

## INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT- Political Science 1120

Instructor: Dr. David Briley

Time: ONLINE

Place: Wherever you have internet

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**PURPOSE:** Political Science 1120 is designed to give students a survey of American government focusing on the United States Constitution, American political culture, political institutions, and policy processes. The course is divided into six broad topics:

- Overview of American Political History since the New Deal
- American Democracy and Political Culture
- Civil Rights and Liberties
- People and Politics
- Political Institutions
- Public Policy

**REQUIRED READINGS:** AMERICAN GOVERNMENT: THE ESSENTIALS; Seventh Edition. The authors are James Q. Wilson, John J. DiIulio, Jr., Meena Bose, and Matthew Levendusky. 16<sup>th</sup> Edition, Cengage Learning, 2019.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** The class will be held entirely online due to the on-going issues with Covid-19. The class will center on discussion posts and peer response since this will have to take the place of our normal class time. Since the class is centered on discussion boards, your responses will account for 55% of the final grade for this class. Please make sure to log-in to the class on a regular basis since just missing a couple of days means missing a great deal of information. The class is self-paced, however, there are firm due dates and work is required to be submitted by these times and dates. There will be three tests that account for 30% of the final grade. A test or quiz cannot be made up unless you notify me before the time of the exam. There will be writings to be submitted in a dropbox and these will account for 15% of your final grade. ALL work is due by Sunday at midnight of the corresponding week.

**DISCUSSION BOARD RULES:** There will be a discussion board set up for each week of the class and questions are asked that students MUST respond to. Each initial post is required to be (at minimum) 250 words and should use the text for support of your ideas. Each student should respond to at least ONE other student. Your FIRST post is due by Wednesday at midnight with your peer response being due before Sunday at midnight. The more we work to make thoughtful posts and timely responses-the more like a “live” class this can be. The discussions will account for 55% of your final grade.

**SHORT WRITINGS:** There will be FOUR short writings for the class given at roughly three-week intervals as we go along. Each assignment should be 2-3 pages in length and will be about a current event that affects American Government. More specific instructions can be found in D2L, but the

writings will require APA formatting and the use of an online newspaper or magazine in support of your ideas and discussions. These will account for 15% of the final grade.

TESTS: There will be three (3) tests given throughout the class. Specific dates can be found in D2L, but each test will be a multiple-choice exam and based on chapter readings. The tests will account for 30% of your final grade.

- Test #1: Chapters 1-5 from the text.
- Test #2: Chapters 6-10 from the text.
- Test #3: Chapters 13-16 from the text.

GRADING SCHEME: 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+	60-67=D	
0-59=F		

Since this class will be held online you can follow your progress there. All grades will be updated weekly unless there are extenuating circumstances on my end. Please make sure to thoroughly read the syllabus and the information in the class to ensure that you are aware of ALL the work that is due, when it is due, and the specifications expected. The class material is not difficult and is, in fact, fascinating considering it affects ALL of us daily. While the online format is not ideal, it is still a way with which to convey information that needs to be learned. Enter all of this with an open mind! Good luck.