

POL 1560 - American Government

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 12, CRN 43231,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Michael Paquet

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Part-time Faculty

Instructor Professional Qualifications: Ph.D., Urban Studies and Public Affairs, M.P.A., Public Administration, B.A., Political Science

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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	American Government	Krutz, Glenn	978-1947172-66-1

Text: <https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-2e/>

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	Review of course content and syllabus.	Course Overview	Filing of Netiquette Contract required. Citizenship Test/Visual Exercise both due by August 30, 2026 @ 11 p.m.
8/31	Read American Government (OpenStax) 1.1-1.3	American Government and Civic Engagement	Discussion/Assignment/Quiz on American Government and Civic Engagement due by September 6, 2026 @ 11 p.m.
9/7	Read American Government (OpenStax) 2.1-2.5	The Constitution and Its Origins	Discussion/Assignment/Quiz on The Constitution and Its Origins due by September 13, 2026 @ 11 p.m.
9/14	Read American Government (OpenStax) 3.1-3.5	American Federalism	Discussion/Assignment/Quiz on American Federalism due by September 20, 2026 @ 11 p.m.
9/21	Read American Government (OpenStax) 4.1-4.4	Civil Liberties	Discussion/Assignment/Quiz on Civil Liberties due by September 27, 2026 @ 11 p.m.
9/28	Read American Government (OpenStax) 5.1-4.5	Civil Rights	Discussion/Assignment/Quiz on Civil Rights due by October 4, 2026 @ 11 p.m. Midterm I due by October 4, 2026 @ 11 p.m.



10/5	Read American Government (OpenStax) 6.1-6.4	The Politics of Public Opinion	Discussion/Assignment/Quiz due by October 11, 2026 @ 11 p.m.
10/12	Read American Government (OpenStax) 7.1-7.5	Voting and Elections	Discussion/Assignment/Quiz on Voting and Elections due by October 18, 2026 @ 11 p.m.
10/19	Read American Government (OpenStax) 8.1-8.4	The Media	Discussion/Assignment/Quiz on The Media due by October 25, 2026 @ 11p.m.
10/26	Read American Government (OpenStax) 9.1-9.4	Political Parties	Discussion/Assignment/Quiz on Political Parties due November 1, 2026 @ 11p.m.
11/2	Read American Government (OpenStax) 10.1-10.5	Interest Groups	Discussion/Assignment/Quiz on Interest Groups due by November 8, 2026 @11p.m. Midterm II due by November 8, 2026 @ 11 p.m.
11/9	Read American Government (OpenStax) 11.1-11.5	Congress	Discussion/Assignment/Quiz on Congress due by November 15, 2026 @ 11 p.m.
11/16	Read American Government (OpenStax) 12.1-12.5	The Presidency	Discussion/Assignment/Quiz on The Presidency due by November 22, 2026 @ 11 p.m.
11/23	Read American Government (OpenStax) 13.1-13.5	The Courts	Discussion/Assignment/Quiz on The Courts due by November 29, 2026 @ 11 p.m.
11/30	Read American Government (OpenStax) 14.1-17.4	State/Local Government, Bureaucracy, Domestic/Foreign Policy	Discussions/Assignments/Quizzes on State/Local Government, Bureaucracy, Domestic/Foreign Policy due by December 6, 2026 @ 11 p.m.
12/7	Final Exam – December 8-9, 2026 Open Book/Open Notes (timed exam)	Final Exam – December 8-9, 2026 Open Book/Open Notes (timed exam)	Final Exam – December 8-9, 2026 Open Book/Open Notes (timed exam)

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.