

American National Government & Politics – Fall 2021
PS 1100, Section 103
TR 12:30p.m. – 1:45p.m.
Room: ED 4

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. William D. Hicks
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Office Hours: 12:00p.m.-1:30p.m., MWF

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

This course introduces students to the politics, institutions, and policy processes of the US federal government. We will focus on several core questions throughout the semester. What are the major political institutions underlying the policymaking process, and how have they evolved historically? How, and with what consequences, do these institutions affect policymaking and policy choices made by the federal government? In addition, we will discuss how we, as citizens, relate to the federal government. How do citizens' political preferences, opinions, and attitudes shape American politics, and how are they shaped by it? Ultimately these questions will lead us to evaluate critically the conditions under which policy choices made by the federal government reflect the wishes of the citizens it represents.

This course also teaches students how political scientists uncover and explain general principles and patterns of politics and government. In our focus on these core questions, we will explore the logic and methods that underlie political science research. Doing so will help students become better consumers and producers of ideas about government and politics.

Required Texts and Materials

Lowi, Theodore J., Benjamin Ginsberg, Kenneth A. Shepsle, and Stephen Ansolabehere. 2021. American Government: A Brief Introduction. 16th edition. New York: W.W. Norton.

Exams & Graded Activities

Exams: 75% of each student's grade is based on his or her performance on three non-cumulative exams. These exams are comprised of multiple choice and true/false questions.

Quizzes: 25% of each student's grade is based on his or her performance on weekly quizzes. Each week, I will put a short quiz on AsULearn that asks students short answer questions related to the content I cover that week. Students are responsible for submitting answers to these quizzes on time, each week.

Course Grades

<i>Grading Scale</i>		<i>Grade Requirements</i>			
A	94-100	C	74-76	Exam 1	25%
A-	90-93	C-	70-73	Exam 2	25%
B+	87-89	D+	67-69	Exam 3	25%
B	84-86	D	64-66	Quizzes	25%
B-	80-83	D-	60-63		
C+	77-79	F	0-59		

Absence Policies

I will not take attendance everyday. **If you miss a scheduled exam or other activity**, you have 24 hours after the start of the exam or activity to contact me about your absence (if you would like to schedule a makeup). Failure to do this within 24 hours may result in a 0 for the activity.

COVID-19 Statement

We remain in a pandemic, and we must all do our best to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and work to protect each other. Appalachian State has put in place a number of measures aimed at preventing the spread of this disease. Please be aware of the following:

- Face coverings are **required** for all students, faculty, and staff when on campus, including in all classrooms. If you do not have a face covering, you will not be allowed to attend class (See policy below).
 - Keep in mind: Because COVID-19 is spread through droplets when an infected person speaks, coughs, or sneezes, one of the most important tools we have in this fight are face coverings.
 - Students who seek an exception to this policy because they are unable to wear a face covering due to a medical condition should contact the [Office of Disability Resources](#).

- The symptoms of COVID-19 include the following:
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - Loss of taste or smell
- If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, please call Student Health Service at **828-262-3100** or AppHealthCare at **828-264-4995**.
 - Here is a list of testing locations in [Watauga County](#)
- If you feel sick, **stay home**
 - If you have had a fever, do not return to class until you have been fever-free for a minimum of **48 hours** without the use of fever-reducing medication.
 - If you have a two or more COVID-19 symptoms, do not return to class until you are symptom-free for a minimum of **72 hours** without fever-reducing medication.
 - If you have been tested for COVID-19, do not return to class until you have received a **negative test result**.
 - If you test positive for COVID-19, do not return to class until you have **self-quarantined for 14 days**.
 - If someone you have close contact with tests positive for COVID-19, do not return to class until you have **self-quarantined for 14 days**.
 - If you have recently attended a large social event where people were unmasked, do not return to class until you have **self-quarantined for 14 days**.

Student Conduct

As a community of learners at Appalachian State University, we must create an atmosphere of honesty, fairness, and responsibility, without which we cannot earn the trust and respect of each other. Furthermore, we recognize that academic dishonesty detracts from the value of an Appalachian degree. Therefore, we shall not tolerate lying, cheating, or stealing in any form and will oppose any instance of academic dishonesty. This course will follow the provisions of the Academic Integrity Code, which can be found on the Office of Student Conduct Web Site:

www.studentconduct.appstate.edu

Statement on Student Engagement with Courses

In its mission statement, Appalachian State University aims at “providing undergraduate students a rigorous liberal education that emphasizes transferable skills and preparation for professional careers” as well as “maintaining a faculty whose members serve as excellent teachers and scholarly mentors for their students.” Such rigor means that the foremost activity of Appalachian students is an intense engagement with their courses. In practical terms, students should expect to spend two to three hours of studying for every hour of class time. Hence, a fifteen-hour academic load might reasonably require between 30 and 45 hours per week of out-of-class work.

Disability Support Services

Appalachian State University is committed to making reasonable accommodations for individuals with documented qualifying disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Those seeking accommodations based on a substantially limiting disability must contact and register with The Office of Disability Services (ODS) at <http://www.ods.appstate.edu/> or 828-262-3056. Once registration is complete, individuals will meet with ODS staff to discuss eligibility and appropriate accommodations.

Religious Observances Policy

Faculty members are required to make reasonable accommodations for students requesting to miss class due to the observance of religious holidays. All ASU students are allowed a minimum of two absences per year for religious observances. Up to two absences for such observances will be excused, without penalty to the student, provided that the student has informed the instructor in the manner specified in the syllabus. Notice must be given by the student to the instructor before the absence occurs and no later than three weeks after the start of the semester in which the absence(s) will occur. Arrangements will be made to make up work missed by these religious observances, without penalty to the student. For the purposes of this policy, ASU defines the term “religious observance” to include religious holidays, holy days, or similar observances associated with a student’s faith that require absence from class. Faculty, at their discretion, may include class attendance as a criterion in determining a student’s final grade in the course. On the first day of class, faculty must inform students of their class attendance policy and the effect of that policy on their final grade; both policies must be clearly stated in the class syllabus.

Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus is only a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.

Course Schedule

Tuesday, August 17

Introduction

Thursday, August 19

What's Government? Lowi et al., Chapter 1

Tuesday, August 24

The Constitution: Lowi et al., Chapter 2

Thursday, August 26

The Constitution: Lowi et al., Chapter 2

Tuesday, August 31

Federalism: Lowi et al., Chapter 3

Thursday, September 2

Federalism: Lowi et al., Chapter 3

Tuesday, September 7

Civil Liberties: Lowi et al., Chapter 4

Thursday, September 9

Civil Liberties: Lowi et al., Chapter 4

Tuesday, September 14

Civil Rights: Lowi et al., Chapter 4

Thursday, September 16

Civil Rights: Lowi et al., Chapter 4

Tuesday, September 21

Catch-up, Review

Thursday, September 23

Exam 1

Tuesday, September 28

Congress: Lowi et al., Chapter 5

Thursday, September 30

Congress: Lowi et al., Chapter 5

Tuesday, October 5

President: Lowi et al., Chapter 6

Thursday, October 7

President: Lowi et al., Chapter 6

Tuesday, October 12

NO CLASS

Thursday, October 14

Supreme Court: Lowi et al., Chapter 8

Tuesday, October 19

Supreme Court: Lowi et al., Chapter 9

Thursday, October 21

Exam 2

Tuesday, October 26

Public Opinion, Lowi et al., Chapter 9

Thursday, October 28

Public Opinion, Lowi et al., Chapter 9

Tuesday, November 2

Voting, Campaigns, & Elections: Lowi et al., Chapter 10

Thursday, November 4

Voting, Campaigns, & Elections: Lowi et al., Chapter 10

Tuesday, November 9

Parties: Lowi et al., Chapter 11

Thursday, November 11

Parties: Lowi et al., Chapter 11

Tuesday, November 16

Interest Groups: Lowi et al., Chapter 12

Thursday, November 18

Interest Groups: Lowi et al., Chapter 12

Tuesday, November 23

SPECIAL TOPIC

Thursday, November 25

NO CLASS

Tuesday, November 30

Catch-up, Review

Tuesday, December 7, 11:00am

Exam 3