



Walters State Community College Course Syllabus

Course Information

Course Number and Name: POLS 1030 American Government

Section ID: 81313.202380

Semester and Year: Fall 2023

Credit Hours: 3

Start Date: August 21, 2023

End Date: December 08, 2023

Course Format: CON - Conventional Methodology

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; 02:20PM - 03:45PM; ACAD 204

Course Drop Deadline: October 27, 2023

Instructor Information

Name: D.J. Deeb

Office Location: WSCC Sevier ACAD 218

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday: 8:30am-9:30am; Tuesday & Thursday: 9:35am-11:00am; Monday & Wednesday: 2:00-3:30pm; Friday: 8:30am-11:30am (Virtual) (and by appointment)

Office Phone: 865-774-5837

Email: djdeeb@ws.edu

Supervisor Name: Dr. 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 3e

ISBN: 978-1-951693-38-1

Authors: Krutz, Glen

Publisher: Open Stax (OER)

Publication Date: 2022

Additional Information

Text Link:

<https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-3e>

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

- Students will be able to explain and analyze the role and purpose for government.
- Students will be able to explain and analyze the significance and function of Federalism and the American Constitution.
- Students will be able to describe, analyze, and evaluate the essential conditions conducive to a representative democracy.
- Students will be able to analyze and evaluate the significance and impact of American political culture on society.
- Students will be able to describe, analyze, and evaluate the three branches of American government and their functions.
- Students will complete a comprehensive written assessment of a researched public policy issue using primary and/or secondary sources and recommend a course of action for Federal and state governments to follow.
- Students will interpret and analyze primary source documents concerning American Government.

Instructional Approach and Methods

Class Participation:

- Class Attendance and Participation is both required and encouraged as it enhances the learning experience.
- This lecture course will meet on campus every Monday and Wednesday on Campus. Tests are based on the lecture materials and handouts distributed each week. Unexcused late assignments (including the Position Paper) will be deducted 10% per day late.

Course Schedule

Subject to change with pacing

Date	Content to be covered
Week 1 – 8/21 & 8/23	Review Syllabus and Assignments
Week 2 – 8/28 & 8/30	Kinds of Government
Week 3 – 9/6	Federalism
Week 4 – 9/11 & 9/13	Political Ideology and Culture
Week 5 – 9/18 & 9/20	Political Parties and Interest Groups
Week 6 – 9/25 & 9/27	Voting, Public Opinion, and Elections
Week 7 – 10/2 & 10/4	The News Media and American Politics
Week 8 Midterm – 10/11	POSITION PAPER DUE – Wednesday, October 11th (Midterm Exam)
Week 9 – 10/16 & 10/18	The U.S. Congress
Week 10 – 10/23 & 10/25	The U.S. Presidency
Week 11 – 10/30 & 11/1	The U.S. Judiciary
Week 12 – 11/6 & 11/8	Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
Week 13 – 11/13 & 11/15	The Federal Bureaucracy
Week 14 – 11/20, 11/27 & 11/29	Social & Economic Policy
Week 15 – 12/4	Final Exam -Week of December 4th

Textbook Reading Topic Schedule:

Kinds of Government – Krutz Chapters 1 and 2, Pages 8-27; Pages 32-61.
Federalism - Krutz Chapter 3, Pages 65 - 96.
Political Ideology and Culture – Online Readings
Political Parties and Interest Groups - Krutz Chapters 9 and 10, Pages 303-326; Pages 339-370.
Voting, Public Opinion, and Elections - Krutz Chapters 6 and 7, Pages 186-221; Pages 223-263
The News Media and American Politics - Krutz Chapter 8, Pages 265-299.
The U.S. Congress - Krutz Chapter 11, Pages 373-409.
The U.S. Presidency - Krutz Chapter 12, Pages 411-445.
The U.S. Judiciary - Krutz Chapter 13, Pages 447-478.
Civil Rights and Civil Liberties - Krutz Chapters 4 and 5, Pages 101-138; Pages 143-183.
The Federal Bureaucracy - Krutz Chapter 15, Pages 515-543.

Social and Economic Policy - **Krutz Chapter 16, Pages 545-574.**

Foreign and Defense Policy (Optional Read) - **Krutz Chapter 17, Pages 577-604.**

Assessment, Evaluation and Testing Procedures

Assignments/Projects:

Class Participation/ Attendance	25%
Test 1 and 2	25%
Position Paper	25%
Final Exam	25%

Grading Scale

A	90-100 points
B	80-89 points
C	70-79 points
D	60-69 points
F	Less than 60 points

Assignments

Exam Schedule

Date	Subject
Wednesday, September 13, 2023	Test 1 on Kinds of Government, Federalism, and Political Ideology
Wednesday, November 8, 2023	Test 2 on Political Parties, Voting, Elections, News Media, and 3 Branches
Wednesday, October 11, 2023	Position Paper Due (Midterm)
Monday, December 4, 2023	Final Exam Due

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Online/Web-Enhanced Course Supplementary Information

Online/Web-Enhanced Course Components:

Virtual Office Hours	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.

Here is the link to the privacy policy from *OpenStax*: <https://bit.ly/3GYfYXN>

Here is the accessibility policy from *OpenStax*: <https://bit.ly/3VjJeMk>

Here is the privacy policy for *YouTube*: <https://bit.ly/3VjJeMk>

Here is the accessibility policy and tips from
YouTube: <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/189278?hl=en>

Additional Course Requirements/Details/Information

Email

djdeeb@ws.edu

Office Location & Hours

Sevierville Campus,

Cates-Cutshaw Hall

Room 218

Monday - Thursday: 8:30am-9:30am

Monday & Wednesday: 9:30-
11:00am

Tuesday & Thursday: 2:00pm-3:45

Friday: 8:30am-11:30am (Virtual)
(and by appointment)

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.waltersstate.edu/academics/humanities/writing-lab)
[ws.edu/academics/humanities/writing-lab](https://www.waltersstate.edu/academics/humanities/writing-lab)

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

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

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://www.waltersstate.edu/student-services/disability/)
[ws.edu/student-services/disability/](https://www.waltersstate.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 \(opens in new window\)](http://catalog.ws.edu/)
catalog.ws.edu/

[Walters State Timetable of Classes \(opens in new window\)](http://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 \(opens in new window\)](#)

ws.edu/home/

[Walters State Facebook page \(opens in new window\)](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/WaltersState/>

[Walters State Twitter page \(opens in new window\)](#)

<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 \(opens in new window\)](https://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 \(opens in new window\)](#)