



AMERICAN GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

POLITICAL SCIENCE 122Y, SECTION 4, FALL 2022

Dr. Erin N. Taylor • e-taylor@wiu.edu • 424 Morgan Hall • (309)-298-1354

Physical Student Hours: T and TH, 11 am – noon (just stop by!)

Online Student Hours: W noon – 2 pm (email for Zoom link!)

Student Hours Don't Work? Individual Appointments Available (let me know!)

Class Meeting Time & Place: 12:30-1:45 pm, T&TH, Morgan Hall 308

In this course, we'll be examining the philosophical and constitutional underpinnings of our democracy, the institutions of contemporary American government, and the links between people and government. Our goal, however, isn't just academic; instead, the aim of this course is to help each member of the class become a more well-informed, critical, and thoughtful participant in American political life. As part of this overall goal, the course is designed to help you develop skills that are central to democratic citizenship. By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- relate underlying concepts in American politics to current political events.
- identify and examine your own political beliefs.
- express your beliefs clearly and persuasively.
- interpret the political beliefs of others, including those with whom you may disagree.

By the end of the semester, you will have a better understanding of the American political process and, more importantly, the importance of and avenues for your own engagement in this process!

This course has been designated a First Year Experience course and is intended to help you learn to think critically, understand multiple perspectives on issues, and improve your skills in research and problem solving. It will also provide an environment in which to apply the academic skills you learn and help prepare you to transfer those skills to your other courses.

Requirements

Writing Assignments:	200 points
Short Assignments:	100 points
Quizzes:	100 points
Attendance:	100 points
Three Exams:	100 points

Grades

A:	560 points and above
A-:	540-559 points
B+:	520-539 points
B:	500-519 points
B-:	480-499 points
C+:	460-479 points
C:	440-459 points
C-:	420-439 points
D+:	400-419 points
D:	380-399 points
D-:	360-379 points
F:	359 points and below

Required Reading

The following texts are available at the WIU bookstore and at most online book retailers and textbook rental services:

Keeping the Republic (Brief 9th Edition)

ISBN: 9781544393896

Chicago, 1968

ISBN: 9780393533002

Additional readings will be available on Western Online.

Writing Assignments

Throughout the semester, you will complete several writing assignments. The first will be worth 80 points, will be approximately 900 words (about 3 pages) long, and will include multiple parts that lead up to a final draft. Due dates are listed in the course schedule, and detailed instructions will be distributed in advance. Additional writing assignments will be associated with the Chicago, 1968 game (see below) and may vary based on each student's role in the game; however, each student will write approximately 1500 words total (6 pages), worth 120 points. Assignments are considered late after the specific time they are due and will incur a five-point penalty if submitted after that time on the due date. Assignments submitted after the due date will incur a ten-point penalty for each day they are late.

Short Assignments

Throughout the semester, small (usually one-page-or-less) assignments will be due in Western Online by **12:15 pm** before some class meetings. In many cases, these are listed under assignments in the course schedule (designated SA). In these cases, I will provide the questions and instructions for these short assignments no later than the class period before they are due. Other times, short assignments will be completed during class time as in-class activities. Acceptable assignments will receive a check (100%), while unacceptable assignments will receive a check minus (50%). The average of all of these assignments taken together will be worth 100 points. Short assignments are late after the time they are due; late short writing assignments will be accepted after the original due date but will automatically earn a check minus (which is still **WAY** better than a zero!).

Quizzes

To help you better learn the course material, you will take a quiz on Western Online before coming to many of our class sessions; days with quizzes due are denoted with a  in the course schedule. These quizzes will be due by **12:15 pm** and will cover the reading for that day as well as the previous class meeting's lecture or activity. They will be **open book** and **open note** but will also have a relatively short time limit, which means there won't be time to look everything up. You may take each quiz up to three times and should work **independently** with no outside assistance other than your textbook and class notes. At the beginning of class, a flip of the freakishly large coin will determine whether the quiz taken for that day will count toward your quiz average; if it does, your **highest** score out of your three attempts will be the one that counts. Your **two lowest** quiz scores will be dropped from the calculation of your final quiz average, which will be worth 100 points.

Exams

You will take three exams, worth 100 points altogether. All exams will be administered in Western Online, will be **open book** and **open note** (with a time limit!) and should be taken **independently** with no unauthorized assistance. The first two exams will consist of forty multiple-choice questions worth one point each. The third exam will consist of twenty multiple-choice questions and will NOT be cumulative, covering only the material from our Chicago, 1968 game. No makeup exams will be available without prior permission, so make sure to **talk to me beforehand** if there's a (very, VERY, VERY good) reason you won't be able to complete an exam on time.

Attendance

Over the years I have been teaching this course, student attendance has directly correlated with students' final grades. Students who miss class do *much worse* than students who attend regularly, and often fail the course. For this reason, attendance will be taken daily and will count toward your final grade. You will earn a 100% for each day that you are present and participatory in class discussion and activities. At the end of the semester, the average of your daily attendance score will be worth 100

points. If you need to miss class for **any reason** and would like to have your absence excused so you will earn credit for that day's attendance and any missed in-class short assignments, please contact me via email **before the end** of the class you will be missing (by **1:45 pm**). I will send you a writing prompt related to the topic discussed in class and you will have the opportunity to complete a 600-word assignment to make up for your absence. If there was an in-class short assignment, I will also send you instructions to make up that assignment. This make-up work will be due to me via email before the next class period unless you ask for (and I agree to!) alternate arrangements. I will grade your make-up assignment out of 100 and will enter your score in place of the zero earned for the day's attendance. Please note that you **must email me before the end** of the class you are missing to have these make-up options available. No matter why you miss class and whether you choose to notify me or do the make-up work, it is **your responsibility** to find out what you missed from me or one of your classmates.

Chicago, 1968

In the last third of the course, you will compete with and against your classmates in an elaborate game set during the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago. The game will take you beyond the mere study of politics, thrusting you into the roles of convention delegates, protestors, and (maybe) journalists who are working to achieve their goals during a politically tumultuous era. Considerable class time will be dedicated to preparing for and playing the game. There won't be quizzes during the game, but **each game session's participation will COUNT AS A QUIZ, in addition to earning the usual attendance points**, meaning that being there to play the game counts double!

Lateness

When class begins, the door will be closed and locked. Each of you will receive one "Get Into Class Late" card at the beginning of the semester (attached); to be allowed late entry, hold your card up to the window and I will open the door for you and take your card. If you do not have a card in your possession, you will **not** be admitted into class late. If you do not use, lose, sell, or give away your card by the end of the semester **and** do not have any unexcused absences, your card can be redeemed for 10 extra credit points!

Electronic Devices and Other Classroom Etiquette

At the beginning of the semester, there will be a class-wide bank of five extra credit points available. Each time I see an unauthorized phone, tablet, or laptop during class time, I will deduct one point from this bank. If my phone rings during class, I will add a point to the bank. At the end of the semester, the number of points left in the bank will be added to everyone's total points.

Please show respect for me and your classmates by avoiding the following: leaving class early, taking frequent or daily trips to the restroom, holding conversations with your neighbors when someone else (me or a classmate) is talking, sleeping during class, and using tobacco during class. Students who habitually engage in these or other disruptive behaviors will receive one kind and gentle email warning and, if the behavior continues, a second public and potentially embarrassing in-class warning. Repeat offenders will be asked to leave.

Email

During the workday (8 am to 5 pm), I usually respond to email within hours, but it does take me longer in the evenings and on weekends, when I try to spend time away from screens. For this reason, you should just assume that a) if you email me in the evening, you will hear back from me the next day and b) if you email me over the weekend, you will hear back from me on Monday. It will help me get back to you more quickly when you include the number or name of the course (POLS 122 FYE or American Government Honors) in your subject heading.

Students with Disabilities

In accordance with University values and disability law, students with disabilities may request academic accommodations where there are aspects of a course that result in barriers to inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement. To file an official request for disability-related accommodations, please contact Disability Resources at 309-298-1884, sdsc@wiu.edu or in 125 Memorial Hall. Please speak with me as soon as possible to ensure that this course is accessible to you in a timely manner.

Sex Discrimination and Sexual Assault or Misconduct

University values, Title IX, and other federal and state laws prohibit sex discrimination, including sexual assault/misconduct, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. If you, or someone you know, has been the victim of any of these offenses, we encourage you to report this to the Title IX Coordinator at 309-298-1977 or anonymously online at:

http://www.wiu.edu/equal_opportunity_and_access/request_form/index.php.

If you disclose an incident to a faculty member, the faculty member must notify the Title IX Coordinator, no matter when or where the incident occurred. The complete Title IX policy is available at: <http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/policies/titleIX.php>.

Student Rights and Responsibilities & Academic Integrity

You are required to familiarize yourself with the university's Student Rights and Responsibilities and Academic Integrity Policies, which are available at the following URLs:

<http://www.wiu.edu/provost/students/> <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php>

Please pay special attention to the Academic Integrity Policy. I take academic integrity seriously, and all violations of this policy will be punished in accordance with the guidelines it describes; **all assignments submitted containing *any* plagiarism will automatically earn zeroes.**

Supplemental Resources

The university provides additional resources that may be helpful as you complete the course. Please visit the following URLs to learn more about these services.

Writing Center – [wiu.edu/uwc](http://www.wiu.edu/uwc)

The University Writing Center (UWC) offers online (real-time) and e-tutoring (asynchronous) appointments. The UWC supports writers across disciplines at any stage of the process. The UWC is not an editing service, but provides extensive feedback as well as help with writing challenges such as citation style formats, grammar, research development, and organization.

University Libraries – [wiu.edu/libraries](http://www.wiu.edu/libraries)

Being a WIU student gives you access to a wide range of scholarly and popular full-text articles, and thousands of online e-Books, as well as personal, one-on-one reference assistance through the Ask a Librarian feature.

Software – www.wiu.edu/university_technology/student_resources/

Your status as a Western Illinois University student means you automatically have free access to a Microsoft 365 account, as well as Google docs. The main software you'll use for this course is word processing software, which is available through these services, but both also provide more specialized software that you may need for your other classes.

Course Calendar and Schedule

This schedule may be changed if the needs of the class change. Changes will be announced in class and online via email and Western Online. It is your responsibility to come to class, to check your WIU email, and to visit the course's Western Online page regularly.

Readings and assignments should be completed by the date by which they are listed. **Quizzes** are due on days marked with a  symbol. **In-class short assignments** are scheduled for days marked with a  symbol, but please be aware that additional in-class short assignments may be added at my discretion.

Readings are marked as follows so that you can find them easily: **(KR)** – *Keeping the Republic* textbook, **(CH)** – *Chicago, 1968* game book, or **(WO)** – Western Online.

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments Due
T Aug 23	Course Introduction		
TH Aug 25	Intro to Political Science	POLS 122 Course Syllabus	
T Aug 30	Democracy & Its Challenges	Chapter 1, pp. 1-25 (KR)	 Dear Erin SA
TH Sep 1	American Political Culture I	Chapter 1, pp. 25-45 (KR)	
T Sept 6	American Political Culture II		Political Culture SA
TH Sept 8	Founding Ideas & The Constitutional Convention	Declaration of Independence, pp. A7-A9 (KR) U.S. Constitution, Preamble pp. A10 (KR) Chapter 2, pp. 48-81 (KR)	 Political Culture Narrative Phase 1 Due
T Sept 13	Congress	U.S. Constitution, Article I, pp. A10-A13 (KR) Chapter 6, pp. 187-226 (KR)	 Congress SA
TH Sept 15	Peer Review 		Political Culture Narrative Phase 2 Due
T Sept 20	President	U.S. Constitution, Article II, pp. A13-A14 (KR) Chapter 7, pp. 228-264 (KR)	
TH Sept 22	Exam 1 & Conferences		Exam 1 Due in WO by 1:45 pm
T Sept 27	Bureaucracy	Chapter 8, pp. 266-292 (KR)	
TH Sept 29	Courts	U.S. Constitution, Article III, pp. A14-A15 (KR) Chapter 9, pp. 295-326 (KR)	
T Oct 4	Federalism	U.S. Constitution, Articles IV & VI, pp. A15-A16 (KR) Chapter 3, pp. 84-106 (KR)	 Political Culture Narrative Phase 4 Due
TH Oct 6	Civil Liberties 	Bill of Rights, pp. A16-A17 (KR) Chapter 4, pp. 108-143 (KR)	
T Oct 11	Civil Rights 	Chapter 5, pp. 146-185 (KR)	
TH Oct 13	Constitutional Amendment Process	U.S. Constitution, Article V, pp. A15-A16 & Amendments XI-XXVII, pp. A17-A21 (KR)	 Constitutional Amendment SA (WO and bring hard copy)

T Oct 18	A Grand Experiment: The U.S. Constitution 		Exam 2 Due in WO by 12:15 pm
TH Oct 20	The U.S. Constitution 		
T Oct 25	Debate Preparation 		Debate SA #1
TH Oct 27	The Great Debate 		
T Nov 1	Democracy's Challenges, Part II	Bowling Alone (WO)	 Debate SA #2
TH Nov 3	Chicago, 1968: Game Setup 1	Overview and Prologue, pp. 3-8 (CH) Historical Background and Narrative, pp. 14-27 (CH)	
T Nov 8	ELECTION DAY – NO CLASS		
TH Nov 10	Chicago, 1968: How to Play Reacting to the Past	Basic Features, pp. 8-11 (CH) The Game, pp. 29-44 (CH) Assignments, pp. 54-56 (CH)	
T Nov 15	Chicago, 1968: Game Setup 2	Individual Role Sheets REVIEW The Game, pp. 29-44 (CH)	Getting to Know Your Character SA Due
TH Nov 17	Chicago, 1968, Game Session 1: Domestic Policy	Character-Specific Readings (see Individual Role Sheet)	
T Nov 22	FALL BREAK - NO CLASS		
TH Nov 24	HAPPY THANKSGIVING!		
T Nov 29	Chicago, 1968, Game Session 2: The War in Vietnam	Character-Specific Readings (see Individual Role Sheet)	
TH Dec 1	Chicago, 1968, Game Session 3: Choosing a Nominee	Character-Specific Readings (see Individual Role Sheet)	
T Dec 6	Chicago, 1968, Game Debriefing Part 1		
TH Dec 8	Chicago, 1968, Game Debriefing Part 2		
T Dec 13 1:00 pm	Exam 3		Final Exam Due in WO by 2:50 pm