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American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Arts and Humanities
POLS211
American Government II
3 Credit Hours
8-Weeks
Prerequisite(s): None

Table of Contents

Course Description	Grading Scale
Course Scope	Course Outline
Course Objectives	Policies
Course Delivery Method	Academic Services
Course Materials	Selected Bibliography
Evaluation Procedures	

[Table of Contents](#)

Course Description (Catalog)

POLS211 American Government II (3 hours)

This is the second course in a two-course sequence in American Government. The course is designed to provide research tools and writing skills that will build on the academic knowledge acquired in POLS211. The student will investigate issues in American government in greater detail through use of Internet-based research, seminar discussions, a simulation, and a final paper. Prerequisite: POLS210, American Government I (or equivalent).

[Table of Contents](#)

Course Scope

As a General Studies course and the introductory course for a Bachelors degree program in Political Science, the POLS211 course is designed to convey basic facts about the structure and functioning of American government. The student examines the workings of democracy as a governmental and social process.

The purpose and scope of this course is to familiarize a student with the analytical tools used within the social science discipline. POLS211 also provides the intellectual foundation for further study in the field of Political Science.

[Table of Contents](#)

Course Objectives

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Course Objectives:

- CO-1** Identify the philosophical basis and functioning of American democracy.
- CO-2** Explain how a bill becomes law
- CO-3** Explain the types of political participation in a democratic system.
- CO-4** Explain the power and roles of the three branches of government.
- CO-5** Define the purpose and functions of the federal bureaucracy.
- CO-6** Explain the policy-making process in the federal system.

[Table of Contents](#)

Course Delivery Method

This course will offer the student a highly interactive virtual classroom. Each week’s lesson will have a course announcement, assigned research, a discussion group question based on the assigned research, and lecture notes provided by the instructor. The course will provide the student with the necessary knowledge of American democracy and the policy making process in the federal system.

Since the student is expected to fully participate in discussions and interact with the instructor and other students, reading assignments and assigned projects should be completed in a timely manner.

[Table of Contents](#)

Course Materials

- 1. Lesson Notes
- 2. Assigned Internet Sites

[Table of Contents](#)

Evaluation Procedures

Grades for this course will be based upon three grading instruments. There are six weekly Internet research and discussion questions that are provided in the **Forum Discussion**. There are seven weekly simulation assignments. In addition, there is a final paper, which is related to the simulation. The student is expected to reply to the posting of other students no later than 11:55 pm ET Sunday. There are no **mid-term** or **final exams**. The grade scale for each of the instruments is provided below:

Grade Instruments:	% of Final Grade
Forum Assignments	60%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Paper	<u>20%</u>
	100%

Please see the student handbook to reference the University’s [grading scale](#).

[Table of Contents](#)

Grading Scale

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Please see the [Student Handbook](#) (click here) to reference the University's grading scale

Course Outline

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Course Objectives</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Assignments</u>
1	American Government: Domestic and Foreign Public Policy	<p>CO-1 Identify the philosophical basis of American democracy.</p> <p>CO-6 Explain the policy-making process in the federal system.</p>	<p>Lesson Notes</p> <p>Simulation Briefing</p>	<p><i>Forum Discussion:</i> Virtual Introduction</p> <p>Web Resources: State of the Union Address 2015: http://youtu.be/Z8LqG_Ld0Dw Transcript: http://www.cnn.com/2015/01/20/politics/state-of-the-union-2015-transcript-full-text/</p> <p>Lesson Notes – Week 1</p>
2	Executive Offices	<p>CO-4 Explain the power and roles of the three branches of government.</p>	<p>Lesson Notes</p> <p>Dahl</p> <p>Dalton</p>	<p><i>Forum Discussion:</i> Research and Discussion Question</p> <p><i>Web Resources:</i> Access www.usa.gov</p> <p>Lesson Notes – Week 2</p>
3	Senate and House Committees	<p>CO-2 Explain how a bill becomes law</p> <p>CO-4 Explain the power and roles of the three branches of government.</p>	<p>Lesson Notes</p>	<p><i>Forum Discussion:</i> Research and Discussion Question</p> <p><i>Web Resources:</i> Access www.senate.gov, www.house.gov, www.usa.gov, www.thomas.gov</p> <p>Lesson Notes – Week 3</p>
4	The Cabinet	<p>CO-5 Define the purpose and functions of the federal bureaucracy.</p> <p>CO-4 Explain the power and roles</p>	<p>Lesson Notes</p>	<p><i>Forum Discussion:</i> Discussion Question</p> <p><i>Web Resources:</i> Access www.whitehouse.gov, www.usa.gov</p> <p>Lesson Notes – Week 4</p>

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		of the three branches of government.		
5	The Judiciary	<p>CO-6 Explain the policy-making process in the federal system.</p> <p>CO-4 Explain the power and roles of the three branches of government.</p>	Lesson Notes	<p><i>Forum Discussion:</i> Discussion Question</p> <p><i>Web Resources:</i> Access www.usa.gov, www.uscourts.gov, LexisNexis.com, llrx.com, findlaw.com,</p> <p>Lesson Notes – Week 5</p>
6	Recent Mass Movements	<p>CO-3 Explain the types of political participation in a democratic system.</p> <p>CO-1 Identify the philosophical basis of American democracy.</p>	Lesson Notes	<p><i>Forum Discussion:</i> Discussion Question</p> <p><i>Web Resources:</i> none</p> <p>Lesson Notes – Week 6</p>
7	The Media	<p>CO-3 Explain the types of political participation in a democratic system.</p>	Lesson Notes	<p><i>Forum Discussion:</i> Discussion Question</p> <p>Lesson Notes – Week 7</p>
8	Future Considerations of American Government: The Prospect of Energy Independence	<p>CO-6 Explain the policy-making process in the federal system.</p> <p>CO-4 Explain the power and roles of the three branches of government.</p>	Lesson Notes	Final Paper is due

[Table of Contents](#)

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Policies

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

[Drop/Withdrawal Policy](#)
[Plagiarism Policy](#)
[Extension Process and Policy](#)

WRITING EXPECTATIONS

All written submissions should be submitted in a font and page set-up that is readable and neat. It is recommended that students try to adhere to a consistent format, which is described below.

- Typewritten in double-spaced format with a readable style and font and submitted inside the electronic classroom (unless classroom access is not possible and other arrangements have been approved by the professor).
- Arial 12-point font.
- Page margins Top, Bottom, Left Side and Right Side = 1 inch, with reasonable accommodation being made for special situations and online submission variances.

Plagiarism Penalty: The instructor has the option of awarding any assignment that has been found to have been plagiarized a zero. Subsequent violations may result in an F in the class.

CITATION AND REFERENCE STYLE

All assignments for the School of Security and Global Studies (papers, essays, exams, and Discussion Boards) must follow the Chicago Style guidelines. Students should refer to the APUS On-Line Library [Chicago/Turabian Style Manuals](#) for the correct citation method.

COURSE EXTENSIONS

If you need an extension on homework or test deadlines during your course you should contact your instructor for guidance and permission. If you need an extension **beyond the course end date** you must request one by using the online form in your campus. You should review the extension policy in the Student Handbook **before making a request**.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

For each week that an assignment is late, up to 5 points may be deducted from your grade per day for the assignment unless the student contacts the instructor ahead of time about an extenuating situation.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

This institution complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and state and local requirements regarding students with disabilities. In compliance with federal and state regulations, reasonable accommodations are provided to qualified students with disabilities.

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A request for accommodation is deemed reasonable if the request:

- is based on documented individual needs.
- does not compromise essential requirements of a course or program.
- does not impose an undue financial or administrative burden upon APUS.

A qualified student can, with or without reasonable accommodations, perform the essential functions of program or course requirements. The essential requirements of an academic course or program need not be modified to accommodate an individual with a disability.

Final responsibility for selection of the most appropriate accommodation rests with the University's Disability Support Services Committee and is determined on an individual case-by-case basis, based on the nature of the student's disability. Students are encouraged email registrar@apus.edu to discuss potential academic accommodations and begin the review process. It is the student's responsibility to:

- follow the accommodation procedure outlined in this section,
- identify the disability to the staff and/or faculty of the university,
- provide (and incur expense for) current appropriate documentation of disability and accommodation needed from a qualified medical or other licensed professional, and
- request specific accommodations or services.

NETIQUETTE

Online universities promote the advance of knowledge through positive and constructive debate--both inside and outside the classroom. Discussions on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and "flaming." Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting--basic academic rules of good behavior and proper "Netiquette" must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the fun and excitement of learning that does not include descent to personal attacks, or student attempts to stifle the discussion of others.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple.
- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and--especially--satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add "emoticons" to help alert your readers: ;-), :), ☺

DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

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[Table of Contents](#)

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Academic Services

ONLINE LIBRARY RESEARCH CENTER & LEARNING RESOURCES

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to librarian@apus.edu.

- **Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors' publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- **Electronic Books:** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- **Electronic Journals:** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.
- **Turnitin.com:** Turnitin.com is a tool to improve student research skills that also detect plagiarism. Turnitin.com provides resources on developing topics and assignments that encourage and guide students in producing papers that are intellectually honest, original in thought, and clear in expression. This tool helps ensure a culture of adherence to the University's standards for intellectual honesty. Turnitin.com also reviews students' papers for matches with Internet materials and with thousands of student papers in its database, and returns an Originality Report to instructors and/or students. Typically the course professor will establish a Turnitin.com access code for his/her classes. If the code has not been established, those who wish to use Turnitin.com may ask their professor to establish the code.
- **Tutor.com:** Students have access to ten free hours of tutoring service per year through **Tutor.com**. Tutoring is available in the following subjects: math (basic math through advanced calculus), science (biology, chemistry, and physics), accounting, statistics, economics, Spanish, writing, grammar, and more. Additional information is located in the Online Library. From the Online Library home page, click on either the "Writing Center" or "Tutoring Center." All login information is available.
- **Request a Library Guide for your course:** (<http://apus.libguides.com/index.php>)

[Table of Contents](#)

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[Table of Contents](#)