

Political Science 2051  
American Government  
Spring 2019 (T-TH 1:30 – 3:00 @ 284 Lockett)  
Office Hrs: 3:00 – 4:30 Tuesday/Thursday  
@ 207 Stubbs Hall or by appointment

Dr. William (Bill) Blair  
Email: [poblair@lsu.edu](mailto:poblair@lsu.edu)  
Phone: C: 225-806-2142  
W: 225-342-2591

### **Introduction:**

This course is designed to provide a general overview of foundations, institutions, politics and public policy of the United States. While we will deal with the historical perspectives in these areas, we will primarily focus on contemporary experiences and subjects where possible. This will provide you with the latest perspectives on our American government and how you can operate within the current system. We will examine the impact of our governmental choice on our society and culture, and investigate the future prospects for our politics and government.

As a General Education Course, POLI 2051 is designed to address the following General Education outcomes:

***“LSU graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference.”***

### **Grading**

Grades will be determined by exams, quizzes and participation:

**Exams:** There will be three exams. They will **NOT** be cumulative. There will be a “make up” policy for missed exams or classes if a valid and verifiable reason is given.

Each exam will cover the assigned chapter readings and class lecture content

**Quizzes:** There will be chapter quizzes on the assigned readings.

**Participation:** I will also give credit for good attendance and participation.

Exams: 80%

Quizzes: 10%

Participation: 10%

### **Required Reading:**

Kernell, Jacobson, Kousser, and Vavreck, *The Logic of American Politics, 8th edition*, SAGE Publishing, 2018

## Course Schedule:

***I reserve the right to alter this as circumstances dictate.***

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Week 1	January 10	Introduction	
Week 2	January 15 January 17	The Constitution The Constitution	Chapter 2 Chapter 2
Week 3	January 22 January 24	Federalism Federalism	Chapter 3 Chapter 3
Week 4	January 29 January 31	Civil Rights Civil Rights	Chapter 4 Chapter 4
Week 5	February 5 February 7	Civil Liberties Civil Liberties	Chapter 5 Chapter 5
Week 6	February 12 <b>February 14</b>	Congress <b>Exam #1 (Chapters 2, 3, 4 &amp; 5)</b>	Chapter 6
Week 7	February 19 February 21	Congress Congress	Chapter 6 Chapter 6
Week 8	February 26 February 28	The Presidency The Presidency	Chapter 7 Chapter 7
Week 9	March 5 March 7	<b><i>Mardi Gras Holiday</i></b> <b><i>Mardi Gras Holiday</i></b>	
Week 10	March 12 March 14	The Bureaucracy Bureaucracy/The Federal Judiciary	Chapter 8 Chapter 8/9
Week 11	March 19 March 21	The Federal Judiciary Public Opinion	Chapter 9 Chapter 10
<b>Week 12</b>	<b>March 26</b> March 28	<b>Exam #2 (Chapters 6, 7, 8 &amp; 9)</b> Public Opinion	Chapter 10
Week 13	April 2 April 4	Voting, Campaigns & Elections Voting, Campaigns & Elections	Chapter 11 Chapter 11
Week 14	April 9 April 11	Political Parties Interest Groups	Chapter 12 Chapter 13
Week 15	April 16 April 18	<b><i>Spring Break</i></b> <b><i>Spring Break</i></b>	
Week 16	April 23 April 25	Interest Groups The News Media	Chapter 13 Chapter 14
<b>Exam #3:</b>	<b>Monday, April 29: 3:00pm – 5:00pm (Chapters 10, 11, 12, 13 &amp; 14)</b>		