

PS105: AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS [3 CREDITS]

QUEST III

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

Fall Semester 2020

Class meets on Collaborate Ultra,

Synchronously for Week 1. 11:30-1pm T/TH

Office hours: W/F 9-10:30 on MS Teams.

Professor James Krueger

Department of Political Science

Office Location: 4621 Sage Hall

e-mail: kruegerj@uwosh.edu

Course Description: *This course examines the organization, principles and actual working of the American National Government in all its branches.* Through this class we will ask: What are the underlying values, theories of government, and compromises which comprise our public institutions? How do these institutions and the perspectives of those who engage them combine to produce our public policy? How can you, as a citizen-activist, participate effectively in our democracy? To begin answering these questions, we will examine the relationship between citizens and their government in the United States, with an emphasis on the many ways in which individuals participate in the political process. The course will also explore the implementation of Title IX policy at the national and state levels to gain a better sense of how public policy affects our lives. The product of these experiences will be a deeper understanding of the issues, institutions, and inputs to government, and how we can influence them. As members of a democratic society, we cannot escape the influence of government on our lives, but we can affect how it does so.

Since this is a Quest III course, there is also an experiential component, in which students will attend events hosted by the UW Oshkosh Women's Center. This course has no prerequisites.

Course Learning Outcomes:

- Describe the major components of the US government, including the Constitution and its interpretation, federalism, and the branches of government.
- Examine Title IX to learn the roles of citizens, groups, and elections in the making of public policy.
- Learn about public policies at the national level, including social welfare, healthcare, and fiscal policies
- Practice written communication skills
- Develop knowledge of the scholarly literature on sexual assault prevention
- Encourage a disposition to create and participate in democratic governance structures of school, college, and the community

Weekly schedule:

Online courses can be more difficult for some students to keep up with. In order to help you build your class routine.

Monday – Wednesday: Students should read the week's assigned chapters, review lecture videos and powerpoints, and post in the discussion forums using one of the week's prompts (posts are due by 11:59pm on Wednesday).

Thursday – Sunday: Weekly Quiz opens on at 12:01am on Thursday. Take the quiz and post a reply to someone else's discussion post (by 11:59pm on Sunday).

Other deadlines: As a Quest 3 course, students have service learning hours to complete. Most of our hours will come in the first 7 weeks of the semester, the 'Red Zone'. Attend events and fill out journal entries each week to quickly complete your journal assignment. A list of events is listed under the journal assignment later in this document.

Finally, your semester project has three deadlines, each requiring a deliverable. You can work ahead on these at any time before their deadlines.

Contact Prof. Krueger with questions on Canvas, by email, or meet on MS Teams.

Required Text:

Ginsberg, et al. *We The People (Essentials) 12th Edition (9780393679670)*

You can get an ebook version of this from the bookstore, or a copy from another retailer. Please have this book for the first week of class.

Additional course readings will be available on Canvas.

Liberal Education is an approach to learning that empowers individuals and prepares them to deal with complexity, diversity, and change. It provides students with broad knowledge of the wider world (e.g. science, culture, and society) as well as in-depth study in a specific area of interest. A liberal education helps students develop a sense of social responsibility, as well as strong and transferable intellectual and practical skills such as communication, analytical and problem-solving skills, and a demonstrated ability to apply knowledge and skills in real-world settings. (AAC&U; http://www.aacu.org/leap/What_is_liberal_education.cfm) Our approach to liberal education is articulated through the University Studies Program, but is similar to the general education programs of all other four year universities.

The University Studies Program: The University Studies Program (USP) is your gateway to a 21st century college education at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. This Quest III course is the last in a series of courses you will take to introduce you to the campus and all it has to offer, the vibrant Oshkosh community, and the challenges and opportunities of academic life as you pursue a liberal education.

In this course, you are addressing your third Signature Question: **How do people understand and engage in community life?**

What is Civic Learning? Civic knowledge consists of an awareness and understanding of the various political and social processes that impact the nature and quality of life in local, state, national, or global communities. It also encompasses the cultivation of skills which may be useful in public life, like effective communication and ethical reasoning. Civic engagement means having an appreciation for and applying the values gained from civic knowledge in real world settings, directed at improving the quality of life in the communities of which one is a part. Civic knowledge and civic engagement emphasize learning, reflection, and action in order to create better communities.

Grading Scale and Assignments:

I use a 93/90/87 grading scale in this course (which means that 93 is the cutpoint for an A, 90 for an A-, 87 for a B+, etc.). Your grade will be determined by several assignments and exams, detailed as follows:

Weekly quizzes (35%): These quizzes will serve as your only “exams” throughout the course. **Quizzes will be open from Thursday (12:01am) until Sunday (11:59pm) and cover the material from that week only.** Quizzes will include multiple choice and matching, and may include a short answer question or two. These quizzes are listed in the course schedule below. You will have 30 minutes to take each quiz, and receive only 1 attempt unless you can demonstrate a technological error has occurred. While these quizzes are open book and open note, please make sure you prepare ahead of time—you will not have time to search for answers in the text and lecture slides during the exam period.

Service Learning Hours Journal (10%): Quest 3 courses require 10-14 hours of service learning. Students will receive credit for each event they attend (see list below, a minimum of 10 events required) and produce a short written assignment about. All of these assignments should be compiled in a journal and submitted together. The journal is due no later than December 10th, but may be turned in as soon as your events are complete.

Information to include in your submission (this counts towards your community engagement log and journal):
The name of event and event details (date, start and end time, hosts/sponsoring organizations), 1-2 sentences summarizing the event, 2-3 sentences of your reactions to or reflections on the event, 1-2 sentences demonstrating

your ability to connect the event to course learning outcomes (i.e., to course readings on government and policy, Title IX, and/or civic engagement).

All Red Zone events (weeks 1-7 of the semester) are eligible for this assignment, however you should not have more than two events from a given week, and your writing assignments should be substantially different for each event. For more information, check: <https://uwosh.edu/womenscenter/events/>

Other eligible events I'm currently aware of include:

"What is wrong with gerrymandering? Everything! And the solution is the Iowa solution"

Date: Wednesday, September 16, 2020.

Time: 6:00 to 7:30 P.M.

Participants:

Former WI State Senators Dale Schultz and Tim Cullen

LWVWI Executive Director, Debra Cronmiller

UWO Political Science Professor, Dr. James Krueger

<https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/459090f287564063b6dd042926fec5f9> (join online)

+1-571-392-7650 PIN: 101 353 7153 (join by phone)

9/28 Beverly Gooden 7-9pm Speaker Series Virtual Event

Voting 101 with Drs. Tony Palmeri and James Krueger

Time: 6-7pm

Date: Wednesday, September 30, 2020.

Learn the how and why of voter registration, and get a preview of the upcoming elections on your ballot!

<https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/3a88c098c18e468e8d3a0f7036a32ff5> (join online)

+1-571-392-7650 PIN: 144 067 0303 (join by phone)

Event Attendance (5%): You are required to attend two virtual events this semester: the Constitution Day gerrymandering talk and Voting 101 events (details above). Attendance at the events (checked 5 minutes after the event begins and again at the event's conclusion) will get you credit for this category. These events can also be used in your journal (above).

Semester project: (30%): Your semester project is to develop an understanding of Title IX policies on our campus, and of the evolving federal guidance on these policies. You will begin learning about these policies in week 1, and have access to a number of news stories, government documents, and scholarly articles to help you develop an understanding of Title IX guidance surrounding campus sexual assault policies. You'll then write 2 page policy briefs (5% of your course grade each) on the Obama Administration and Trump Administration guidance for campuses. For your semester project (20% of your course grade), you'll write a paper of 5-7 pages evaluating these policies. Rubrics for these assignments will be available on Canvas the first week of class.

Participation (20%): The final portion of your grade in this class is participation in online discussions. Online discussions will be held asynchronously (meaning work on your own schedule). Participation prompts will appear on Canvas and generally relate to your weekly readings, current events, and your semester project. To receive full credit you must make one post before Wednesday at 11:59pm, and then reply to another's post before Sunday at 11:59pm. Posts and replies should be substantive. This means you can't simply post a link for credit. Neither can you post "I agree" or "I disagree" as a response. You should connect current news articles to material from class, ask questions about the readings or lecture materials in as much detail as possible, or respond to others (constructively and professionally) drawing on additional evidence from the course. No participation points will be awarded to posts that do not meet the above criteria. Negative participation scores will be applied to those posts which fail to demonstrate an appropriate respect for one's classmates.

Attendance: Attendance is required for all synchronous classes. Each missing class will reduce your total course grade by 1.5%. Students with a university approved excuse are not subject to this penalty.

Office Hours: The Political Science Department uses Microsoft Teams (MS Teams) for holding office hours. This system is available to all UWO students. Faculty will be available during the hours noted on your syllabus.

When logging into MS Teams, look closely at the status symbols for your instructor. A green dot by the professor's icon (which may be their picture or their initials) means they are available. A red dot means they are busy.

Generally, you are able to join office hour meetings and talk openly in the forum or use the chat function freely. At times, your instructor may be in a private meeting with a student during office hours, and will mark my availability as "busy" (a red dot).

We hope that using MS Teams for office hours for all of our courses will help students become more accustomed to virtual office hours during the pandemic. *The main point to remember is that we are available to you. Please use our office hours freely and often. We are here to help.* Many faculty are also happy to set up meetings outside of my office hours if students have conflicts with the posted times.

Expectations for Academic Honesty: A college education is intended to develop your skills, knowledge, and confidence. Graded assignments are designed to work on these items. Thus, to gain the skills, knowledge, and confidence of a college-educated person all graded work is to be your own. When you are directed to work alone, an assignment or test must be done by you, its primary ideas are to be your own, and any outside materials should be dealt with properly (quoted when using someone's words, and cited when quoting or referencing them in any other way). When your teacher directs you to work in teams, the work is to be done by the team. More information can be found here: <https://uwosh.edu/politicalscience/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2020/08/Academic-Honesty.pdf>

Regrading Policy: I will be glad to take another look at a paper or test you feel is not graded fairly, with the following conditions: you must wait 24 hours after the paper is handed back, you must speak to me in person about it during my office hours or by appointment, and you must tell me in writing why you think you deserved more points. The reason for this is that I would like for you to take the paper/exam home and carefully read and think over comments before we talk. I will then reread your work. If I feel your paper was graded inaccurately, I'll change the grade in your favor, but I also reserve the right to lower your grade upon rereading the paper, if, after reevaluation, I think you received too high a grade. All requests for regarding must be received within 2 weeks of the assignment being returned.

Early Alert: Early Alert is a program that provides you with an Early Grade Report from faculty. Early Grade Reports will indicate if you have academic performance or attendance issues and specific steps you can take and resources available to help you improve. It is common for students to be unaware of or over-estimate their academic performance in classes so this will help you be aware early on of your progress and provide strategies for success in the classroom. You will receive an email during the 5th week of classes. It is important to read the entire email carefully.

Community Based Learning: "In these programs, field-based "experiential learning" with community partners is an instructional strategy—and often a required part of the course. The idea is to give students direct experience with issues they are studying in the curriculum and with ongoing efforts to analyze and solve problems in the community. A key element in these programs is the opportunity students have to both *apply* what they are learning in real-world settings and *reflect* in a classroom setting on their service experiences. These programs model the idea that giving something back to the community is an important college outcome, and that working with community partners is good preparation for citizenship, work, and life." (High-Impact Practice, AACU, 2011)

You will be working with the UW Oshkosh Women's Center for your community-based learning experience. Students will have the option of completing their hours through multiple hour special events. Additional opportunities will be available from Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services as well.

The **UW Oshkosh Women's Center** is located at 717 W. Irving Avenue in Oshkosh (across from Horizon Village and Fletcher at the end of Diversity and Inclusion Center). The entrance is across from Fletcher on the Irving Ave. side of the building. The Women's Center Fall hours are available at:
<http://www.uwosh.edu/womenscenter/about-the-center>.

Campus Resources: In the University Studies Program, we want you to be successful. Below is a list of campus services available to support your success. More information about these resources is available at:
<http://www.uwosh.edu/home/resources>

Center for Academic Resources: The Center for Academic Resources (CAR) provides free, confidential tutoring for students in most undergraduate classes on campus. CAR is located in the Student Success Center, Suite 102. Check the Tutor List page on CAR's website (www.uwosh.edu/car) for a list of tutors. If your course is not listed, click on a link to request one, stop by SSC 102 or call 424-2290. To schedule a tutoring session, simply email the tutor, let him/her know what class you are seeking assistance in, and schedule a time to meet.

Writing Center: The Writing Center helps students of all ability levels improve their writing. Trained peer consultants help writers understand an assignment, envision possibilities for a draft, and improve their writing process. They even help writers learn to identify their own proofreading errors. Students can make a free appointment or stop by to see whether a consultant is available. For more information, view their website (<http://www.uwosh.edu/wcenter>), call 920-424-1152, email wcenter@uwosh.edu, or visit them in Suite 102 of the Student Success Center.

Reading Study Center: The Reading Study Center is an all-university service whose mission is to facilitate the development of efficient college-level learning strategies in students of all abilities. The center offers strategies for improved textbook study, time management, note-taking, test preparation, and test-taking. For more information, email readingstudy@uwosh.edu, view the website (<http://www.uwosh.edu/readingstudycenter>), visit them in Nursing Ed Room 201, or call 424-1031.

Polk Library/Information Literacy: You have been introduced to Information Literacy in your Quest Speaking and Writing courses. As a reminder, Polk Library offers many professional librarians who can help you find library resources for your research. Specifically, Ted Mulvey, the Information Literacy Librarian, is available to assist you as you access, evaluate, and use information in University Studies Program classes. Phone: 920-424-7329; email: mulveyt@uwosh.edu. You may also set up a research advisory session with a librarian at: rap@uwosh.edu.

Accommodations The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh supports the right of all enrolled students to a full and equal educational opportunity. It is the University's policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students who have documented disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students are expected to inform Instructors of the need for accommodations as soon as possible by presenting an Accommodation Plan from either the Accessibility Center, Project Success, or both. Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities is a shared Instructor and student responsibility. The Accessibility Center is part of the Dean of Students Office and is located in 125 Dempsey Hall. For more information, email accessibilitycenter@uwosh.edu, call 920- 424-3100, or visit the Accessibility Center Website.

Food Assistance: If you are in need of food assistance, you have campus resources available to you. Your Oshkosh Student Association (OSA) runs the campus food pantry, **The Cabinet**. It is open to **all UWO students** who express a need for food assistance. It is located in the lower level of the Reeve Memorial Union. Operational hours and additional information can be found on the OSA's Services [Web-page](#). For questions and concerns, please contact the **Food Pantry Director: foodpantry@uwosh.edu**, or the OSA Office: osa@uwosh.edu; (920)-424-3202.

Note to Political Science Majors: Political Science majors should take Political Methodology (245) in either their sophomore year or the first semester of their junior year. Political Science 245 is a prerequisite for the senior capstone, Political analysis (401), and cannot be taken concurrently. If you are currently a political science major or if you think you will be one of our majors in the future, it is important that you save your graded coursework from this class. If you have questions, please see me or any faculty member after class.

Grievance statement: The Department of Political Science is committed to offering you a high-quality classroom experience, and we take your feedback very seriously. If you have concerns about anything related to this course, assignments, or teaching method, you are encouraged to first speak with your instructor directly. If you are not comfortable speaking with the instructor, you are invited to speak with the Chair of the Department of Political Science, Dr. James Krueger. He can be reached at kruegerj@uwosh.edu. Should he be unable to resolve your concerns, he will guide you to appropriate resources within the College of Letters and Science.

Disclosure statement: “Students are advised to see the following URL for disclosures about essential consumer protection items required by the Students Right to Know Act of 1990: <https://uwosh.edu/financialaid/consumer-information/>.”

Students are expected to abide by the UW Oshkosh Student Academic and Non-Academic Disciplinary Procedures during their Quest III Community Experience. All students will be asked to acknowledge in writing that they have been made aware of these policies. Other policies that may be relevant to the Community Experience in this course are described in the online Quest III handbook & may include criminal background checks, travel arrangements, and/or expectations for research with human subjects. More information can be found in the Quest III Community Experience Handbook: <https://uwosh.edu/usp/wp-content/uploads/sites/30/2017/01/Quest-III-Handbook.pdf>

Reading Assignments: Reading assignments are given in the course calendar in this syllabus (below). Assigned reading for a class day is given as the “Reading Assignment” below each entry. I expect you to have done the reading for each class ahead of time, quizzes will cover the material listed for that day. Reading assignments are subject to change, and any change will be announced in class.

***Note:** If substantive changes are made in course syllabus, such as changes in schedule or assignments, notification will be provided in a timely manner and a revised syllabus made available.*

Course Calendar:

Week 1A: TH, Sept. 10th: Course introduction

- Reading assignment: syllabus, Women’s Center Video, discussion news article
- **Discussion Post Due by Sunday at 11:59pm**

Week 2: T, Sept. 15th: Thinking about government in our lives.

- Reading assignment: Ginsberg, et al., Chapter 1, Aggeler “What is the Red Zone?”
- **Discussion Post Due by Wednesday at 11:59pm**

TH, Sept. 17th: The Constitution

- Reading assignment: U.S. Constitution, Public Policy Assignments
- **Discussion Reply and Quiz Due by Sunday at 11:59pm**

Week 3: T, Sept. 22nd: The Constitution

- Reading assignment: Ginsberg, et al., Chapter 2
- **Discussion Post Due by Wednesday at 11:59pm**

TH, Sept. 24th: Title IX

- Reading assignment: “Dear Colleague” Letter, Obama Administration; Libby, Chapter 5
- **Discussion Reply and Quiz Due by Sunday at 11:59pm**

- Week 4: T, Sept. 29th: Federalism
- Reading assignment: Ginsberg, et al., Chapter 3
 - **Discussion Post Due by Wednesday at 11:59pm**
- TH, Oct. 1st: Federalism
- Reading assignment: Ginsberg, et al., Chapter 3
 - **Discussion Reply and Quiz Due by Sunday at 11:59pm**
- Week 5: T, Oct. 6th: Civil Liberties
- Reading assignment: Ginsberg, et al., Chapter 4
 - **Discussion Post Due by Wednesday at 11:59pm**
- TH, Oct. 8th: Civil Rights
- Reading assignment: Ginsberg, et al., Chapter 4
 - **Discussion Reply and Quiz Due by Sunday at 11:59pm**
 - **Obama Administration Policy Brief Due by Sunday at 11:59pm**
- Week 6: T, Oct. 13th: Congress
- Reading assignment: Ginsberg, et al., Chapter 9
 - **Discussion Post Due by Wednesday at 11:59pm**
- TH, Oct. 15th: Congress
- Reading assignment: Ginsberg, et al., Chapter 9
 - **Discussion Reply and Quiz Due by Sunday at 11:59pm**
- Week 7: T, Oct. 20th: Presidency
- Reading assignment: Ginsberg, et al., Chapter 10
 - **Discussion Post Due by Wednesday at 11:59pm**
- TH, Oct. 22nd: Bureaucracy
- Reading assignment: Ginsberg, et al., Chapter 11
 - **Discussion Reply and Quiz t Due by Sunday at 11:59pm**
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- Week 8: T, Oct. 27th: The Judiciary
- Reading assignment: Ginsberg, et al., Chapter 12
 - **Discussion Post Due by Wednesday at 11:59pm**
- TH, Oct. 29th: The Judiciary
- Reading assignment: Ginsberg, et al. Chapter 12
 - **Discussion Reply and Quiz Due by Sunday at 11:59pm**
- Week 9: T, Nov. 3rd: Political Parties and Participation
- Reading assignment: Ginsberg, et al., Chapter 7
 - **Discussion Post Due by Wednesday at 11:59pm**
- TH, Nov. 5th: Campaigns, Elections, and Voting
- Reading assignment: Ginsberg, et al., Chapter 7
 - **Discussion Reply and Quiz Due by Sunday at 11:59pm**
- Week 10: T, Nov. 10th: Interest Groups
- Reading assignment: Ginsberg, et al., Chapter 8
 - **Discussion Post Due by Wednesday at 11:59pm**
- TH, Nov. 12th: Title IX Today
- Reading assignment: Trump Administration Title IX Guidance; Birkland reading
 - **Discussion Reply and Quiz Due by Sunday at 11:59pm**

- Week 11: T, Nov. 17th: The Media
- Reading assignment: Ginsberg, et al., Chapter 6
 - **Discussion Post Due by Wednesday at 11:59pm**
- TH, Nov. 19th: The Media
- Reading assignment: Ginsberg, et al., Chapter 6
 - **Discussion Reply and Quiz Due by Sunday at 11:59pm**
 - **Trump Administration Policy Brief Due by Sunday at 11:59pm**
- Week 1B: T, Nov. 24th: Final Paper Assignment Planning
- Reading assignment: Final Paper Rubric; Bardach “Handling a Design Problem”
- Thanksgiving Break November 25th – 29th**
- Week 12: T, Dec. 1st: Public Opinion
- Reading assignment: Ginsberg, et al., Chapter 5
 - **Discussion Post Due by Wednesday at 11:59pm**
- TH, Dec. 3rd: Public Opinion
- Reading assignment: Ginsberg, et al., Chapter 5
 - **Discussion Reply and Quiz Due by Sunday at 11:59pm**
- Week 13: T, Dec. 8th: Domestic Policy
- Reading assignment: Ginsberg, et al., Chapter 13
 - **Discussion Post Due by Wednesday at 11:59pm**
- TH, Dec. 10th: Economic Policy
- Reading assignment: Ginsberg, et al., Chapter 13
 - **Discussion Reply and Quiz Due by Sunday at 11:59pm**
 - **Events Journal Due by Sunday at 11:59pm**
- Week 14: T, Dec. 15th: The U.S. in Comparative Perspective
- Reading assignment: O’Neill, et al. U.S. Case Study
 - **Final Paper Due by Wednesday at 11:59pm**
- TH, Dec. 17th: Course Wrap Up
- Weekly Quiz open May 14th – 15th
 - **Discussion Post and Quiz Due by Friday at 11:59pm** (Note earlier closing date here!)