



Walters State Community College Course Syllabus

Course Information

Course Number and Name: POLS 1030 American Government

Section ID: 81409.202380

Semester and Year: Fall 2023

Credit Hours: 3

Start Date: August 21, 2023

End Date: December 08, 2023

Course Format: TWY - Two-Way Video/Audio (ITV)

Catalog Course Description: A study of the Constitution, American political culture and behavior, and the structure and function of the legislative, executive, judicial, and administrative branches of U.S. national government. **F, Su**

General Education Course Designation: General Education Course

Meeting Details: MW; 09:35AM - 11:00AM; GRNV 243

Course Drop Deadline: October 27, 2023

Instructor Information

Name: Steven Lawrence

Office Location: CCEN 126

Office Hours: By Appointment in person or on Zoom

Office Phone: 423.529.2111

Email: Steven.Lawrence@ws.edu

Supervisor Name: Dr. F. Suzanne Stephens, Assistant Dean

Supervisor Phone: 423-585-6785

Secretary Name: Lisa Horner

Secretary Phone: 423-585-2633

Required Textbook(s) and Materials

American Government Roots and Reform

Subtitle: 2020 Presidential Election Edition

ISBN: ISBN-13: 9780136900436

Authors: O'Connor/Sabato

Publisher: Pearson

Publication Date: 23 July 2021

Edition: 2018 Presidential Election Edition, 14th Edition

Additional Information

Print or eReader version is OK. Any edition 2016 or newer will be OK.

Supplemental or Optional Materials

Daily Newspapers, online news

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

- Given a selected aspect of the Constitution and/or American federalism, the student will be able to identify and/or discuss its significance and function.
- Given a selected aspect or characteristic of American political culture, the student will be able to identify and/or discuss its significance and impact upon American government and politics.
- Given a selected aspect, institution, process or branch of American government, the students will be able to identify and/or discuss its structure and function.

Instructional Approach and Methods

1. Following WSCC COVID-19 protocols, some classes may be taught in the classroom while other class sessions will be taught using Zoom video conferencing technology. The instructor will make good effort to include all students in discussions and class activities.
2. Special Considerations due to COVID-19 Desktop Video format: Students are strongly urged to NOT block ("STOP") their video during the class sessions. This will encourage interaction among students and with the instructor. If a student's video is STOPPED and the student does not respond to a question from the instructor, it will be assumed that the student has left the class and the student will be marked ABSENT.
3. Attendance will be taken using a sign-in sheet for in-classroom sessions, and by roll-call at the beginning of each virtual class session. If a student arrives late or does not respond to the

attendance when called, it is her/his responsibility to inform the instructor by email after the class.

4. Students will be expected to attend class and to participate in class discussions and activities. These activities will include note-taking and may include in-class exercises.
5. Students will be expected to read the required text material.
6. Students will be expected to perform satisfactorily on the scheduled examinations.
7. Students will be expected to comply with Zoom video procedures, attendance, and testing policies.
8. Students will be evaluated on their performance on the regularly scheduled exams, their written work, and their classroom activities and/or participation.

Assessment, Evaluation and Testing Procedures

Exam #1	20%
Exam #2	20%
Exam #3	20%
Class Project/Presentation/Honors Project	15%
Reading Questions	10%
Class participation	15%

Grading Scale

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	Below 60

Assignments

Students will select and present to the class original research about a topic related to the class. This may be an individual or small group project.

We may have guest speakers during the term. Individual students may volunteer to research information about a speaker and introduce them to the class. This will count as class participation credit.

Class Participation

Class participation is interpreted as regular class attendance and participation in class discussions. Special Considerations due to COVID-19 Desktop Video format: Students are strongly urged to NOT block ("STOP") their video during the class sessions. This will encourage interaction among students and with the instructor. If a student's video is STOPPED and the student does not respond to a question from the instructor, it will be assumed that the student has left the class and the student will be marked ABSENT.

Also students 18 years of age or older will receive credit for registering to vote.

Online/Web-Enhanced Course Supplementary Information

Virtual Office Hours	By Appointment. For web-based courses, the easiest way to reach me is through email. You can expect a response within 24-48 hours with the exception of weekends and holidays.
Library Information	This is the library website (http://library.ws.edu/c.php?g=181040&p=1191972).
Technical Support	This is the Helpdesk website (http://helpdesk.ws.edu/).
Web Addresses/Resources	None
Guidelines for Communication: Email, Discussion Posts, Chat	Participate and collaborate constructively with peers. Be respectful toward all members of the class and their views.

Additional Course Requirements/Details/Information

ALTERNATIVE TEACHING PLAN

In the event of declared disruption of the college academic schedule, all students will refer to course syllabi and course web site to retrieve current information and assignments. Each student will be expected to follow course schedule and updates according to instructor directions for the duration of the disruption and stay tuned to the college/class website for further information. The instructor will provide details for assignments such as what to do, how to proceed, and where to look for resources. All information will be submitted electronically through the class website unless specified by the instructor.

NO FOOD, DRINK, GUM, OR TOBACCO PRODUCTS!

**May include but are not limited to the following at the discretion of the instructor.*

Students who enter the classroom after class has begun should sit near the door wall or back of class; please do not cross in front of the class.

Students will not be allowed to engage in distracting or disruptive behavior.

Students will not be allowed to leave and return to class during an exam.

Students should not speak when someone else is speaking nor leave and enter the classroom during class.

Students who must miss an exam due to an emergency must notify the instructor in advance of the exam.

Students must complete missed work (including exams) within a two-week period. All work must be made up one week before classes end.

No make-up exams will be given during final exam week. If there is sufficient reason to allow a final exam to be made up, that exam will be given during the next semester (fall or spring).

Academic Honesty

Faculty expect all students to refrain from acts of academic misconduct including but not limited to:

1. Plagiarism - refers to using another person's ideas or writing without giving proper credit to the original source. Indulging in this type of conduct will subject the student to disciplinary sanctions, which may be imposed through the regular institutional procedures of Walters State Community College as outlined in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism will result in a grade of "0" for the paper/exam/presentation. Student Conduct and Disciplinary Sanctions contained in the college Catalog/Student Handbook apply (see policy 04:18:02 Disciplinary Sanctions). Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to the following:
 - a. Using cut/paste tool from original document with no references given.
 - b. Copying another student's work and submitting it as one's own.
 - c. Forging or otherwise altering signatures.
 - d. Giving or falsifying academic documents or materials.
2. Cheating - construed as attempting to deceive or mislead which includes, but is not limited to the following:

- a. Utilizing old tests, projects, notes or written papers.
 - b. Providing unauthorized information to a fellow student about exam content.
 - c. Receiving unauthorized aid from any source with quizzes, examinations, or other assignments.
 - d. Seeking information in an unacceptable manner during/preceding an exam or other assigned work (cheat sheet, verbal exchange, looking at another person's paper or electronic device, utilizing headphones, using textbook when the test/quiz is not an open book test/quiz, using textbook test bank etc.).
 - e. Consulting with a classmate or others when taking a computerized test.
 - f. Disregarding other specific policies and procedures outlined for a particular class.
 - g. Utilizing unapproved technology/electronic equipment during testing (i.e.: mobile devices such as cell phones, smart devices, or tablets, etc.).
 - h. Using the same Internet Protocol network address (IP address) as another student for testing without approval from the course faculty.
3. The use of any generative artificial intelligence (AI) tool, such as OpenAI's ChatGPT, Google's Bard, or any other pre-trained language model (commonly referred to as "chatbot"), must be cited for any assignment where it has been used and may not be used unless specifically allowed by your instructor. Please see your instructor or the course policies within the syllabus if you have questions.

Student Resources

TUTORING SERVICES

Students in need of tutoring assistance are encouraged to contact the Office of Student Tutoring located as follows:

- Morristown Campus - Student Services Building Room L107 - (423) 585-6920
- Niswonger Campus - GRNV 226 - (423) 798-7982
- Sevierville Campus - MMH Room 210 - (865) 286-2787
- Claiborne Campus - Room 123A - (423) 851-4761

Specific tutoring assistance in mathematics and writing is available in-person and online as follows:

- Morristown Campus - English Learning Lab - HUM 120 - (423) 585-6970

[Walters State English Learning Lab \(opens in new window\)](https://www.walters.edu/academics/humanities/writing-lab)
[ws.edu/academics/humanities/writing-lab](https://www.walters.edu/academics/humanities/writing-lab)

- Morristown Campus - Mathematics Lab - MBSS 222 - (423) 585-6872

[Walters State Mathematics Learning Lab \(opens in new window\).](https://ws.edu/academics/mathematics/learning-lab)
ws.edu/academics/mathematics/learning-lab

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT

Students who need assistance with computing and technology issues should contact the IET Helpdesk by phone at Morristown: (423) 318-2742; Niswonger: (423) 798-8186; or Sevierville: (865) 286-2789 or on-line access.

[Walters State Helpdesk \(opens in new window\).](https://helpdesk.ws.edu)
helpdesk.ws.edu

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES SUPPORT SERVICES

Students with disabilities must register with Student Support Services each semester in the Student Services Building, Room U134 (phone (423) 585-6892) if they need any special facilities, services, or consideration.

[Walters State Student Support Services \(opens in new window\).](https://ws.edu/student-services/disability/)
ws.edu/student-services/disability/

SUICIDE PREVENTION STATEMENT

Walters State is committed to and cares about all students. Support services are available for any person at Walters State who is experiencing feelings of being overwhelmed, hopelessness, depression, thinking about dying by suicide, or is otherwise in need of assistance. For immediate help, contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by calling or texting 9-8-8 or the Trevor Lifeline at 1-866-488-7386. Veterans may also contact the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 (press 1) or Text 838255.

Walters State has a relationship in place with the following community agencies to provide services (may include crisis referral services, prevention screenings, etc.):

- Cherokee Health Systems 423-586-5032
- Frontier Health 423-467-3600

College Policies

STUDENTS HANDBOOK AS OFFICIAL GOVERNING DOCUMENT

This class is governed by the policies and procedures stated in the current Walters State Community College Student Handbook. All students attending Walters State Community College, regardless of the

time, location, or format of the class, must abide by the rules and regulations outlined in the current Walters State Catalog/Student Handbook and the current Walters State Timetable of Classes.

[Walters State Catalog \(opens in new window\)](https://catalog.ws.edu/)
catalog.ws.edu/

[Walters State Timetable of Classes \(opens in new window\)](https://ws.edu/admissions/registration/)
ws.edu/admissions/registration/

PURPOSE, LIMITATIONS AND MODIFICATION OF SYLLABUS

This syllabus sets forth the expectations for the course content, work, and grading as well as expectations for student performance and conduct. The syllabus does not constitute a contract between the student and the instructor or the College. The information contained here is subject to change at any time. The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus at any time with written notification to the students. Though changes are possible, it is expected that the course will be conducted as described in this syllabus for the semester/year specified in the Course Information section of the syllabus. This syllabus is only valid for the semester/year specified and course requirements are not guaranteed for future semesters.

COURSE GROUND RULES

- Students must attend the first day of on-ground class or contact the instructor prior to the first class. Failure to do this may result in being dropped from the class. Excessive absences may substantially lower the course grade.
- Regular class attendance is a student's obligation for any course regardless of format. (See the Walters State Catalog/Student Handbook). If a student misses class, it is his or her responsibility to contact the instructor regarding missed assignments and/or activities and to be prepared for the next class assignment.
- Students enrolled in web courses must follow the course attendance policy defined for online attendance during the first week of class and throughout the term. Failure to do this may result in being dropped from the class during week one OR may result in the accrual of absences which may negatively impact the student's grade in the course.
- Students who have not paid fees on time and/or are not correctly registered for this class and whose names do not appear on official class rolls generated by the Walters State student information system (MyWS) will not be allowed to remain in class or receive credit for this course.
- Electronic devices must not disrupt the instructional process or college-sponsored academic activity. Use of electronic devices is prohibited unless use of the device is relevant to the activity and use is sanctioned by the faculty member in charge. Electronic devices that are not relevant to the activity or sanctioned by the faculty member in charge should be set so that they will not

produce an audible sound during classroom instruction or other college-sponsored academic activity.

FINANCIAL AID

Students receiving any type of financial aid or scholarship should contact the Financial Aid Office before making any changes to their schedule. Schedule changes without prior approval may result in loss of award for the current term and future terms.

All forms of student Financial Aid may be jeopardized or lost due to the lack of Satisfactory Academic Progress in one or multiple courses. Lack of Satisfactory Academic Progress may negatively impact a student's degree/certificate completion pace and further jeopardize Financial Aid eligibility.

CANCELLATION OF CLASSES AND ACADEMIC CONTINUITY

For information related to the cancellation of classes due to inclement weather or other events, please check the Senators Emergency Text system or the college's Web site at:

[Walters State Homepage \(opens in new window\)](http://ws.edu/home/)
ws.edu/home/

[Walters State Facebook page \(opens in new window\)](https://www.facebook.com/WaltersState/)
<https://www.facebook.com/WaltersState/>

[Walters State Twitter page \(opens in new window\)](https://twitter.com/waltersstate)
<https://twitter.com/waltersstate>

or call the college's student information line, 1-800-225-4770, option 1; the Sevier County Campus, (865) 774-5800, option 7; the Niswonger Campus (423) 798-7940, option 7; or the Claiborne County Campus, 423-636-6200, option 7. Also, please monitor local TV and radio stations for further announcements.

When an event or disaster interrupts the scheduled operations of the college and the ability to proceed with the academic course activities as planned, the college and your instructor may alter the course plan outlined in the syllabus. Should an event occur, students should refer to their course e-Learn pages and/or class materials previously delivered to receive guidance from their instructor. Students should continue to monitor the official college channels of communication listed in the above paragraph. If you would like to sign up for the Senators Emergency Text system, please go to the following Web site:

[Senator Emergency Text System \(opens in new window\)](http://ws.edu/set/)
ws.edu/set/

Dual Enrollment students attending on a high school campus should refer to the high school inclement weather cancellations.

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Brightspace (commonly known as eLearn or D2L) is the college's Learning Management System (LMS).

Brightspace is committed to accessibility by "deliver[ing] a learning experience that meets the needs of all people, regardless of age or ability." [Brightspace Accessibility Standard \(opens in new window\)](#).

Brightspace is also committed to guarding student data and privacy. [Brightspace Privacy Policy \(opens in new window\)](#).