

POL 1560 - American Government

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 42026,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Adam Fuller

Email: afuller@ysu.edu

Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Adam Fuller

Instructor Professional Qualifications:

Ph.D., Political Science, Claremont Graduate University

Master of Arts, Political Science, University of British Columbia

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science/International Security & Conflict Resolution, San Diego State University

Course Description

1560. American Government. The foundations of American democratic government with an emphasis on the responsibilities of citizenship, civil rights, and civil liberties, parties and elections, and American political institutions. Students are encouraged to understand and discuss issues of social justice, equality and freedom, and majoritarianism. Topics include the civil rights movement, campaign finance reform, federalism, and affirmative action. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	We the People	Ginsberg, Lowi, Weir & Tolbert	

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Textbook, Chapter 1	What is government? What is politics? What kind of government does the United States have? Introductory concepts.	
8/31	Declaration of Independence U.S. Constitution	Documents of the American Founding	
9/7	Federalist #10 Federalist #51 Textbook, Chapter 2	Principles of the American Founding	
9/14	Textbook, Chapter 3	Federalism	
9/21	Textbook, Chapter 4	Civil Liberties and the Bill of Rights	
9/28	Textbook, Chapter 4	Civil Liberties and the Bill of Rights (Continued)	
10/5	No reading	The Commerce Clause, Necessary and Property Clause, Equal Protection Clause, Supremacy Clause	Exam #1

10/12	Textbook, Chapter 5 Textbook, Chapter 6	Voting and Political Participation	
10/19	Textbook, Chapter 8	Elections and Campaigns	
10/26	Textbook, Chapter 7	Congress	
11/2	Textbook, Chapter 7	Congress and the Presidency	Election Day Assignment Due 11/2
11/9	Textbook, Chapter 9	The Presidency	Exam #2
11/16	Textbook, Chapter 10	The Supreme Court	
11/23	Textbook, Chapter 10	The Supreme Court (Continued)	
11/30	Textbook, Chapter 12	Public Policy	
12/7	No reading	Exam #3	

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.