



## Walters State Community College Course Syllabus

### Course Information

**Course Number and Name:** POLS 1030 American Government

**Section ID:** 80835.202380

**Semester and Year:** Fall 2023

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Start Date:** August 21, 2023

**End Date:** December 08, 2023

**Course Format:** WEB - Web Classes

**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:** TBD

**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; Monday & Wednesday: 9:30-11:00am; Tuesday & Thursday: 2:00pm-3:45; 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:

- Participation in the Weekly Online Discussion Forums is both required and encouraged as it enhances the learning experience. Initial Discussion Posts must be posted by Thursday night each week to receive credit. These collectively constitute 25% of your grade for the course
- This online course is asynchronous so there are no fixed meeting times. Assignments are based on the lecture materials and handouts posted each week. These must be completed and submitted by Sunday night of each week to receive credit. Unexcused late assignments (including the Position Paper) will be deducted 10% per day late. Because this is fast-paced 4-week summer course, there is no required Online Discussion Forum.

## Course Schedule

\*Subject to change with pacing\*

Date	Content to be covered
Week 1 – 8/21 – 8/27	Review Syllabus and Assignments
Week 2 – 8/28 – 9/3	Kinds of Government
Week 3 – 9/4 – 9/10	Federalism
Week 4 – 9/11 – 9/17	Political Ideology and Culture
Week 5 – 9/18 – 9/24	Political Parties and Interest Groups
Week 6 – 9/25 – 10/1	Voting, Public Opinion, and Elections
Week 7 – 10/2 – 10/8	The News Media and American Politics
Midterm – 10/9 – 10/15	<b>POSITION PAPER DUE – Thursday, Oct. 12th (Midterm Exam)</b>
Week 8 – 10/16 – 10/22	The U.S. Congress
Week 9 – 10/23 – 10/29	The U.S. Presidency
Week 10 – 10/30 – 11/5	The U.S. Judiciary
Week 11 – 11/6 – 11/12	Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
Week 12 – 11/13 – 11/19	The Federal Bureaucracy
Week – 11/20 – 11/26	Thanksgiving Break – No Discussions or Assignments
Week 13 – 11/27 – 12/3	Social & Economic Policy
Week 14 – 12/4 – 12/8	<b>Final Exam Due Thursday, December 7th</b>

### Textbook Reading Topic Schedule:

Kinds of Government – <b>Krutz Chapters 1 and 2, Pages 8-27; Pages 32-61.</b>
Federalism - <b>Krutz Chapter 3, Pages 65 - 96.</b>
Political Ideology and Culture – <b>Online Readings</b>
Political Parties and Interest Groups - <b>Krutz Chapters 9 and 10, Pages 303-326; Pages 339-370.</b>
Voting, Public Opinion, and Elections - <b>Krutz Chapters 6 and 7, Pages 186-221; Pages 223-263</b>
The News Media and American Politics - <b>Krutz Chapter 8, Pages 265-299.</b>

The U.S. Congress - <b>Krutz Chapter 11, Pages 373-409.</b>
The U.S. Presidency - <b>Krutz Chapter 12, Pages 411-445.</b>
The U.S. Judiciary - <b>Krutz Chapter 13, Pages 447-478.</b>
Civil Rights and Civil Liberties - <b>Krutz Chapters 4 and 5, Pages 101-138; Pages 143-183.</b>
The Federal Bureaucracy - <b>Krutz Chapter 15, Pages 515-543.</b>
Social and Economic Policy - <b>Krutz Chapter 16, Pages 545-574.</b>
Foreign and Defense Policy (Optional Read) - <b>Krutz Chapter 17, Pages 577-604.</b>

## Assessment, Evaluation and Testing Procedures

### Assignments/Projects:

Weekly Online Discussion Posts 25%

Weekly Assignments 25%

Position Paper 25%

Final Exam 25%

Assignments are based on the lecture materials and handouts posted each week. These must be completed and submitted by Sunday night of each week to receive credit. Unexcused late assignments (including the Position Paper) will be deducted 10% per day late. Late Discussion Posts will receive no credit.

## 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
Thursday, October 12, 2023	Position Paper Due
Wednesday, December 7, 2023	Final Exam Due

Weekly Discussions Due by Thursday night at 11:59pm each week.

Weekly Assignments Due by Sunday night at 11:59pm each week.

## Class Participation

- Participation in the Weekly Online Discussion Forums is both required and encouraged as it enhances the learning experience. Initial Discussion Posts must be posted by Thursday night each week to receive credit. These collectively constitute 25% of your grade for the course.
- This online course is asynchronous so there are no fixed meeting times. Assignments are based on the lecture materials and handouts posted each week. These must be completed and submitted by Sunday night of each week to receive credit. Unexcused late assignments (including the Position Paper) will be deducted 10% per day late.

## 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 <a href="http://library.ws.edu/c.php?g=181040&amp;p=1191972">library</a> website (http://library.ws.edu/c.php?g=181040&p=1191972).
Technical Support	This is the <a href="http://helpdesk.ws.edu/">Helpdesk</a> 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.

### Other Requirements:

#### **eLearn:**

Our course schedule, material, & assignments are in eLearn.

At times, the main way to access eLearn like the MyWS tab or elearn.ws.edu may be undergoing maintenance, or there might be a problem statewide.

A back door to eLearn is <https://elearn.ws.edu/d2l/local>.

Take a pic of this URL or write it down, so you have it handy for accessing the course.

#### **Minimum Technology Requirements:**

Each student will need the following technology to manage our online class:

- Computer or other type of device.
- Word processing software
- Internet access

You can check out a Dell computer and/or a MiFi. Check the “**Equipment Checkout**” on the left column of the library home page and select your campus.

#### **Word Processing Software:**

You will need a word processor application (software) on your computer.

All assignments can be completed, copied, and submitted through the weekly module dropbox. If sending files as an attachment, please send as Microsoft Word document or as a PDF.

Please note that Pages, WordPad, WordPerfect, Open Office, Lotus Notes, and other word processing programs are not compatible with eLearn. Save docs to “rich text format” if you cannot as a Word or PDF.

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/](http://catalog.ws.edu/)

[Walters State Timetable of Classes \(opens in new window\)](http://ws.edu/admissions/registration/)  
[ws.edu/admissions/registration/](http://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://www.waltersstate.edu/home/)  
[ws.edu/home/](http://www.waltersstate.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 \(opens in new window\)](#)  
[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 \(opens in new window\)](#)