

PS105: AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS [3 CREDITS]

Explore
University of Wisconsin Oshkosh
Fall Semester 2020

Class meets on Collaborate Ultra,
Monday and Friday ONLY 10:20-11:20

Office hours: W/F 8:30-10:00 on MS Teams.

Professor James Krueger
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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.

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).

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

Required Text:

We the People: An Introduction to American Government, 13th Edition (Thomas E. Patterson)

ISBN: 9781260525373 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.

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 (70%): 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.

Participation (30%): 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.

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.

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/>.”

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 7: M, Oct. 19th: Presidency
- Reading assignment: Patterson., Chapter 12
 - **Discussion Post Due by Wednesday at 11:59pm**
- F, Oct. 23rd: Bureaucracy
- Reading assignment: Patterson., Chapter 13
 - **Discussion Reply and Quiz Due by Sunday at 11:59pm**
- Week 8: M, Oct. 26th: The Judiciary
- Reading assignment: Patterson, Chapter 14
 - **Discussion Post Due by Wednesday at 11:59pm**
- F, Oct. 30th: The Judiciary
- Reading assignment: Patterson, Chapter 14
 - **Discussion Reply and Quiz Due by Sunday at 11:59pm**
- Week 9: M, Nov. 2nd: Congress
- Reading assignment: Patterson, Chapter 11
 - **Discussion Post Due by Wednesday at 11:59pm**
- F, Nov. 6th: Congress
- Reading assignment: Patterson, Chapter 11
 - **Discussion Reply and Quiz Due by Sunday at 11:59pm**

- Week 10: M, Nov. 9th: Interest Groups
- Reading assignment: Patterson, Chapter 9
 - **Discussion Post Due by Wednesday at 11:59pm**
- F, Nov. 13th: Interest Groups
- Reading assignment: Patterson, Chapter 9
 - **Discussion Reply and Quiz Due by Sunday at 11:59pm**
- Week 11: M, Nov. 16th: The Media
- Reading assignment: Patterson, Chapter 10
 - **Discussion Post Due by Wednesday at 11:59pm**
- F, Nov. 20th: The Media
- Reading assignment: Patterson, Chapter 10
 - **Discussion Reply and Quiz Due by Sunday at 11:59pm**
 - **Trump Administration Policy Brief Due by Sunday at 11:59pm**
- Week 1B: M, Nov. 23rd: Review, Check in, and Catch Up
- Reading assignment: TBA
- Thanksgiving Break November 25th – 29th**
- Week 12: M, Nov. 30th: Civil Liberties
- Reading assignment: Patterson, Chapter 4
 - **Discussion Post Due by Wednesday at 11:59pm**
- F, Dec. 4th: Civil Rights
- Reading assignment: Patterson, Chapter 5
 - **Discussion Reply and Quiz Due by Sunday at 11:59pm**
- Week 13: M, Dec. 7th: Domestic Policy: Income, Welfare, Education Policy
- Reading assignment: Patterson, Chapter 16
 - **Discussion Post Due by Wednesday at 11:59pm**
- F, Dec. 11th: Domestic Policy: Income, Welfare, Education Policy
- Reading assignment: Patterson, Chapter 16
 - **Discussion Reply and Quiz Due by Sunday at 11:59pm**
 - **Events Journal Due by Sunday at 11:59pm**
- Week 14: M, Dec. 14th: The U.S. in Comparative Perspective
- Reading assignment: O'Neill, et al. U.S. Case Study
 - **Final Paper Due by Wednesday at 11:59pm**
- F, Dec. 18th: Course Wrap Up
- **Weekly Quiz open Dec. 16-18th**
 - **Discussion Post and Quiz Due by Friday, Dec. 18th at 11:59pm (Earlier closing date!)**