tutor, students can visit the Writing Center located on the first floor near the Computer Lab, or they can schedule an appointment by emailing writingcenter@criswell.edu or calling 214.818.1373.

Course Outline/Calendar

Date	Class topic	Readings and assignments due
Week 1 January 22	**Course Introduction** • Syllabus • Tools for academic success	None
Week 2 January 29	**Class does not meet**	• Ch. 1 – Five Principles of politics • Ch. 1 Reading Quiz • Relevant news article • Christianity and American Politics connection paper #1
Week 3 February 5	We will discuss chapters 1, 2 and 3.	• Ch. 2 – Constructing a Government: The Founding and the Constitution • Ch. 2 Reading Quiz • Ch. 3 – Federalism and the Separation of Powers • Ch. 3 Reading Quiz • Relevant news article
Week 4 February 12	**Class does not meet**	• Ch. 4 – Civil Liberties • Ch. 4 Reading Quiz • Relevant news article • Christianity and American Politics connection paper #2
Week 5 February 19	We will discuss chapter 4 and 5.	• Ch. 5 – Civil Rights • Ch. 5 Reading Quiz • Relevant news article
Week 6 February 26	**Class does not meet**	• Ch. 6 – Congress: The First Branch • Ch. 6 Reading Quiz • Relevant news article • Christianity and American Politics connection paper #3
Week 7 March 5	We will discuss chapter 6 and 9.	• Ch. 9 – The Federal Courts • Ch. 9 Reading Quiz • Relevant news article

Week 8 March 12	**Spring Break – No Class**	
Week 9 March 19	We will discuss chapters 7 and 8.	• Ch. 7 – The Presidency as an Institution • Ch. 7 Reading Quiz • Ch. 8 – The Executive Branch • Ch. 8 Reading Quiz • Relevant news article
Week 10 March 26	**Class does not meet** **Midterm Exam**	• Midterm Exam is Due • Ch. 10 Public Opinion • Ch. 10 Reading Quiz
Week 11 April 2	We will discuss chapters 10, 11, and 12	• Ch. 11 – Elections • Ch. 11 Reading Quiz • CH. 12 Political Parties • Ch. 12 Reading Quiz • Relevant news article
Week 12 April 9	**Class does not meet**	• Ch. 13 – Groups and Interests • Ch. 13 Reading Quiz • Relevant news article • Christianity and American Politics connection paper #4
Week 13 April 16	We will discuss chapters 13 and 14.	• Ch. 14 – The Media • Ch. 14 Reading Quiz • Relevant news article
Week 14 April 23	**Class does not meet**	• Ch. 15 – Economic Policy • Ch. 15 Reading Quiz • Ch. 16 Social Policy • Ch. 16 Reading Quiz • Relevant news article • Christianity and American Politics connection paper #5
Week 15 April 30	We will discuss chapters 15, 16 and 17.	• Ch. 17 – Foreign Policy • Ch. 17 Reading Quiz • Relevant news article

Week 16 May 7	**<u>Class does not meet</u>**	• Final exam review practice exam.
Week 17 May 14	**Final Exam**	None

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.