



Political Science POLI 1100:0EXW: Introduction to American Politics

Fall 2020

Instructor: Yooneui Kim

Supervisor: Caroline Tolbert

Department of Political Science

University of Iowa

Office Hour: On Zoom, email to make an appointment

email: yooneui-kim@uiowa.edu

Academic Course Home	Course Site
Department of Political Science	To access the course site, log into Iowa
Prerequisites	Courses Online (ICON) using your Hawk
None	ID and password. (http://icon.uiowa.edu) or
	MyUI.uiowa.edu.

Course Objectives

Welcome to American politics. This course provides an introduction to American government and politics. The course emphasizes how digital media shapes American government and participation in politics, as well as how the rules and institutions of government affect political participation and public policy. Topics covered include the Constitution, federalism, civil rights and civil liberties, the presidency, Congress, the bureaucracy, the courts, political parties, interest groups, the media, political participation and voting, public opinion, campaigns and elections, and economic and social policy. Emphasis will be placed on the recent 2016 presidential election and contemporary American politics. Students will use explore the world of politics using political websites.

This is a completely web-based course that is self based, but with due dates every Sunday at Midnight. Because of the online delivery mode, it can be taken at any geographic location as long as one has regular access to the internet. You will read the textbook, take online quizzes for each chapter, complete online interactive learning modules (InQuizitive)—great practice for the quizzes, and participate in weekly online class discussions. The course website includes optional learning tools, including Power Point slides. The course also includes flashcards, interactive exercises and chapter outlines (optional). You choose how best to learn the material using these options. The course fulfills an LER requirement and earns 3 credits towards graduation and is open to anyone (UI degree student or non-student).

How to Succeed in this Class

- 1) This course fulfills a general education requirement. Succeeding in this course will take a significant investment of your time. Be prepared to spend a minimum of two-three hours studying for every chapter.
- 2) Participation will be measured by submission of web assignments (usually 1 per week) where students will post their assignments on the class discussion board. Participation in class will comprise 10 percent of the final grade.

The course will encompass significant amounts of group discussions using the discussion board, and your participation is necessary to make these discussions profitable. **It is very important that discussion on the class listserv not involve flames, angry emails, inappropriate language or insults to other students in the class.** Keeping a positive tone online is critical. If you have problems with an assignment or concerns or experience frustration, please email me offline, and I will address your concerns as soon as possible.
- 3) Preparation makes any class worthwhile. The pace of this class will be quite fast, with two to three chapters assigned each week. The key to succeeding in this class is to complete the reading assignments on time. The course is also partially self-paced. By the end of each week certain chapters must be completed and the chapter quizzes and web research assignments submitted.
- 4) This class requires reading for understanding. After reading five pages of a text, put the book down and ask yourself, what was the main point(s) of this section? Write down on a piece of paper three main points from this section. If you feel comfortable that you understood the material, move on and read the next five pages.
- 5) The chapter quizzes involve multiple-choice questions. It is important not to “over think” the multiple-choice questions, but to find the simplest, most direct answer to the question. There are practice pre test questions as well.

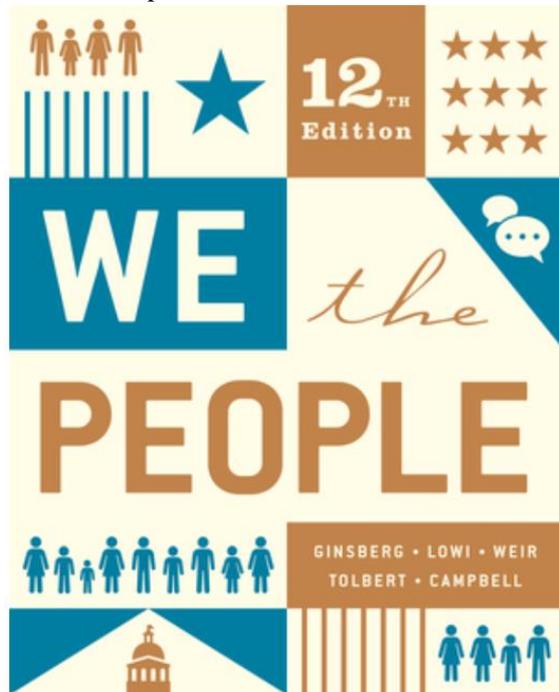
Email is the official method of communication for this course. Students can expect to receive weekly emails from Professor Tolbert introducing assigned course work and the topics to be presented on the pre-recorded lectures. Students are expected to check their university email account several times a week. Student questions emailed to Professor Tolbert will be answered within two working days.

The course structure mentioned above assumes students have basic computer skills and know how to use the various programs and hardware used during this session (e.g. Microsoft Word). For information and computer support geared toward distance education students, access:

- the **DCE Technical Support page** - <http://www.continuetolearn.uiowa.edu/facultysupport/idev/connect/index.html>
- the **Student Guide to ICON** - <http://icon.uiowa.edu/support/onlinehelp/students/guide/>

Required Text

We the People, 12th Full Edition, 2018



The course uses one of the most popular textbook in this market--by Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir & Tolbert *We the People: An Introduction to American Politics* published by WW Norton (12th Full Edition).

Please make sure to purchase the 2018 version of the book (12th Edition), not older versions of the book. We are reading the full-length version with policy chapters.

We will use InQuizitive for each chapter of the book. Log into InQuizitive using the following link: <https://digital.wwnorton.com/wethepeople12>

The Student Set Number for our class is 290906. You will use the Norton website for reading the textbook (unless reading a hard copy version of the textbook) and doing the InQuizitive online learning modules. Everything else you need for the class will be available at ICON.uiowa.edu or MyUI.uiowa.edu.

W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.
INDEPENDENT PUBLISHERS SINCE 1823

DIGITAL RESOURCES

Sign in or Register

We the People
TWELFTH EDITION
Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir, Tolbert, and Campbell

Purchase Options

InQuizitive

Ebook

Getting Started

SIGN IN, REGISTER A CODE, OR PURCHASE ACCESS

InQuizitive

Ebook

Getting Started

InQuizitive

Ebook

Getting Started

InQuizitive

Ebook

Getting Started

Evaluation

The course is broken up into fifteen one-week sessions. At the end of each week (**Sunday at midnight**) you will be responsible for completing 1 web research assignment (ice-breaker assignment for week 1) posted to the class discussion list, doing the InQuizitive tutorial for each chapter assigned, and completing the graded quizzes for the chapters assigned that week. The due date of **reading and commenting on the posts of three other students** is **Wednesday of next week**. Most weeks have one chapter, but some have two. Students have flexibility to complete the assignments anytime during the week, but all assignments must be posted by Sunday for the previous week. Students should submit one short paper on week 13.

Your final grade for the course will consist of:

- 1) Participation (web writing assignments/discussion posts, contribution to class discussion/commenting on other students' posts) for 10%. For each week of the course you will complete a web research assignment. The assignments correspond with the topics covered in the text. Your write-up for the web assignments is **approximately one page in length, or 2-3 paragraphs**. Some students don't write enough, and this can result in a lower grade. These assignments will form the basis of the class discussion and be posted on the course discussion board each week (please paste the text in the body of the discussion post instead of attaching a word document). Please do not wait until the end of the week to post them online. Please do not email me your web research assignments.

The aim of these assignments is to link what we are reading in the textbook to the actual practice of politics, by learning about the real (and constantly changing) world of politics online.

You are responsible for reading the posts of other students, as well as your own. **Please make meaningful comments on the posts of 3 student colleagues for each assignment.** Click the **Discussion tab** on the home page to see the first web assignment.

- 2) InQuizitive online learning modules for each chapter (10%). Will take about one hour per chapter. Full points will be awarded for completing each learning module—the system will record if the module is completed. Scores are not recorded. The online tutorials make the chapter quizzes much easier.
- 3) Chapter quizzes (4.1% each for 17 chapters) for a total of 70% of grade. For each chapter of the textbook there will be a graded assessment quiz. This quiz is timed (45 minutes), and the results will be sent directly to me as the instructor and will be graded. At the end of the one-week grading period you will be able to see your graded quiz results and the correct answers. While you may take the quiz more than once, the first time it will be graded and submitted to me.
- 4) Short paper (5 pages double-space) on a question to be assigned for 10% of grade. The focus of the papers will be 2016 presidential elections and will overlap with

materials in the textbook.

Your final grade for the course will be determined on the basis of your point totals for all assignments. There are no midterm or final exams for this class.

Optional Learning Tools. For each chapter in the textbook there are also additional ungraded online learning options will help you prepare for the quizzes, including practice quizzes, electronic flashcards defining key terms and a series of interactive exercises that highlight the diversity of American politics. These diversity exercises have wonderful (and colorful) illustrative graphs. It is recommended that you do these ungraded assignments to prepare for the graded chapter quizzes. Finally, there are a few optional learning tools available for each chapter, including a chapter outlines.

The course schedule lists each of these activities and assignments for each chapter of the Textbook.

**** Schedule**

Readings are to be completed the week they are assigned. **All chapter quizzes, InQuizitive learning modules, and web research assignments must be taken by the due date listed on the schedule below or they will not be counted.** This course requires students to complete the content of the course as it is assigned. However, students have the flexibility to complete the content any time during the week it is assigned.

Week1: Aug 24 – Aug 30

Chapter 1—The American Political Culture

Week2: Aug 31 – Sep 6

Chapter 2—The Founding and the Constitution

Week3: Sep 7 – Sep 13

Chapter 3—Federalism

Week4: Sep 14 – Sep 20

Chapter 4—Civil Liberties

Chapter 5—Civil Rights

Week5: Sep 21 – Sep 27

Chapter 6—Public Opinion

Week6: Sep 28 – Oct 4

Chapter 7—The Media

Week7: Oct 5 – Oct 11

Chapter 8—Political Participation and Voting

Week8: Oct 12 – Oct 18

Chapter 9—Political Parties

Week9: Oct 19 – Oct 25

Chapter 10—Campaigns and Elections

Week10: Oct 26 – Nov 1

Chapter 11—Interest Groups

Week11: Nov 2 – Nov 8

Chapter 12—Congress

Week12: Nov 9 – Nov 15

Chapter 13—The Presidency

Week13: Nov 16 – Nov 22

Chapter 14—Bureaucracy in a Democracy

**Short paper due

Thanksgiving Break: Nov 23 – Nov 29

Week14: Nov 30 – Dec 6

Chapter 15—The Federal Courts

Chapter 16—Government and the Economy

Week15: Dec 7 – Dec 13

Chapter 17—Social Policy

Chapter 18—Foreign Policy and Democracy

Note: This class has no midterm or final exam

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) Information and Policies for Undergraduates

Administrative Home

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) is the administrative home of this course and governs its add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other policies. These policies vary by college (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook>).

Electronic Communication

Students are responsible for official correspondences sent to their UI email address (uiowa.edu) and must use this address for all communication within UI ([Operations Manual, III.15.2](#)).

Accommodations for Disabilities

UI is committed to an educational experience that is accessible to all students. A student may request academic accommodations for a disability (such as mental health, attention, learning, vision, and physical or health-related condition) by registering with Student Disability Services (SDS). The student should then discuss accommodations with the course instructor (<https://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/>).

Nondiscrimination in the Classroom

UI is committed to making the classroom a respectful and inclusive space for all people irrespective of their gender, sexual, racial, religious or other identities. Toward this goal, students are invited to optionally share their preferred names and pronouns with their instructors and classmates. The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination and harassment against individuals on the basis of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, and other identity categories set forth in the University's Human Rights policy. For more information, contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity (diversity.uiowa.edu).

Academic Integrity

All undergraduates enrolled in courses offered by CLAS have, in essence, agreed to the College's [Code of Academic Honesty](#). Misconduct is reported to the College, resulting in suspension or other sanctions communicated to the student through the UI email address (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/academic-fraud-honor-code>).

CLAS Final Examination Policies

The final exam schedule for each semester is announced around the fifth week of classes; students are responsible for knowing the date, time, and place of a final exam. Students should not make travel plans until knowing this final exam information. No exams of any kind are allowed the week before finals (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/faculty/teaching-policies-resources-examination-policies>).

Making a Complaint

Students with a complaint should first visit with the instructor or course supervisor and then with the departmental executive officer (DEO), also known as the Chair (Interim DEO Brian Lai, 319-335-2353). Students may then bring the (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/student-rights-responsibilities>).

Understanding Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community must uphold the UI mission and contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment must be reported immediately. For assistance, definitions, and the full University policy (<https://osmrc.uiowa.edu/>).