

Andrews University

PLSC 104 AMERICAN GOVERNMENT CREDITS: 3.0

Instructor Contact:

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Hours: M/W 2:00-4:00; T/R 11:30-1:30 or by appointment
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Course Description: A study of American political institutions and behavior, primarily on the national level. May be applied to the history major.

Required Text:

James Q. Wilson & John J. Dilulio, Jr., *American Government: Institutions and Policies*. 14th ed. (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2014).

Course Objectives: We shall examine the foundations and development of American government. This will comprise a study of the Mayflower Compact, the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, the constitution of the state of Michigan, the three branches of the national government, federalism, political parties, bureaucratic institutions, public opinion, the media, the electoral process and the role of civic engagement and the rights of citizens in the United States and Michigan. In addition, this course seeks to familiarize students with the vocabulary of politics, equipping them to understand and explore the ways in which democratic ideas and institutions are adapted to nations with diverse histories and cultures.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Exams: There will be three exams, each weighted equally. Exams will be composed of a combination of true and false statements, multiple-choice answers, and short essay questions. The exams are not cumulative. In fairness to other students, late exams will be given only in the event of a documented medical disability or a death in the student's immediate family. Present such documentation the first time you broach the subject with me. Conflicts with work schedules, school schedules, vacations or non-emergency family matters are not valid reasons for missed exams.
2. Quizzes: There will be twelve quizzes given, one per week. Each quiz will be worth ten points. The purpose of the quizzes is to encourage attendance and to test your daily reading and learning. Since your two lowest quizzes will not be counted, no make-up quizzes will be given.

3. Class Participation: Class participation includes attendance, punctuality, preparedness, attentiveness, and contribution to class discussion. One class period a week will be devoted to Socratic questioning regarding reading assignments.
4. Book Review: Students are expected to read one book (250 pp. minimum) on the topic of American politics and write a critical review, to be turned in as indicated on the course outline.

Grading:

Exams: 3 Exams worth 60 points each. 180 points

Quizzes: 10 quizzes worth 10 points each. 100 points

Book Review: 50 points

Class Participation: 20 points

TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE: 350 points

Grading Scale: A 93-100%, A- 90-92%, B+ 87-89%, B 83-86%, B- 80-82%, C+ 76-79%, C 70-75%, C-65-69% D 55-64%

Attendance Policy: Attendance is required. More than five absences will result in forfeiture of the 20 point participation component, as will excessive tardiness, early departure, un-preparedness, disruption, and inattention.

Class Policies:

Student Responsibility: Email is the official form of communication at Andrews University. Students are responsible for checking their Andrews University email, Moodle, and iVue alerts regularly.

Professionalism: To prepare students for the professional world, certain behaviors/activities are not allowed in the classroom.

- Cell Phones, Personal Laptops, and Recording devices: **Cell phones should be turned off before entering the classroom.** Students who choose to text during class will be marked absent for the day. Picture-taking during class is not allowed. Recording devices are allowed only if pre-approved by instructor, and if approved, under no circumstance are recordings—visual or verbal—to be posted on a public website.
- Laptops should not be used for surfing the web or watching movies during class. It is disrespectful and unprofessional to use these devices inappropriately during class.
- Late Assignments are unacceptable unless prearranged with instructor.
- Tardiness; is disruptive and disrespectful to the class and instructor.
- Eating in class: Please do not bring food or beverages to class. Water is permitted.

Disability Accommodations:

If you qualify for accommodation under the American Disabilities Act, please contact Student Success in Nethery Hall 100 (disabilities@andrews.edu or 269-471-6096) as soon as possible so that accommodations can be arranged.

Academic Integrity:

In harmony with the mission statement, Andrews University expects that students will demonstrate the ability to think clearly for themselves and exhibit personal and moral integrity in every sphere of life. Thus, students are expected to display honesty in all academic matters.

Academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) the following acts:

- Falsifying or presenting falsified documents
- Plagiarizing
- Misusing copyrighted material and/or violating licensing agreements
- Using media from any source or device including the internet in ways that mislead, deceive, or defraud
- Presenting another person's work as one's own
- Using materials other than those specifically allowed by the teacher or program during a quiz or examination
- Stealing, accepting, or studying from stolen quizzes or examination materials
- Obtaining information from another student or any other source during a regular or take home test or quiz
- Assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty such as falsifying attendance records or providing unauthorized course materials"

Emergency Protocol:

Andrews University takes the safety of its student seriously. Signs identifying emergency protocol are posted throughout buildings. Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting that specific location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during any evacuation or sheltering emergency.

COURSE OUTLINE:

The following is a tentative schedule. Reading assignments and dates may be adjusted, but assigned material should be read prior to class.

August	24	Chapter 1: Introduction
	26	The Characteristics of American Democracy
	28	The Declaration of Independence
	31	Chapter 2: The Articles of Confederation and the Constitutional Convention
September	02	Continued
	04	The Principles and Articles of the Constitution
	07	Labor Day- Holiday
	09	<i>Federalist</i> 10
	11	Chapter 3: Federalism
	14	Chapter 5: Civil Liberties
	16	First Amendment Guarantees: Religion, Speech, Press, and Assembly
	18	The Rights of Criminal Defendants and the Right to Privacy
	21	Chapter 6: Civil Rights
	23	The Civil War Amendments
	25	Civil Rights and the Supreme Court
	28	Exam 1
	30	Chapter 7: Public Opinion
October	02	Chapter 8: Political Participation
	05	Chapter 9: Political Parties
	07	The Functions and Basic Structure of American Political Parties
	09	The Modern Transformation of Party Organization and Third-Partyism
	12	Columbus Day- Holiday
	14	Chapter 10: Elections and Campaigns
	16	The Campaign Process
	19	Chapter 11: Interest Groups
	21	Continued
	23	Chapter 12: The Media

	26	Continued
	28	Exam 2: Covering Chapters 7-12
	30	<i>Federalist 51:</i> Institutions of Government and the Separation of Powers
November	02	Chapter 13: Congress
	04	Continued Discussion of the Congress
	06	Chapter 14: The President
	09	The Separation of Powers and Its Critics: Presidential vs. Parliamentary Systems of Governance
	11	Continued
	13	Chapter 15: The Federal Bureaucracy
	16	Continued Discussion of the Bureaucracy
	18	Chapter 16: The Judiciary
	20	Continued Discussion of the Judiciary
	23	Chapter 17: Politics and Public Policy
	25	Thanksgiving Break
	30	Continued
December	02	Papers Due: Review for Final Exam

FINAL EXAMINATION: MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 10:30-12:30AM