

POL 1560 - American Government

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 04, CRN 42027,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Magdalen Weiss-Vopat

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Ms. Weiss-Vopat

Instructor Professional Qualifications: M.A., Political Science & Peace and Conflict Studies, Kent State University

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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: Essentials Edition	Ginsburg, Benjamin, Tolbert, and Campbell	9781324085454
Required	Miranda v. Arizona		
Required	Furman v. Georgia		
Required	Examining Social Contract Theory	Weber, Timothy M.	
Required	Federalist No. 10	Madison, James	
Required	Federalist No. 51	Madison, James	
Required	Reading the Constitution	History.com Editors	

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

Course Assignment Schedule

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Chapter 1 (We The People: Essentials Edition)	Americans and Their Political Values	Week 1 Quiz due Sunday 8/30 @ 11:59pm
8/31	Chapter 2 (We The People: Essentials Edition)	The Founding and the Constitution	Week 2 Quiz due Sunday 9/6 @ 11:59pm
9/7	Chapter 10 (We The People: Essentials Edition)	Congress	Week 3 Quiz due Sunday 9/13 @ 11:59pm
9/14	Chapter 4 (We The People: Essentials Edition) Miranda v. Arizona Furman v. Georgia	Civil Liberties	Week 4 Quiz due Sunday 9/20 @ 11:59pm Discussion Post 1 due Sunday 9/20 @ 11:59pm



9/21	Chapter 6 (We The People: Essentials Edition)	Public Opinion	Week 5 Quiz due Sunday 9/27 @ 11:59pm Exam 1 due Sunday 9/27 @ 11:59pm
9/28	Chapter 7 (We The People: Essentials Edition)	The Media & Political Information	Week 6 Quiz due Sunday 10/4 @ 11:59pm
10/5	Chapter 9 (We The People: Essentials Edition)	Participation, Campaigns, and Elections	Week 7 Quiz due Sunday 10/11 @ 11:59pm Discussion Post 2 due Sunday 10/11 @ 11:59pm
10/12	Chapter 3 (We The People: Essentials Edition)	Federalism	Week 8 Quiz due Sunday 10/18 @ 11:59pm
10/19	Chapter 12 (We The People: Essentials Edition)	Bureaucracy	Week 9 Quiz due Sunday 10/25 @ 11:59pm
10/26	Examining Social Contract Theory by Timothy M. Weber	The Social Contract	Week 10 Quiz due Sunday 11/1 @ 11:59pm Discussion Post 3 due Sunday 11/1 @ 11:59pm
11/2	Chapter 8 (We The People: Essentials Edition)	Political Parties and Interest Groups	Week 11 Quiz due Sunday 11/8 @ 11:59pm Exam 2 due Sunday 11/8 @ 11:59pm
11/9	Chapter 13 (We The People: Essentials Edition)	The Federal Courts	Week 12 Quiz due Sunday 11/15 @ 11:59pm
11/16	Chapter 5 (We The People: Essentials Edition)	Civil Rights	Week 13 Quiz due Sunday 11/22 @ 11:59pm
11/23	Federalist No. 10 Federalist No. 51	Dangers of Factions & Checks and Balances	Week 14 Quiz due Sunday 11/29 @ 11:59pm Discussion Post 4 due Sunday 11/29 @ 11:59pm
11/30	Reading the Constitution Constitution U.S.A.	Constitution Recap	Week 15 Quiz due Sunday 12/6 @ 11:59pm Discussion Post 5 due Sunday 12/6 @ 11:59pm
12/7	Finals Week		Exam 3 due Wednesday 12/9 @ 11:59pm

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.