

Political Science 1010

Introduction to American Government: CRN 32136

Brad Lockerbie

Classroom and Time of Class

C-306 Brewster

2:00-3:15 Tuesday and Thursday

Office Hours

Office hours are designated times for students to ask questions or seek clarification. No appointment is required during posted hours. Meetings outside of office hours require advance scheduling via email.

A-103 Brewster Building

Office phone: 252-328-1066

Office email: lockerbieb@ecu.edu

Tuesday 12:45-1:45 and 3:15-4:15

Wednesday 10:00-12:00

Thursday 12:45-1:45

and by appointment

Required Readings

Lowi, Theodore J., Benjamin Ginsberg, Kenneth A. Shepsle, Stephen Ansolabehere, and Hahrie Hann. 2023. *American Government: Power and Purpose*. 18th ed. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

[Declaration of Independence](#)

[United States Constitution](#)

[North Carolina State Constitution](#)

[Federalist 10](#)

[Federalist 51](#)
[Emancipation Proclamation](#)
[Gettysburg Address](#)
[Letter from Birmingham Jail](#)

This course engages diverse scholarly perspectives to develop critical thinking, analysis, and debate. Inclusion of a reading does not imply endorsement.

Course Description

This course will present you with an understanding of American Government, a field of the Social Science discipline Political Science. You will learn about the institutions and processes of American government, how political scientists study American Politics, and the relevance of our research in American politics to general knowledge.

Learning Objectives

- Relate American political thought, the Constitution, and political institutions and processes to political actions.
- Identify and explain the structures, functions, interactions, and development of the three branches of government established by the Constitution.
- Explain how the rules of the game are integral to explaining political decisions.
- Explain the process by which the Constitution is amended.
- Explain the process by which a bill becomes a law.
- Explain the differences between the House and Senate and how that influences public policy.
- Explain the principles of federalism and how they apply.
- Compare and contrast national and state governments.
- Examine the relationship between individuals and the government.
- Analyze participation in the American electoral process.
- Evaluate the relationship between public policy, public opinion, and political institutions.
- Evaluate key concepts, principles, arguments, and contexts in founding documents of the American republic, including the United States Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and a representative selection of the Federalist Papers (FD-1)
- Evaluate key milestones in progress and challenges in the effort to form “a more perfect Union,” including the arguments and contexts surrounding the Gettysburg Address, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the Letter from Birmingham Jail, as well as other texts that reflect the breadth of American experiences. (FD-2)
- Engage knowledgeably and confidently in the American political process.

Grading

Item	Percentage	Date	Time
Pop Quizzes	20%		
Exam 1	20%	February 5	2:00
Exam 2	20%	March 5	2:00
Exam 3.	20%	April 2	2:00
Final Exam	20%	May 6	2:00-4:30

Quizzes

Quizzes will be given in class and are unannounced. Quizzes may occur at the beginning, middle, or end of class.

There will be multiple quizzes over the semester. Your highest 75% of quiz scores will count toward your final quiz average. Missed quizzes receive a zero. These zeros count toward the portion of quizzes that are dropped; once that portion is exhausted, additional missed quizzes lower your grade.

Students who miss class regularly will exhaust their dropped quizzes quickly and should not expect exceptions.

Exams

There are three midterm exams and a final exam. All exams are taken in class at the scheduled time. All listed readings are testable. Lectures may include material not in the textbook.

The final exam is mandatory. If the final exam score is higher than your lowest midterm exam score, it will replace **one—and only one**—of the three midterm exam scores. If the final exam score is not higher than any midterm exam score, no replacement occurs.

The final exam can replace only one exam score and has no effect on the other exams.

Students should not assume the final exam will improve their grade.

Grading System

93–100 A
90–92 A-
88–89 B+
83–87 B
80–82 B-
78–79 C+
73–77 C
70–72 C-
68–69 D+
63–67 D
60–62 D-
Below 60 F

Canvas displays raw scores only and does not calculate final grades according to course rules.

Course Outline

January 13	Foundations of Politics
January 20	Constructing a Government
	Declaration of Independence
	United States Constitution
	North Carolina State Constitution
	Federalist 10
	Federalist 51
January 29	Federalism
February 10	Civil Liberties
February 17	Civil Rights
	Emancipation Proclamation
	Gettysburg Address
	Letter from Birmingham Jail
February 26	Congress
March 17	Presidency and Executive Branch
March 24	Federal Courts
	Federalist 78
March 31	Public Opinion
April 7	Elections
April 14	Political Parties
April 21	Groups and Organized Interests
April 23	Media
April 28	Economic Policy

Academic Integrity

Portions of the following policy language are provided by the university.

The standard plagiarism and academic integrity rules apply, i.e. all the materials you submit in paper or online must be the results of your own individual work. Any signs of plagiarism will be taken very seriously. The university code of academic integrity will be strictly enforced in this course. According to the East Carolina University Honor Code, violations of academic integrity include the following:

Cheating. Unauthorized aid or assistance or the giving or receiving of unfair advantage on any form of academic work.

Plagiarism. Copying the language, structure, ideas, and/or thoughts of another and adopting same as one's own original work. **DO NOT** submit someone else's homework.

Falsification. Statement of any untruth, either spoken or written, regarding any circumstances relative to academic work.

Attempts. Attempting any act that if completed would constitute an academic integrity violation as defined herein.

For more information about university policies concerning academic integrity, please visit the web at Academic Integrity. If you violate the Honor Code you will be reported to the Academic Integrity Board for disciplinary action. The penalties for violating the university code of academic integrity range from having assigned an F for that assignment to more stringent measures such as failure, assigned grade of XF on the transcript, in the course and/or expulsion from the university.

Class Attendance and Student Responsibility

This is a face-to-face course. Regular attendance is essential for success. Students are responsible for all material presented in lectures, discussions, assigned readings, and posted materials, whether or not they are present in class.

Exams and quizzes may include material not found directly in the textbook.

Artificial Intelligence

Students are allowed to use advanced automated tools (artificial intelligence or machine learning tools, such as ChatGPT or Claude) on out of class assignments in this course if that use is properly documented and credited. Students should cite according to the APSA style guide.

If a tool is used in an assignment, students must also include a brief (2-3 sentences) description of how they used the tool.

ChatGPT, Gemini, and similar tools, may also be used in preparation for the exams. It cannot be used during quizzes or exams.

Students with Disabilities

East Carolina University seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must be registered with the Department for Disability Support Services located in Mendenhall 109, 252-737-1016. Accommodation Information & Processes: <https://accessibility.ecu.edu/students/dss-guidelines/>.

Campus Emergencies and and Severe Weather

In case of campus wide emergencies, you may obtain information about changes in the University class schedule by calling 252-328-0062. Please continue to check on Canvas for updates.

General Education Social Sciences Competency

Courses in the Social Sciences introduce students to the study of the psychological, social and cultural dimensions of individuals and groups. Students learn to seek knowledge for its own sake as well as for its application. Courses provide students with the knowledge necessary to solve problems in the Social Sciences and in scholarly fields that apply the methods used in the Social Sciences. They introduce students to the theoretical, analytical, and methodological techniques and perspectives of Social Sciences that advance the understanding of individual and group behavior. Scholarly study in the Social Sciences provides students with the foundation for understanding real world problems necessary for meaningful participation in society. Courses in the Social Sciences develop the intellectual abilities, knowledge and skills that students need to become broadly informed, to participate in interdisciplinary scholarship, and to be successful in their professional specialization.

General Education Program Student Learning Outcomes for Social Sciences

Students who have completed the General Education Social Sciences requirements can:

SO 1: Apply discipline specific knowledge in the social sciences to explain the key factors that shape social institutions, structures, and processes that shape human behavior and social interaction.

SO 2: Explain how cultural and historical contexts influence individual behavior, society or culture.

SO 3: Apply discipline specific theories and modes of inquiry in the social sciences to analyze social contemporary behavioral or cultural issues.

This course has received the **Foundations of American Democracy** designation.

Continuity of Instruction

If Canvas is not available, please submit your assignments via ECU email. I will ask you to resubmit it via Canvas once Canvas is operational, to maintain a repository of all coursework. Also, if Canvas is unavailable, I will communicate with you via ECU email.

Class Decorum

I expect all students to exhibit a high level of courtesy toward each other. Minor adjustments to the schedule or content may occur; grading policies will not change. .