

POLI101: American Government (3.0 credits), Spring 2023, CRN #31164

In-Person Course, Room HS173, Germantown Campus
MWF 10-10:50am

Instructor: Professor Jennifer Haydel

Office Location: HS 194

Office/Check-In Hours:

- Hybrid Office/Check-In Hours (i.e. Zoom and in-person in HS194): Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 11am-12pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays 1-2pm; and by appointment.
- Office hours are an opportunity for you to come by and discussion questions with me. You are welcome to come by with questions about course logistics, course content, course assignments.

E-mail: Jennifer.Haydel@montgomerycollege.edu

Course Blackboard Message System: I prefer that you use the course Blackboard message system to communicate with me electronically during the semester.

Phone: 240-567-7756

Notes regarding hybrid office/check-in hours:

- I use the waiting room function in Zoom. If I am currently meeting with a student either in the office hour room or in person, I'll have you wait in the waiting room on Zoom until I have finished working with the first student to arrive.
- Please note that office hours may sometimes need to be converted to fully Zoom office hours depending on college operational status and/or my health.
- Zoom Office Hour Link Information:
<https://montgomerycollege.zoom.us/j/2514529694?pwd=ekNZYjN3SnBYVktQUHd4MnVPVmlvUT09>
There is also a Zoom link for office hours in the course Blackboard page.

Course Description: Structure, powers, and processes of the American political system: executive, legislative, and judicial branches; civil liberties, federalism, and democratic patterns and backgrounds, public opinion, pressure group politics, political parties, constitutional mechanisms, and administrative establishment; foreign and domestic policy. Emphasis on national level.

Course Outcomes: At the end of this course, you will be able to:

- 1) Understand the values and processes that create American political culture.
- 2) Explain the significance of the foundations of American politics, including the Constitution, Bill of Rights, separation of powers, checks and balances, and federalism.
- 3) Describe, analyze and evaluate the fundamental institutions of American democracy.
- 4) Assess the role collective action has played in shaping American democracy.
- 5) Describe changes in the U.S. world position over time and analyze how these positions have informed American foreign policy.
- 6) Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of important sources used in the study of American politics.

Required Resources: Free Online OpenStax American Government Textbook:

Krutz, Glen and Sylvie Waskiewicz. *American Government*. 3rd edition. OpenStax, 28 July 2021.

<https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-3e>.

Blackboard: Accessing Blackboard regularly is a mandatory part of the course, especially to assist with communications in the event of any required Zoom days. Note that you'll be turning in your course assignments and completing quizzes via Blackboard.

General Education Competencies: POLI101 fulfills a General Education Program

Behavioral and Social Sciences requirement. Montgomery College's General Education Program is designed to ensure that students have the skills, knowledge and attitudes to carry them successfully through their work and personal lives. This course provides multiple opportunities to develop the following competencies: written and oral communication, critical analysis and reasoning, technological competency, and information literacy. For more information, please see www.montgomerycollege.edu/gened.

Assignments and Grading:

Letter grades are based on the following scale: A (90-100%); B (80-89%); C (70-79%); D (60-69%); F (0-59%)

*****It is your responsibility to keep track of due dates for assignments.*****

Class Participation (10% of course grade). I will take attendance in a number of different ways throughout the semester. In addition to keeping track of attendance on a roll check sheet, we will often complete a variety of in-class activities, some of which I will collect in order to gauge your learning and to provide you with feedback. This portion of your grade is based on your attendance:

- Days you were present ÷ Total number of class meetings = Course Participation Grade
- Example: 40 ÷ 45 = 88.9%

I recognize that there are days when you may experience an unavoidable absence due to family emergency, illness, or getting called in unexpectedly for work. Therefore, I will provide alternate participation make-up assignments if you reach out to me in writing, request the alternate make-up assignment, and submit it for credit. All students will also have the opportunity to complete up to three extra credit opportunities to support the class participation grade.

Online Quizzes (10% of course grade). To help you study from the textbook and additional assigned readings, we will complete weekly reading quizzes through the Blackboard course page. Reading quiz due dates are provided on the course schedule; all reading quizzes will be done online through the course Blackboard page. Before the due date, you may complete the quiz as many times as you would like. The point of these quizzes is to help you work through the assigned course readings; therefore, these are open book and open note quizzes. Once the due date has passed, you may not make up the online quiz. However, only 10 will count towards your online quiz grade.

Analysis Papers/Projects (2 @ 15% each = 30% of course grade). You will write 2 analysis papers/projects, each exploring a specific set of course concepts and their connection to historical and/or current topics and events. A detailed handout will be provided for each assignment.

Late Paper Policy for Analysis Assignments: If you will be unable to submit one of your analysis assignments on time, please reach out to me as soon as possible. I will waive the late penalty (10% flat late penalty) if you set up and fulfill a plan to submit the paper. Please be aware that I schedule my grading along with course deadlines, so late papers may not be graded as quickly as on-time papers.

Voter Turnout Project (20% of course grade). In this assignment, we'll be exploring relevant data about voter turnout in the United States, developing reform ideas, and evaluating those ideas. Late paper policies for the voter turnout project will be provided on the assignment handout, as the project includes opportunities for receiving in-class feedback.

Examinations (2 exams @ 15% each = 30% of course grade). The examinations will consist of a combination of multiple choice and brief essay questions. You will receive study guides in advance of the exams. The examinations are conducted online via Blackboard. The examinations are open book and open note, but you may only complete the exam one time.

Academic Honesty.

Plagiarism and cheating are serious violations of the Student Code of Conduct. You will receive a "0" on any assignment or exam where you have cheated or where you have plagiarized the majority of your work. Any plagiarism serious enough to warrant a "0" will also be reported to the Dean of Student Development. If you have any questions about what counts as plagiarism or cheating, ask me *before* the assignment is due. I strongly encourage you to take the MC Library's Plagiarism Tutorial.

According to www.plagiarism.org, a website produced by iParadigms, LLC, "[a]ll of the following are considered plagiarism:

- ✓ turning in someone else's work as your own
- ✓ copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- ✓ failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- ✓ giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- ✓ changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- ✓ copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not..."

Source: iParadigms, LLC. 2014. "What is Plagiarism." Plagiarism Learning Center. Available at: <http://www.plagiarism.org/plagiarism-101/what-is-plagiarism>. (Accessed 25 July 2022).

Using ChatGPT without permission and citation is plagiarism.

Attendance. Scheduled class meetings are an important component of this class, and I expect you to be present whenever possible. However, *it is extremely important that you do not come to class while ill*. Please see the detailed information about the course participation grade for instructions on how to make up for a missed class session. Please note that if the professor experiences symptoms requiring quarantine or isolation, class may shift temporarily to Zoom. The professor will make every effort to provide timely class announcements in such an event.

Classroom and Online Conduct. We will explore politically and socially sensitive issues. As such, it is important that we provide a safe learning environment for each other. Keep in mind that it is often my job to play devil's advocate. The views I express in class are not necessarily my personal opinion. Similarly, you will have opportunities to express your own opinions, *and* you will be asked to recognize, consider, and evaluate differing perspectives.

Important Student Information Link: <https://www.montgomerycollege.edu/admissions-registration/student-resources/syllabus-resource-list.html> In addition to course requirements and objectives that are in this syllabus, Montgomery College has information on its web site to assist you in having a successful experience both inside and outside of the classroom. It is important that you read and understand this information. The **link provides** information and other resources to areas that pertain to the following: student behavior (student code of conduct), student e-mail, the tobacco free policy, withdraw and refund dates, disability support services, veteran services, how to access information on delayed openings and closings, how to register for the Montgomery College alert System, and finally, how closings and delays can impact your classes. If you have any questions please bring them to your professor. As rules and regulations change they will be updated and you will be able to access them through the link. If any student would like a written copy of these policies and procedures, the professor would be happy to provide them. By registering for this class and staying in this class, you are indicating that you acknowledge and accept these policies.

POLI 101 Reading and Assignment Guide

All entries listed as "OpenStax" refer to the online course textbook: OpenStax American Government. Any necessary schedule revisions will be announced on Blackboard and in class.

Week 1 – January 23-27: Course Introduction

- Read OpenStax chapter 1 and section 6.1

Week 2 – January 30-February 3: Origins of the Constitution

- Read OpenStax chapter 2
- *Reading Quiz #1 due by 11:59pm on February 3*

Week 3 – February 6-10: Political Ideologies and Party Systems

- OpenStax chapter 9, "Political Parties"
- Mounk, Yascha. "McPolitics." *The New Yorker*. 2 July 2018, pp. 59-63. [Blackboard]
- Summary Handout of Barber & Pope's "Conservatism in the Era of Trump." [Blackboard]
- *Reading Quiz #2 due by 11:59pm on February 10*

Week 4 – February 13-17: Congress and Congressional Elections

- Read OpenStax chapter 11
- *Reading Quiz #3 due by 11:59pm on February 17*
- *Analysis Paper #1 due by 11:59pm on February 17*

Week 5 – February 20-24: The Presidency and Presidential Elections

- Read OpenStax chapters 12 and 15
- Dickerson, John. "The Hardest Job in the World." *The Atlantic*. May Issue. [Blackboard]
- *Reading Quiz #4 due by 11:59pm on February 24*

Week 6 – February 27-March 3: The Supreme Court and Constitutional Interpretation

- Read OpenStax chapter 13
- Selected Supreme Court case summaries [Provided in class]
- *Reading Quiz #5 due by 11:59pm on March 3*

Week 7 – March 6-10: Federalism and State & Local Government

- Read OpenStax chapters 3 and 14
- *Reading Quiz #6 due by 11:59pm on March 10*
- *Midterm Examination on Blackboard – due by 11:59pm on March 10*

Week 8 – March 13-17 is Spring Break! 😊

Week 9 – March 20-24: Interest Groups and Collective Action

- Read OpenStax chapter 10
- *Reading Quiz #7 due by 11:59pm on March 24*

Week 10 – March 27-31: Civil Liberties

- Read OpenStax chapter 4
- *Reading Quiz #8 due by 11:59pm on March 31*

Week 11 – April 3-7: Civil Rights and Voting Rights

- Read OpenStax chapters 5 and section 7.1
- *Reading Quiz #9 due by 11:59pm on April 7*

Weeks 12 -- April 10-14: Voter Turnout and Elections

- Read OpenStax chapter 7
- *Reading Quiz #10 due by 11:59pm on April 14*
- *First draft of voter turnout materials due in class on Wednesday, April 12*

Week 13 – April 17-21: Media & Public Opinion

- Read OpenStax chapters 6 and 8
- *Reading Quiz #11 due by 11:59pm on April 21*
- *Finalized voter turnout materials due on Blackboard by 11:59pm on April 21*

Week 14 – April 24-28: Economic Policy

- Read OpenStax chapter 16
- *Reading Quiz #12 due by 11:59pm on April 28*

Week 15 – May 2 and 4: Foreign Policy

- Read OpenStax chapter 17
- *Reading Quiz #13 due by 11:59pm on May 5th*
- *Analysis Paper #2 due by 11:59pm on May 5th*

Week 16 – May 11, 10:15am-12:15pm: Optional Office Hours/Advising Hours

- **Final Examination due on Blackboard by Thursday, May 11th at 11:59pm**