

MIDSTATE COLLEGE
411 W. NORTHMOOR RD. PEORIA, IL 61614
(309) 692-4092 (800) 251-4299
Summer 2018

Course number & Name: PSC110: Introduction to American Government

Credit hours: 4 quarter hours

Method of Delivery: Arranged with an eLearning Component (AE)

Course Description: (IAI approved S5 900)

This course provides an introduction to the organization and function of the United States national government. More specifically, this class will examine the ideological foundations of the Constitution and its influence on current U.S. political institutions and culture, federalism, political behavior, the different branches of the American system of government and their respective roles, and public policy.

Prerequisite: There are no prerequisites for this course.

Textbook: American Government and Politics Today: The Essentials
2017-2018 Edition (ISBN-13 978-1-337-09121-3)

Authors: Barbara A. Bardes, Mack C. Shelley, and Steffan W. Schmidt

Publisher: CENGAGE Learning

Topics: The following topics will be covered in this course:

1. United States Constitution
2. Federalism
3. Political Behavior
4. Legislative Branch Powers
5. Executive Branch Powers
6. Judicial Branch Powers
7. Public Policy

Learning Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the ideological foundations of the Constitution and its influence on current U.S. political institutions and culture.

2. Demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles underlying the ideology of federalism.
3. Articulate an understanding of the relationship between politics and society, including factors such as social class, race, ethnicity, and gender.
4. Identify how the legislative branch is organized and the role it plays in the policymaking process.
5. Identify how the executive branch is organized and the role it plays in the policymaking process.
6. Identify how the judicial branch is organized and the role it plays in the policymaking process.
7. Recognize the government's public policy process in an attempt to be responsive to its citizens.

Midstate Grading Scale:

A = 100% to 90%

B = 89% to 80%

C = 79% to 70%

D = 69% to 60%

F = 59% to 0%

All students must have a 70% or better to pass this course.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a basic principle of the College's function. Midstate College students are expected to maintain a high level of academic honesty. Contrary actions may result in penalties such as failure of the assignment(s), a lesser grade on assignment(s), failure of the course and/or suspension from the College. The course instructor will review all submitted documents and supporting evidence in connection to the infraction. The course instructor will also review the student's personal file for other notifications of academic dishonesty before determining the level of action to be applied. The course instructor will complete the Academic Dishonesty Report form to document and describe the incident and actions taken, then kept on file. The student may appeal the decision to administration, whose decision will be final.

The following (**plagiarism, cheating, deception, sabotage, computer misuse and copyright infringement**) are included in the actions Midstate College considers behavior contrary to the academic integrity policy; however, the policy is not limited to these examples. Further discussion of consequences regarding academic dishonesty are addressed in the Student Handbook.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is using another person's words, either by paraphrase or direct quotation, without giving credit to the author(s). Plagiarism can also consist of cutting and pasting material from electronic sources by submitting all or a portion of work for assignment credit. This includes papers, computer programs, music, sculptures, paintings, photographs, etc. authored by another person without explicitly citing the original source(s). These actions violate the trust and honesty expected in academic work. Plagiarism is strictly against the academic policy of Midstate College. Its seriousness requires a measured, forceful response which includes consequences for inappropriate and/or no citation.

In courses containing writing assignments, the College promotes the use of Turnitin which compares the student's writing against previously submitted papers, journals, periodicals, books, and web pages. Students and instructors can use this service to reduce the incidence of plagiarism. This electronic resource has been found to conform to legal requirements for fair use and student confidentiality. It is able to provide a report to the student indicating the parts of the assignment that match.

Student Success and Tutoring:

Contact Student Success: Room 110; (309) 692-4092, ext. 1100;
studentsuccess@midstate.edu;

The Office of Student Success offers help in the following areas:

- **Tutoring:** Tutoring is encouraged for students who are doing their best to complete assignments yet still are experiencing difficulty in this course.

Tutoring may be provided by the instructor outside of scheduled class times or through the office of Student Success.

- Writing assignment assistance: This may include learning how to conduct research; using proofreading tools such as Turnitin; outlining a topic; and applying MLA/APA standards.
- Math, accounting, and computer skills (including file management).
- Test-taking techniques.
- Note-taking skills development.
- Study skills development.
- Time management.

Instructor Information:

Mark E. Wiltse

Director, Legal Studies Department

Midstate College

Office – Room 219

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Policies and Procedures: All assignments are due by the date specified and they need to be posted in the location specified by the faculty member in this module/syllabus. Late assignments will only be accepted up to 7 days after their due dates (**late credit will be given during this 7 day time period**). Assignments turned in after this 7-day period expires will receive no credit. All work must be submitted in typewritten form (assignments submitted in handwritten form will not be accepted). **Vocabulary quizzes cannot be taken late.**

Participation Requirements: You are expected to participate at least two days a week in several conference discussions / homework assignments relating to the subject materials for the week. Discussions will take place in the class meeting as assigned by the faculty member in the course syllabus. You will read, analyze, and respond to questions and comments from the faculty member and fellow students.

Methods of Evaluating Student Performance:

The objectives of this course will be measured against the student's performance on weekly homework assignments, discussion forums, quizzes, two short papers, and a comprehensive final exam. Both the quizzes and the final exam will be multiple-choice and true/false assessments of the facts learned in each chapter.

Attendance Policy: Arranged students must login and participate at least once a week to be counted present for the week (participation is strongly recommended and essential for passing this course). You must post a gradable assignment each week to be counted as "Present" for the week. Students that miss 30% (or more) of the scheduled classes will not be allowed to successfully complete this course (unless departmental approval is obtained).

Instructors Late Policy: The following assignments and activities are outlined in a week-by-week format. All assignments (unless specified otherwise) are due by either day 5 or day 7 and they need to be posted to the location specified by the faculty member in the syllabus. The following schedule indicates the days of the week to be followed in this module:

Day 1 = Monday

Day 2 = Tuesday

Day 3 = Wednesday

Day 4 = Thursday

Day 5 = Friday

Day 6 = Saturday

Day 7 = Sunday

Late assignments will only be accepted (late credit) up to 7 days after their due dates. Any assignment turned in after this 7-day period expires will receive no credit.

Instructor Final Grade Determination:

Final grades for this class will be determined on a percentage basis as follows:

1. 10%- Chapter Questions
2. 10%- Discussion Questions
3. 20%- Quizzes

4. 20%- Op/Ed Assignment (Detailed instructions will be provided on this assignment in MOODLE/Week 8).
5. 20%- Government Officials Research (Detailed instructions will be provided on this assignment in MOODLE/Week 11)
6. 20%- Final Examination

Introduction to American Government (PSC110)

Fall 2018

Class Schedule

Week 1:

Topics:

Introduction to Course/Political Behavior

Objectives: 2, 3

Assignments:

- Read course syllabus
- Read Week 1 Lecture
- Read Chapter 1 of the text (The Democratic Republic)
- Answer homework questions
- Post to discussion forums

Week 2:

Topics:

United States Constitution/Federalism

Objectives: 1, 2

Assignments:

- Read Week 2 lecture
- Read Chapters 2 and 3 of the text (The Constitution; Federalism)
- Answer homework questions
- Post to discussion forums
- Complete Quiz 1

Week 3:

Topics:

Political Behavior/Public Policy

Objectives: 1, 2, 3

Assignments:

- Read Week 3 lecture
- Read Chapters 4 and 5 of the text (Civil Liberties; Civil Rights)
- Answer homework questions
- Post to discussion forums

Week 4:

Topics:

Political Behavior/Public Policy

Objectives: 3, 7

Assignments:

- Read Week 4 lecture
- Read Chapters 6 and 7 of the text (Public Opinion...Socialization; Interest Groups)
- Answer homework questions
- Post to discussion forums
- Complete Quiz 2

Week 5:

Topics:

Political Behavior/Public Policy

Objectives: 3, 7

Assignments:

- Read Week 5 lecture
- Read Chapters 8 and 9 of the text (Political Parties; Campaigns, Elections, and the Media)
- Answer homework questions
- Post to discussion forums

Week 6:

Objectives: 1-7

Assignments:

- Short paper #1 (details posted in this week's folder)

Week 7:

Topic:

Legislative Branch Powers

Objectives: 1, 2, 4

Assignments:

- Read Week 7 lecture
- Read Chapters 10 and 11 of the text (The Media; The Congress)
- Answer homework questions
- Post to discussion forums
- Complete Quiz 3

*Week 8:***Topic:**

Executive Branch Powers

Objectives: 1, 2, 5

Assignments:

- Read Week 8 lecture
- Read Chapters 11 and 12 of the text (The President; The Bureaucracy)
- Answer homework questions
- Post to discussion forums
- Op/Ed Summary

*Week 9:***Topic:**

Judicial Branch Powers

Objectives: 1, 2, 6

Assignments:

- Read Week 9 lecture
- Read Chapter 13 of the text (The Courts)
- Answer homework questions
- Post to discussion forums
- Complete Quiz 4

*Week 10:***Topic:**

Public Policy

Objectives: 7

Assignments:

- Read Week 10 lecture

- Read Chapter 14 of the text (Domestic and Economic Policy)
- Answer homework questions
- Post to discussion forums
- Government Officials Research Assignment

Week 11:

Topic:

Public Policy

Objectives: 7

Assignments:

- Read Week 11 Lecture
- Read Chapter 15 of the text (Foreign Policy)
- Short paper #2 (details posted in this week's folder)

Week 12:

Topic:

Fun with Finals

Objectives: 1-7

Assignments:

- Read Final Review lecture (optional, but definitely a smart idea)
- Final Exam