



Stony Brook University

Department of Political Science

POL 102 — Introduction to American Government

Fall 2018

Instructor: Jason Rose
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POL-102.05 Humanities 1003 Tues/Thurs 5:30 – 6:50PM
POL-102.04 Javits Hall 100 Tues/Thurs 7:00 – 8:20PM

Course Description: POL 102 is a core course (Social and Behavioral Sciences, Category F) covering the themes of the foundations of American government, institutions, and political behavior. The course is designed to achieve these objectives by introducing students to the academic study of American Government.

The first part of the course will discuss the major concepts and theoretical arguments in founding the U.S. Constitution. The second part of the course will apply these ideas in practice by studying the institutions established by the United States' government. Lastly, we explore political behavior in American politics.

Readings: Barbour and Wright. 2017. *Keeping the Republic: Power and Citizenship in American Politics*, Brief 7th Edition. Washington D.C.: CQ Press

You should read a major daily newspaper (e.g., *The New York Times* or *The Wall Street Journal*) or watch several hours of news each week (e.g., **Meet the Press** - NBC: Sundays 11:30am, **PBS NewsHour** – PBS, Channel 13: 7pm weeknights) CNN, MSNBC, FOX, ABC

Grading: All work will be graded on an 0-100 scale. Scores of 100-94 receive an "A"; 93-90 an "A-"; 89-87 a "B+"; 86-84 a "B"; 83-80 a "B-"; 79-77 a "C+"; 76-74 a "C"; 73-70 a "C-"; 69-67 a "D+"; 66-64 a "D"; 63-60 a "D-"; and below 60 an "F." Grades will consist of 3 exams, quizzes, and attendance. The final exam will be not be cumulative. Make-up exams will only be offered under extraordinary circumstances, i.e. a death in the family or medical emergency. Proper documentation is required. Note that simply visiting a doctor is not sufficient. There must be written documentation stating that the student was physically incapable of taking the exam. All make-up exams must be completed within one week (7 days) of the original exam date. This window will only be increased for the most extreme cases. Failure to schedule a make-up exam within the allotted time will result in a grade of zero for the exam. The format of the make-up exam is left to the discretion of the instructor.

- Midterm 1: (28.33%)
 - Midterm 2: (28.33%)
 - Final Exam: (28.33%)
 - Unannounced Quizzes: (15%)
- } (85%)
- (there are NO makeup quizzes)

All Exams will be given in an online format and will be open book/notes.

If you never take a quiz, this means you were not attending and at the instructors discretion you may fail or have your grade severely reduce. So attend class!!

You must let me know if you will miss a test **before** it is given. If you cannot reach me in my office before the test, leave a message on my voice mail or email. There will be no makeups for missed quizzes, but extra credit will be available for the quiz grade or exam grade (note that the quiz grade cannot exceed 100 points no matter how much extra credit you do).

Objectives and Assessment: This goal of this course is to provide the student with a fundamental understanding of the U.S. Constitution and how the American political system - both in theory and practice - developed and currently operates. This course is the foundation for all future scholarship in the study of American Government.

Initially we focus on U.S. Constitution and the principles it establishes. What was the theory of the founders' structure of federalism and how do the different branches of government work today? We then focus on the Civil Liberties and Civil Rights through a study of the Bill of Rights. What are your liberties and rights as an individual and what are their limits? What is a right? What is a liberty?

We then turn to the institutions established by the U.S. Constitution - the United States Congress, Executive and Supreme Court. How have the three branches evolved over time? What are their roles and how do they check and balance each other? How is policy chosen and implemented in this federal system?

The course will conclude with an examination of the political activities and beliefs of the public. Is the public well-informed about the government and the policies it considers? How do citizens shape public policy?

Assessment of student progress toward these objectives is accomplished through three midterm examinations and a final cumulative examination, along with a minimum of 5 unannounced quizzes as outlined in the "grading" section of this syllabus.

Extra Credit opportunities are usually provided every semester for participation in social science studies conducted within the department. You will be informed of this on blackboard and/or by email. Additional extra credit may be provided by attending one or more foreign policy films.

American with Disabilities Act: If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services, 128 ECC Building (631) 632-6748. They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential. Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and Disability Support Services. For procedures and information go to the following web site: <http://www.ehs.sunysb.edu> and search Fire safety and Evacuation and Disabilities.

Computer use: Students are expected to check their e-mail account and Blackboard for information and correspondence with the instructors. BLACKBOARD SYSTEM:

The University has some computer software – BLACKBOARD – that will be used to maintain a website for our course. Blackboard will allow students to access course videos and readings. The Blackboard system is available from any computer with access to the Internet. The Blackboard address is

<http://blackboard.stonybrook.edu>

Logging into Blackboard requires a NET ID and a Password:

You can check (or change) your Net ID by logging into the SOLAR system and entering the "Security and Personal Data" Folder. Initially the password is the SOLAR ID number: this should be changed for security purposes.

For additional assistance in using Blackboard, see the student consultants in the Main Library SINC site (S1460 Library).

Critical Incident Management

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures.

Academic Integrity

Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Faculty in the Health Sciences Center (School of Health Technology & Management, Nursing, Social Welfare, Dental Medicine) and School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/>

Class Behavior

If the instructor decides that you are disturbing the class, you may be removed from the class for the day - by campus police if necessary. If the behavior persists, further action may be taken. Cell-phone use in class constitutes disruptive behavior. Incessant talking in class constitutes disruptive behavior. Computer laptops may be used for taking notes in class only. **ANY STUDENT TALKING OR USING A CELL-PHONE, I-PAD OR OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICE DURING AN EXAM** (whether you are done with the exam or not / whether you have turned in the exam or not) **WILL RECEIVE A ZERO FOR THAT EXAM WITH NO MAKEUP OPPORTUNITY.** Teaching Assistants' duties include reporting of the above.

COURSE SCHEDULE

* This syllabus serves a general plan for the course; deviations announced by the instructor may be necessary.

Dates	Broad Topics	Readings
Week 1	Introduction, Syllabus, Overview	
Weeks 1 - 2	Bias, Logical Inconsistency The Founding and the Constitution	Chapters 1, 2 Federalist #51, #10
Sept. 4 - 5	LABOR DAY - NO CLASS	
Weeks 2 - 3	The Constitution, Federalism	Chapters 2, 3
Weeks 3 - 4	Federalism, Civil Liberties	Chapter 4
Weeks 4 - 5	Civil Liberties, Civil Rights	Chapter 5
Week 5	Midterm 1 Review TBD	
Weeks 5 - 6	Civil Rights, Congress	Chapter 10
Week 7 - 8	The Executive and the Bureaucracy	Chapters 11,12
Weeks 8 - 9	The Judiciary	Chapter 13
Week 10	Midterm 2 Review TBD	
Week 11	Public Opinion, Political Parties and Interest Groups	Chapters 6,7

Week 12 **Guest Lecture - Your Congressman!**
Rep. Lee Zeldin (R, NY01)

Week 12 - 13 Campaigns and the Media Chapters 9

Nov. 22 - 26 THANKSGIVING BREAK - NO CLASS

Week 14 - 15 Domestic and Foreign Policy Chapter 14

Friday Dec. 8 Last Day of classes

Tuesday Dec. 19 FINAL EXAM (See schedule below)
Review TBD

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FINAL EXAM: Monday, Dec. 17 - 20 online

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FINAL EXAM: Monday, Dec. 17 - 20 online

Please be advised that **NO OTHER DATE** for your Final Exam will be provided. You **MUST** take the Final Exam at the time and date above or you will not pass the class. For those of you who travel, please book your flights accordingly. **NO ACCOMODATIONS will be made for you if you booked a flight during finals week.** You will have to change your flight.



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