

PSC 101: Introduction to American Politics Syllabus

Instructor Information

Name: George Hawley, PhD

Virtual Office Hours: by appointment

Email: ghawley@ua.edu for same day response. Blackboard email answered within 24 hours.

Course Description

This is an introductory course that focuses on the national government. Emphasis is placed on learning how institutions, people, and politics shape public policy.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites

None

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Identify the roles and responsibilities of the different institutions of US government, particularly as they relate to policymaking.
- Critique the evolving nature of democracy.
- Compare how the electoral system operates in the United States in contrast with other industrialized democracies and how our system affects politics and policymaking.
- Identify factual information about the US political system and societal factors that affect politics.

Required Texts

Greenberg, E. S., & Page, B. I. (2016). *Struggle for Democracy, 2014 Elections and Updates Edition*. Pearson. ISBN-13: 978-0-13-391474-0.

Recommended Texts and Other Material

You should read the news regularly.

Course Presentation

This course is organized into learning modules. Modules contain assigned readings, assignments, and discussions.

Email

You may use the Mail tool in Blackboard Learn or ghawley@ua.edu to contact me. View the Blackboard Learn Tutorials for assistance using the Mail tool. I check the Mail tool in Bb once a day. I check my regular email multiple times per day.

Evaluation

Assignments	Points
Introduction Discussion	65
Chapter Quizzes (17@40 points each)	680
Assignments /Discussions (17@15 points each)	255
Total	1000

Grade Ranges

A+ = 980-1000	B+ = 880-899	C+ = 780-799	D+ = 680-699
A = 930-979	B = 830-879	C = 730-779	D = 630-679
A- = 900-929	B- = 800-829	C- = 700-729	D- = 600-629
			F = 0-599

Reading

You should plan to devote a significant amount of time to carefully reading the chapters. You are encouraged to take notes on the reading in whatever format you think will be most helpful to you (chapter outlines, notes on important terms or concepts, etc.).

Writing Assignments/Turnitin

The University of Alabama is committed to helping students uphold the ethical standards of academic integrity in all areas of study. Students agree that their enrollment in this course allows the instructor the right to use electronic devices to help prevent plagiarism. All course writing assignments are submitted through Turnitin.com and will be included as source documents in Turnitin.com's restricted access database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism in such documents.

Chapter Quizzes

You will take a chapter quiz on each chapter. See the Course Schedule for the due dates and due times. The best way to prepare for the quizzes is by carefully reading the chapter and being sure you understand the definition and significance of the terms listed at the end of each chapter. Each quiz is 10 multiple choice questions and you have 15 minutes to complete the quiz. You may use your book and/or notes, but be aware that it's highly unlikely you will be able to pass the quizzes without reading the material and listening to the lectures. Fifteen minutes is not enough time to look up the answers! You will have two attempts for each quiz.

Policy on Make-Up Work

You may schedule a make-up quiz if you meet the following conditions:

- You must notify the instructor prior to the quiz that you are unable to complete it due to death, illness, or an approved University trip with the proper paperwork.
- If there was a death in your family, you must provide me with a funeral card.
- If you or someone in your immediate family was ill, you must provide me with a doctor's note.

Course Schedule

The course schedule located on the Course Menu provides due dates for all activities in this course. Please refer to the [UA Academic Calendar](#) for other important dates.

System Requirements

This course requires a high-speed Internet connection and a [compatible browser \[PDF\]](#). Courses may also require these [free tools](#):

- Java
- Adobe Reader
- Flash Player
- Microsoft Silverlight
- QuickTime
- Windows Media Player (or Flip4Mac)

You must have speakers or headphones.

You will need access to Microsoft Office or OpenOffice to complete assignments. [OpenOffice](#) is a free alternative to Microsoft Office that allows you to save your files with the required Microsoft Office extensions.

Minimum Student Technical Skills

Participation in an online course requires knowledge of computer technology. In order to participate successfully in an online course, you should already be able to:

- Access and use Blackboard Learn (review the [Blackboard Learn Tutorials](#) for assistance).
- Use a word processing program to:
 - Create, format, edit, spell check, save, and print a document.
 - Cut, copy, and paste information.
 - Save a word processing document in txt, rtf, doc, or docx format as requested.
- Use a spreadsheet program to:

- Create, format, edit, spell check, save, and print a spreadsheet.
 - Cut, copy, and paste information.
 - Create graphs.
- Use a web browser to view, navigate, and search for information on the Internet.
- Use your Crimson email account and the Blackboard Learn Mail tool to send and receive messages and file attachments.

Technical Support

To obtain assistance with technical issues, contact the College of Continuing Studies online course technical support team. The team can be reached [online](#) or by phone at 1-866-205-1011.

University of Alabama Policies

Academic Honor Code:

All students in attendance at The University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University of Alabama expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. At the beginning of each semester and on tests and projects, at the discretion of the instructor, each student will be expected to sign an Honor Pledge. The Academic Honor Pledge reads as follows:

I promise or affirm that I will not at any time be involved with cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, or misrepresentation while enrolled as a student at The University of Alabama. I have read the Academic Honor Code, which explains disciplinary procedures that will result from the aforementioned. I understand that violation of this code will result in penalties as severe as indefinite suspension from the University.

Code of Academic Conduct:

Academic misconduct includes all acts of dishonesty in any academic or related matter and any knowing or intentional help, attempt to help, or conspiracy to help, another student commit an act of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following acts, when performed in any type of academic or academically related matter, exercise, or activity: cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, and misrepresentation.

Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act:

In keeping with its mission and in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, The University of Alabama is committed to providing persons with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from all programs and services conducted or sponsored by the University. See the [Office of Disability Services](#) web site for more information.

For more information on The University of Alabama student policies, see the [Student Handbook](#).

UAct: Ethical Community Statement

The University of Alabama is committed to an ethical, inclusive community defined by respect and civility. The [UAct website](#) provides a list of reporting channels that can be used to report incidences of illegal discrimination, harassment, sexual assault, sexual violence, retaliation, threat assessment, or fraud.

History of the Capstone Creed

The Capstone Creed was created by the Student Leaders Council. In the spring of 2000, a discussion of campus culture among student leaders led to an effort to identify the core values that sustain us as members of the University community. The Student Leaders Council recognized that the Capstone experience is not limited to our formal affiliation with the University during enrollment and that the University community does not end at the geographic boundaries of campus. As members of the Capstone community, there is a common thread that unites us all, and the Student Leaders Council has endeavored to make those core values manifest through the implementation of a campus-wide creed with which all Capstone stakeholders can identify.



THE CAPSTONE CREED

*As a member of
the University of Alabama community,
I will pursue knowledge;
act with fairness, honesty, and respect;
foster civic responsibility;
and strive for excellence.*

THE UNIVERSITY OF
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