



BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

POLS 101 Syllabus
American National Government
Boise State University, Political Science
Summer 2021

Part I: Instructor Information

Instructor: Christian Lindke
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Virtual Office Hours: 12-2pm Fridays via Zoom; please email to arrange another time
Office Location: Off Campus via Zoom at [this link](#).
Contact instructions: For quickest response, I prefer that you contact me via email. I will respond to email within 24 hours, except on weekends and holidays. If you do not understand the instructions or due dates for an assignment, please use the “Course Questions and Discussion” forum to post your questions. Students are encouraged to answer questions posed by other students and to subscribe to the forum.

For assistance with technical problems in Canvas please contact the Boise State Help Desk, helpdesk@boisestate.edu, tel. 208-426-4357, or by using the Help Button in the Canvas Student Application for documentation.

Part 2: Course Information

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to examine the institutions and political processes of the American national government.

This course will prepare you for the political science major/minor and fulfills requirements for other majors, including criminal justice and social work. Additionally, this course satisfies the University Learning Outcome: Apply knowledge and the methods of inquiry characteristics of the social sciences to explain and evaluate human behavior and institutions.

Course Format

This course will be conducted entirely online. Attendance, participation, and assignments will be submitted through the Boise State University, [Canvas course site](#). This course consists of weekly readings, quizzes, online discussions, a variety of assignments, and two exams.

Though you may access Canvas any time and complete most of the work at hours convenient to you, you will still have multiple deadlines each week, and regular participation is mandatory. Each student must complete course requirements by scheduled deadlines. Due dates occur on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday each week at 11:59 p.m. **Mountain Time**.

Prerequisites

There is no prerequisite for this course – this is an introductory course.

Course Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course you will be able to:

- A. Explain the origins and development of constitutional democracy in the United States.
- B. Describe the foundations, development, and features of the United States Constitution.
- C. Explain the federalist system and how federalism has evolved in the United States.
- D. Understand what civil liberties are and how they have evolved over the history of the United States.
- E. Describe the difference between civil rights and civil liberties and how civil rights have expanded since the nation's founding.
- F. Analyze the role of public opinion and political participation within the political system.
- G. Explain the changing role media plays in shaping and reflecting our politics today.
- H. Explain the election process, including the electoral college.
- I. Discuss the role linkage institutions, such as political parties and interest groups, play in U.S. politics.
- J. Identify the role of Congress and how it performs its institutional responsibilities.
- K. Identify the role of the presidency and how presidents have performed their institutional responsibilities.
- L. Summarize the role of the federal bureaucracy, why it exists, and how it performs its institutional responsibilities.
- M. Identify the role of the federal judiciary and how it performs its institutional responsibilities.

Module Level Learning Outcomes

Please see each module introduction for **module level learning outcomes**.

University Learning Outcomes

The Foundational Studies Program is organized around eleven University Learning Outcomes (ULO's), which every Boise State University graduate is expected to have met, regardless of major or baccalaureate degree. These outcomes guide the development of the courses that students take throughout the undergraduate degree. Please review the Boise State University Learning Outcomes.

The University Learning Outcomes developed in this course include:

11. Apply knowledge and the methods of inquiry characteristic of the social sciences to explain and evaluate human behavior and institutions.

Achievement of the Course Learning Objectives and University Learning Outcome(s) addressed in this course will be evaluated through course assignments and requirements described later in the syllabus.

Part 3. Instructional Materials

Required Course Texts, Materials, and Resources

The materials listed here are required by the first week of class, unless stated otherwise:

1. Morone, James A., and Rogan Kersh. *By the People: Debating American Government*. Brief 5th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2021.
 - a. ISBN: 978-0197545829

eCampus Resources

The eCampus Center provides a number of services and resources to help online students succeed. If you would like to receive assistance from any of the offices or services, please make contact with them as soon as possible. It is much better to start receiving these services at the beginning of the class, rather than waiting several weeks before you initiate contact. Select the following link to learn more about the services and resources available to you through the eCampus Center. [Boise State eCampus Center Student Support](#)

Part 4. Course Requirements

Class Participation

Log in to the Canvas course site at least three times a week and complete the assignments by the scheduled due dates. The amount of learning you get out of this course will depend to a large extent on your preparation and participation. Class participation is a requirement of this course and counts toward your grade. I hope you actively participate in this course because I have found it is the best way to engage you in learning.

Time Required

Please be aware that time estimates for each lesson, assignment, and week are estimates only. The actual time you spend to complete the course activities will vary depending on how quickly you read and the level of your technology skills. Organize your time in a way that allows you to thoughtfully and thoroughly complete readings, assignments, and participation in online forums. According to [University Policy #4080](#), this three-credit course will require you to spend, on average, 16.5-19.5 hours on coursework each week.

Course Modules, Activities, and Assignments

When you initially log into your Canvas course, read any new announcements from the instructor. To begin work on each week's module, select the **Modules** link from the course's main menu and use the numbered items to guide you through the learning activities. This seven-week course has seven modules, and you will complete one module per week. Each module will provide a variety of instructional activities, discussions, and small group interactions. These have been designed to help you meet the course learning objectives, as well

as develop the foundational knowledge, critical thinking, and communication skills associated with this subject.

If you do not understand the instructions or due dates for an assignment, please use the Course Questions and Discussion forum to post your questions. Time estimates are provided to help you gauge the effort involved and manage your schedule more effectively.

Modules will contain a variety of weekly activities for you to complete, including:

Course Modules and Activities

Videos

Each module will feature brief video introductions, featuring different Boise State University political science faculty who will introduce you to the module's topic, the key objectives for the module, and a little bit about the topic itself. This will also provide an opportunity to learn about other faculty members apart from your course instructor.

Readings

Reading assignments will usually come in the form of specifically assigned chapters from your textbook, though occasionally other different/additional material will be provided by your instructor. Scheduling regular reading blocks in your calendar will help you stay current with the reading. Estimated times are suggested using a 200 word per minute (or five minutes per page) college level reading speed. Reading estimates do not include time to take notes or the extra time involved when reading more challenging material. You may wish to adjust your study plan accordingly.

Quizzes and Exams

You will take all exams and quizzes on the Canvas course site. Quizzes are due Saturday of each module. Canvas will grade quizzes and exams once the due date for each has passed. You can check your score and results then by accessing **My Grades** in the Canvas course menu.

Module Assignments

Each module will feature one unique assignment or activity you are required to complete. Details and requirements will vary from module to module and will be provided in the instructions for each assignment/simulation. A typical assignment will ask you to complete a task related to the module's topic. In both cases, you will write a short reflection that answers questions about the assignment. This reflection will not be public, but rather only visible to the instructor. Please pay careful attention to due dates listed in Canvas.

Discussion Forum and Current Event Research

You are required to research current events concerning each module's key topic and write a 250-300 word reflective post about at least one current events story that relates to each topic. Initial discussion forum posts will be due on Thursdays. Later, you will read all of your fellow classmates' posts and write thoughtful replies to at least two of them. When writing replies, first try to respond to posts that do not have any comments, then, if you wish, add comments to posts that already have one or more replies. Each post must be concise, relevant, informational, and on time. Where possible, cite your references, including references to the readings and resources for

the module. Discussions close at 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time on Saturday. Posts to this forum after that date are considered late. At the end of the module, students will find it helpful to browse the forum and make note of key points made.

I believe online discussions are an important component of this course. Thoughtful discussions stimulate reflective thinking, deeper learning and a productive exchange of ideas. I will be following along with the discussion and may post clarifying questions and feedback from time to time. For the most part, this venue is where you will go to teach and learn from each other.

Citation Requirements

Should you find inspiration in others' ideas or writing on this subject, be sure to cite them so I can understand which ideas and writing are your original work and what sources you used.

Grading Information

Grades in this course are based on a 400-point grading system utilizing the allocation of points shown below.

Graded Activity or Deliverable	Points
Syllabus Quiz	10
Introduction Discussion Board (initial and reply)	5
Current Events Discussion Board (initial and reply) (x7: 5 points each)	35
Homework Assignment (x12: 10 points each)	120
Quizzes (x7: 10 points each)	70
Individual Field Trip	30
Letter to a Member of Congress	20
Reflection Assignment (x2: 5 points each)	10
Midterm Exam	50
Final Exam	50
Total	400

I do my best to provide clear expectations and grading criteria for your assignments. I encourage you to view grading rubrics before assignment submission, confirm an assignment has been submitted, and view all of your scores and accompanying comments on graded tests and assignments by accessing **View Grades** in the Canvas course menu. Learn more about **View Grades** from the Canvas Help page.

Final letter grades will be based on the following scale:

Percentage	Letter Grade
96-100%	A+
93-95	A
90-92	A-
86-89	B+
83-85	B
80-82	B-
76-79	C+
73-75	C
70-72	C-
66-69	D+
63-65	D
60-62	D-
0-59	F

Part 5. Student Expectations/Responsibilities

Academic Integrity

Boise State promotes Academic Excellence as a core Shared Value upholding the virtue of honesty in the pursuit of knowledge. Behaving with integrity and honesty is a hallmark of a Boise State University graduate. The conferring of a degree represents the University's indication that the recipient has engaged in academic work that is representative of her/his own efforts and that was completed with integrity and honesty.

Upholding academic integrity in all assignments provides students with the opportunity to engage with the material being investigated and assert their evidence-based findings. This behavior demonstrates the commitment to learning and preparation necessary for a successful future. All work you submit must represent your own ideas and effort or be cited including any material you wrote for another course; when work does not, it is academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty in any form may result in failure in the course or dismissal from the Program and/or the University. See Boise State's [Academic Integrity](#) page for specific behaviors to avoid.

Communicating with Your Instructor

If you have a conflict and/or will be unavailable to participate in a timely manner during a particular week, please let me know by sending an email in advance. Contact me by email to ask questions, give status reports, or request 1:1 assistance, if needed. You are encouraged to ask questions directly and immediately.

The turnaround time for grading assignments will generally be one week. I will use rubrics and other Canvas tools to comment on your papers and provide feedback. Learn how to locate feedback in the Canvas Help page.

If you notice any problems in the course or seek clarification on an assignment, send me an email or, if it's a general question that may benefit others, please post it in the Course Questions and Discussions forum. If you need technical assistance, please call the Help Desk.

I will generally login and participate in the course at least four days each week. This includes grading, making announcements, responding to student questions, and participating in discussions. I will send an announcement whenever I will be away from the class for more than a few days.

Part 6. Course Expectations and Policies

Late Work Policy

Late submissions for assignments will lose 1 point for each day the assignment is late. Please notify me via email any time you submit late work. (Once I have finished grading a forum, I do not receive notification of late posts and won't see your late work unless you point me to it.) I will then make any necessary changes to the gradebook, generally within ten to fourteen days.

Note: Granting credit for late work is always up to my discretion, and I reserve the right to revise this policy if needed. If prior arrangements are made, late work may, depending on the circumstance, be eligible for full credit.

Part 7. Additional Syllabus Policies and Procedures

Please refer to these [University Guidelines and Policies](#) for information regarding:

Technology

- Technical Assistance
- Technology and Technical Skill Requirements

Student Resources and Policies

- Student Support Resources
- Student Online Privacy
- Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
- Academic Writing Standards
- Student Conduct
- Copyright Compliance
- Accommodation for Students with Disabilities
- Privacy and Accessibility Information for technologies used in Boise State courses

Refer to these [Student Expectations and Guidelines](#) regarding:

- Guidelines for Communicating with Your Instructor
- Statement of Shared Values
- Issues with a Class
- Planning for Success
- Online Course Strategies
- Building Class Community

Part 8. Course Schedule

Note: The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus and schedule if warranted and/or if unexpected situations arise.

Module	Topic	Assigned Readings and Due Dates of Major Components
01	Welcome and Ideas that Shape American Politics	<p>By Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 01.01 Course Introduction ● 01.02 Module Introduction ● 01.03 Syllabus Reading and Quiz ● 01.04 Individual Field Trip Preparation ● 01.05 Introduce Yourself Discussion Board (DB): Initial Post <p>By Thursday at 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 01.06 Introduce Yourself Dissuasion Board: Reply Posts ● 01.07 Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Morone and Kersh (2021) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Chapter 01 ● 01.08 Current Events Discussion Board: Initial Post <p>By Saturday at 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 01.09 Current Events Discussion Board: Reply Posts ● 01.10 Homework Assignment ● 01.11 Individual Study Time ● 01.12 Quiz: Chapter 01
02	The Constitution, Federalism, and Nationalism	<p>By Tuesday at 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 02.01 Module Introduction ● 02.02 Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Morone and Kersh (2021) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Chapter 02 ■ Chapter 03 ● 02.03 Individual Field Trip Reminder <p>By Thursday at 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 02.04 Current Events Dissuasion Board: Initial Post ● 02.05 Homework Assignment

Module	Topic	Assigned Readings and Due Dates of Major Components
		<p>By Saturday at 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 02.06 Homework Assignment ● 02.07 Current Events Discussion Board: Reply Posts ● 02.08 Individual Study Time ● 02.09 Quiz: Chapters 02 and 03 ● 02.10 Individual Field Trip: Submission
03	Civil Liberties and The Struggle for Civil Rights	<p>By Tuesday at 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 03.01 Module Introduction ● 03.02 Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Morone and Kersh (2021) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Chapter 04 ■ Chapter 05 <p>By Thursday at 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 03.03 Current Events Discussion Board: Initial Post ● 03.04 Homework Assignment <p>By Saturday at 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 03.05 Homework Assignment ● 03.06 Current Events Discussion Board: Reply Posts ● 03.07 Individual Study Time ● 03.08 Midterm: Chapters 01 - 05 ● 03.09 Journal Reflection
04	Public Opinion, Political Participation, and The Media	<p>By Tuesday at 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 04.01 Module Introduction ● 04.02 Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Morone and Kersh (2021) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Chapter 06 ■ Chapter 07 <p>By Thursday at 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 04.03 Current Events Discussion Board: Initial Post ● 04.04 Homework Assignment

Module	Topic	Assigned Readings and Due Dates of Major Components
		<p>By Saturday at 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 04.05 Homework Assignment ● 04.06 Current Events Discussion Board: Reply Posts ● 04.07 Individual Study Time ● 04.08 Quiz: Chapters 06 and 07
05	Campaigns and Elections; Interest Groups and Political Parties	<p>By Tuesday at 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 05.01 Module Introduction ● 05.02 Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Morone and Kersh (2021) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Chapter 08 ■ Chapter 09 <p>By Thursday at 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 05.03 Current Events Discussion Board: Initial Post ● 05.04 Homework Assignment <p>By Saturday at 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 05.05 Homework Assignment ● 05.06 Current Events Discussion Board: Reply Posts ● 05.07 Individual Study Time ● 05.08 Quiz: Chapters 08 and 09
06	Congress and The Presidency	<p>By Tuesday at 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 06.01 Module Introduction ● 06.02 Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Morone and Kersh (2021) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Chapter 10 ■ Chapter 11 ● 06.03 Letter to a Member of Congress <p>By Thursday at 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 06.04 Current Events Discussion Board: Initial Post ● 06.05 Homework Assignment <p>By Saturday at 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 06.06 Homework Assignment ● 06.07 Current Events Discussion Board: Reply Posts

Module	Topic	Assigned Readings and Due Dates of Major Components
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 06.08 Individual Study Time ● 06.09 Letter to a Member of Congress: Submission ● 06.10 Quiz: Chapters 10 and 11
07	Bureaucracy and The Judicial Branch	<p>By Tuesday at 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 07.01 Module Introduction ● 07.02 Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Morone and Kersh (2021) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Chapter 12 ■ Chapter 13 <p>By Thursday at 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 07.03 Current Events Discussion Board: Initial Post ● 07.04 Homework Assignment <p>By Saturday at 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 07.05 Current Events Discussion Board: Reply Posts ● 07.06 Individual Study Time ● 07.07 Final: Chapters 06 - 13 ● 07.08 Course Reflection