

Political Science 1100: American Government

*University of Missouri
Summer 2021*

About the Instructor

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Course Materials

Required:

This course uses an AutoAccess course pack that contains the textbook and department reader. These materials will be available on Canvas and your account will automatically be charged unless you choose to opt out of the AutoAccess offer. Both are e-books and are available through the course website on Canvas. Please note that while you can choose not to use the AutoAccess materials, both books are required, and you must have access to InQuizitive through the textbook website.

We the People, 12th Essentials Edition (E-book Edition)

University of Missouri: Readings in American Government (E-book Edition)

Please read the following statement from the University regarding how to access these texts:

This course is part of the AutoAccess program designed to reduce the cost of course materials for students. You will be able to access the digital content for this course through Canvas on the first day of class automatically.

Your student account will be charged for the cost of the digital course materials, which \$93 for the textbook and the reader. We have helped save students over \$9.7 million over the last four years by providing digital content through this program.

Through this program, the lowest cost content has been sourced. If you choose to opt out of the digital content, you have until June 16th to opt out to receive a refund. Check your student email for the specific date. You will receive a welcome email from The Mizzou Store, so please watch your inbox. Also, the AutoAccess welcome email will provide charge amounts, the opt-out process, and any additional information needed for this AutoAccess course.

If you have any questions please contact The Mizzou Store via phone at 573-882-7611 or email at autoaccess@missouri.edu. You can also visit the AutoAccess site at <https://www.themizzoustore.com/t-autoaccess.aspx>.

About this Course

Political Science 1100: American Government is 100% online, which means that all course-related activities will take place, in some manner, online. The majority of our interactions will be at different times of the day throughout the week (asynchronous). Everything students need will be made available through the course and accessible via the Modules area. Students can complete assignments and quizzes at any point during the week up until 11:59 each Sunday except for the final week, which ends on Friday. It is imperative that students complete the assigned reading each week; video lectures are intended to summarize and supplement the readings, not replace them.

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to American government and satisfies the University of Missouri's General Education requirement. In it, we will cover a range of issues central to the structure and substance of politics in the United States: the founding and the Constitution, federalism, civil rights, the basic institutions of government, public opinion and participation, and interest groups. The course is also intended to provide an introduction to various aspects of political science, offering a broad survey of themes, questions, and topics that can be studied further in the context of a major or minor in the Department of Political Science.

Goals of the Course:

The central objective of this course is that, by the end, students will be equipped with sufficient knowledge about American politics and government to be active and effective participants. To this end, the structure and content of the course is oriented towards the following goals:

- Students will be able to describe our systems of government and identify where change is needed and how change is possible.
- Students will have an understanding of the struggle for civil rights in the United States and the role race has played, and continues to play, in American politics.
- Students will be able to diagnose what branch of the national government—Congress, the president, and/or the courts—should handle particular political challenges.
- Students will be able to explain why we have the laws, electoral results, and policy outcomes that we do in the United States.

Time Requirements

This is an active online course that requires several hours of your time each week to read or watch the required materials and complete the assignments. Summer courses move very quickly and cover a lot of material each week. It is essential that you access the course site regularly to read announcements and contribute to whole-class and small-group discussions. While it is vitally important to stay connected, it is also important to take a break. Keep this in mind when mapping out your semester schedule.

Communication

I will typically use Canvas to communicate with you. Announcements will be available under the Announcements tab and will also be sent to your University email address. You can contact me through Canvas or via the email address at the top of this syllabus.

Assessment/Grading

Grades in this class will be a function of performance in four kinds of assignments and assessments. All assignments will be available through Canvas, though you will complete some assignments on the textbook website. See the course schedule at the end of this syllabus for due dates for all assignments.

1. Exams (50% of final grade). There will be two exams during the semester. The first exam will cover the first two modules and the second exam will cover the last two modules. Students will have 60 minutes to complete the exam once it starts and the exam will be available starting on Thursday of the week it is due.
2. InQuizitive questions for each assigned chapter in the textbook (30%). InQuizitive is an interactive homework quiz system. Students can wager points on each question based on their confidence level and answer as many questions as necessary to reach the target score. This means that it will be possible to get 100% on every assignment even getting some questions wrong, but the more questions a student misses, the longer it will take.
3. Discussion boards (10%): Discussion topics in each section provide students an opportunity to apply the lecture and textbook material to real-life cases and to discuss the issues with each other. Students will only be required to post a response to the prompt but are free to engage with each other's posts so long as discussion is civil. To receive full credit, students should demonstrate thoughtful engagement with the prompt and how it relates to coursework on the topic.
4. Readings outline (10%). For the additional readings besides the textbook, each module will contain a partially completed outline. Students will complete the outline after completing the readings and watching the associated lectures.

Late work for all the above assignments (except the final week) will be accepted with a 10 percent penalty for each day the assignment is late. As with in-person classes, unforeseen events can disrupt even the best-laid plans. If circumstances require you to miss a deadline, alert the instructor as soon as possible to arrange alternative accommodations. Documentation may be required to avoid late penalties.

Grading Scale

The MU Grading System is based on a four-point scale. The grade value for each letter grade is as follows:

A	95–100%
A-	90–94%
B+	87–89%
B	84–86%
B-	80–83%
C+	77–79%
C	74–76%
C-	70–73%
D+	67–69%
D	64–66%
D-	60–63%
F	<60%

Feedback and Grading Timeline:

Feedback on most assignments will be instantaneous. The exception will be on discussion board assignments. I intend to post grades for the discussions within one week of the due date.

Technical Support

Problems with your computer or other technology issues are not an excuse for delays in meeting expectations and missed deadlines for the course. If you have a problem, get help in solving it immediately.

Mizzou Tech Support can provide step by step instructions on using Canvas tools, help you log in, or troubleshoot issues.

- Email techsupport@missouri.edu
- Call (573) 882-5000
- Visit <http://doit.missouri.edu>

Canvas also provides phone and chat support for students 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can find contact information in the course site under the Help link in the Canvas global navigation (the menu on the far-left side of the course). For your convenience I have also listed it below:

- Call Canvas Support (Students)
Call (855) 981-6196. Available 24/7
- Link to chat with Canvas support
<https://cases.canvaslms.com/liveagentchat?chattype=student>

You will find additional information about Technical Support for all of MU's centrally supported educational technologies by clicking on the link, **Support & Policies** in our Canvas site. This link is located in the left-hand course navigation menu.

If you are having difficulty with a technology tool in Canvas, consider visiting the Canvas Student Guides, which has overviews on each Canvas tool and tutorials on how to use them.

If this is your first online course, complete the MU Canvas Online Student Orientation available in your Canvas course list. The orientation course is always available for reference.

Course Policies

For University policies and support resources, please click the Support & Policies link in the course menu on Canvas.

Online Class Netiquette

Your instructor and fellow students wish to foster a safe online learning environment. All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea but you are not to attack an individual.

Our differences, some of which are outlined in the University's nondiscrimination statement, will add richness to this learning experience. Please consider that sarcasm and humor can be misconstrued in online interactions and generate unintended disruptions. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful course ambience.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism

University standards prohibit cheating, plagiarism, and sabotage. Those caught engaging in such academic misconduct will receive a zero on the assignment and may be subject to further disciplinary action.

Intellectual Pluralism

Below is the University's statement on intellectual pluralism:

The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the departmental chair or divisional director, the director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities, or the MU Equity Office.

Intellectual Property

All course materials, including, but not limited to, the syllabus, course assignments, study guides, learning guides, online lecture videos and content, and lab book (i.e. course pack) are property of the

instructor and University and may not be shared online or distributed in any manner to others. Students are prohibited from posting course materials or notes online and from selling notes to or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the express written permission of the professor teaching this course. Doing so will constitute both an academic integrity violation and a copyright violation. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to civil penalties and criminal liability. Violations of academic integrity may subject you to disciplinary action under University policies.

Course Schedule

The Course Schedule is subject to modification. Please check Announcements and emails regularly to ensure you do not miss any changes to assigned readings, deadlines, or other adjustments. All assignments are due by 11:59 pm of the final day under the “dates” column.

DATES	WE THE PEOPLE		READINGS IN AMERICAN POLITICS	ASSIGNMENTS
Module 1: The Environment of our System				
6/7-6/13	Ch. 1: The Citizen and Government	Ch. 1: Adams, “The Rights of Colonists”		Ch. 1 InQuizitive
	Ch. 2: Founding and the Constitution	Ch. 2: Dyer, “Slavery and the American Constitution” Douglas, “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?” (Canvas)		Ch. 2 InQuizitive
6/14-6/20	Ch. 3: Federalism	Ch. 2: Dow, “Federalist and Anti-Federalist Debates”		Ch. 3 InQuizitive
		“Anti-Federalist Essay III: To the Citizens of New York”		Readings Outline 1
		“Anti-Federalist Essay V: To the Citizens of New York”		Discussion Board 1
		Ch. 2: Overby, “Comparing and Contrasting the US and Missouri Constitutions”		
		Dyer, Introduction to <i>Guide to the Missouri Constitution</i>		
		Ch. 3: ABA, “Sanctuary Cities: Protecting Citizens of Violating the Law?”		
Module 2: The Institutions of Government				
6/21-6/27	Ch. 9: Congress	Ch. 6: Mayhew, “The Electoral Connection”		Ch. 9 InQuizitive
	Ch. 10: Presidency	Ch. 6: Neustadt, “The Power to Persuade”		Ch. 10 InQuizitive
		Ch. 6: Coll, “The US Congress Must Authorize Major Wars”		
		Ch. 6: Yoo, “US Presidents Don’t Need Congress’s Approval to Go to War”		
		Ch. 6, Wilson, “Bureaucracy and the Public Interest”		Ch. 11 InQuizitive
6/28-7/4	Ch. 11: Bureaucracy			Discussion Board 2
				Readings Outline 2
				Exam 1
Module 3: Rights, Liberties, and Participation				
7/5-7/11	Ch. 12: The Federal Courts	“Modes of Constitutional Interpretation” (Canvas)		Ch. 12 InQuizitive

Dates	<i>We the People</i>	<i>Readings in American Politics</i>	Assignments
	Ch. 4: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties	Ch. 7: Endersby and Horner, "Lloyd Gaines and Fight to End Segregation"	Ch. 4 InQuizitive
7/12-7/18	Ch. 7: Political Participation	Ch. 7: King, "Letter from Birmingham Jail"	Ch. 7 InQuizitive
		Ch. 4: Putnam, "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital"	
		Ch. 4: Dow, "The Single-Member District System"	Discussion Board 3
			Readings Outline 3
Module 4: Political Behavior and Influence			
7/19-7/25	Ch. 5: Public Opinion	"Confronting 2016 and 2020 Polling Limitations" (Canvas)	Ch. 5 InQuizitive
	Ch. 6: The Media	Ch. 5: Citizens United v. FEC	Ch. 6 InQuizitive
			Discussion Board 4
7/26-7/30	Ch. 8: Interest Groups	Ch. 5: Schattschneider, "The Scope and Bias of the Pressure System"	Ch. 8 InQuizitive
		Ch. 8: Haselswerdt, "The Affordable Care Act: Making and Implementing Health Policy in America"	Readings Outline 4
			Exam 2