

PLSC 112-21 Fall 2018

MW 3:30-4:45
 Pray Harrold 419
 [CRN 10016]

American Government

Dr. Henschen
 601F Pray Harrold
 Hours: MW 12:30-1:30 (office), by
 email or by appointment
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 734.487.1398

This course examines American political institutions and processes at the national level. We will discuss the context of American politics and look at how individuals and groups participate in the political system. We will also examine the behavior of political actors in government institutions as they make public policy. A special focus this semester will be the state of politics at midterm.

Book: (Required) Sidlow, Edward and Beth Henschen. *GOVT 10: Principles of American Government*. Boston: Cengage Learning, 2019, 2018.

Reading, Assignments, and Exam Schedule**September**

5/Wednesday	Politics and the Art of Governing
10/Monday	American Political Values and Ideology—ch.1 The Beginnings of American Government—ch.2
12/Wednesday	Creating the Constitution: An Exercise in Compromise and Establishing Enduring Constitutional Principles—ch.2
17/Monday	Dividing Power in the Political Arena—ch.3 <i>America at Midterm</i> —Select a Focus
19/Wednesday	Challenges of Federalism—ch.3 https://www.pbs.org/video/crash-course-government-4/Federalism
24/Monday	Civil Liberties: Balancing Interests/ Drawing Lines—ch.4
26/Wednesday	Civil Liberties—ch.4 https://www.pbs.org/video/crash-course-government-25/Freedom of Speech Quiz 1 (chs.1-3)

October

1/Monday	The Civil Rights Movement—ch.5
3/Wednesday	Equal Protection Expanded https://www.pbs.org/video/crash-course-government-29/Equal Protection
8/Monday	Mobilizing Participation: Interest Groups—ch.6 Noisy Politics and the Two Party System—ch.7

10/Wednesday	The Evolution of the Political Parties—ch.7
15/Monday	Political Socialization and Public Opinion—ch.8 Quiz 2 (chs.4-7)
17/Wednesday	Voting Behavior—ch.8 The Constant Campaign—ch.9
22/Monday	Understanding the Electoral College System—ch.9
24/Wednesday	The Media in Politics: Televised Campaign Ads—ch.10
29/Monday	The New Media in Politics—ch.10 Congressional Elections—ch.11
31/Wednesday	House and Senate Comparisons—ch.11 Quiz 3 (chs.8-10)
November	
5/Monday	<i>America at Midterm</i> —Predictions? Status of your race: share in class (10 points)
7/Wednesday	Election Recovery: No Class
12/Monday	<i>America at Midterm</i> —What Happened? Outcome of your race: share in class (15 points)
14/Wednesday	Congress: The Legislative Process—ch.11 Presidential Roles—ch.12
19/Monday	Expansion of/Constraints on Presidential Power—ch.12
21/Wednesday	No Class
26/Monday	Bureaucratic Politics—ch.13 Quiz 4 (chs.11-12)
28/Wednesday	The Federal Courts—ch.14
December	
3/Monday	Judicial Selection and Decision Making—ch.14 https://www.pbs.org/video/crash-course-government-22/Judicial- Decisions
5/Wednesday	A Brief History of Foreign Policy—ch.16
10/Monday	Politics and the Art of Governing: A Reassessment
17/Monday	Quiz 5 [3:00-4:30] (chs.13, 14, 16)

Summary of Graded Exercises:

There will be 5 quizzes, each worth 35 points, over the course of the semester. A 2018 midterm election exercise will count for the remaining 25 points.

Grading scale:

Points	Grade	
188-200	A	94-100%
180-187	A-	90-93
174-179	B+	87-89
166-173	B	83-86
160-165	B-	80-82
154-159	C+	77-79
146-153	C	73-76
140-145	C-	70-72
134-139	D+	67-69
126-133	D	63-66
120-125	D-	60-62
Below 120	F	Below 60%

Note: Be prepared, when called on, to contribute thoughtfully to class discussions.

Class attendance, good note taking, and careful reading are essential to doing well in this course. It is also important to *be present*—to be fully engaged during lectures and in class discussions. Laptops closed, phones put away... Additional classroom matters will be discussed if/when the need arises.

Because this is an in-person class, there is no Canvas shell for the course. I will review with you the way you can keep track of your grade in the course. Relevant course material and instructions related to exams and assignments will be provided in class. Check your university email frequently for announcements related to class.

PLSC 112 is a General Education Course

This course (PLSC 112) provides students with critical exposure to the methods used by social scientists in creating knowledge. Political Science 112 provides a thorough grounding in American government. It also provides a strong introduction to the discipline of political science. In this course, students gain exposure to how knowledge is generated in the social sciences through the lens of one content area, that of American government. Through material covered in the course, students gain practice in asking important questions about the political world and answering them using the methods practiced in this social science discipline.

Completion of this course fulfills a requirement in the Knowledge of the Disciplines/Social Sciences: In Knowledge of the Disciplines courses, students will

Acquire introductory knowledge about the discipline.

Develop questions for inquiry that reflect an understanding of the discipline(s) in which they are asked.

Learn how knowledge is developed and disseminated in particular disciplines.

In Social Science courses, students will

Acquire an understanding of social science methods and of how they are used to engage in the systematic study of society and culture.

Understand and compare formal and informal social and political structures, organizations, and institutions.

Explore and understand power relationships and the impact of social change on different groups and on society in general.

Develop an appreciation of different interpretations of contemporary issues, institutions, or structures.

Use social science methods and content to interpret and analyze data and reports in the media and to make informed decisions regarding local, national, and international issues.

Use basic social scientific research techniques to examine and present information in a clear and concise manner.

Understand the relation between qualitative and quantitative research.

These objectives will be addressed through our examination of the historical and constitutional context of American government, the evolving nature of civil liberties and civil rights, the mobilization of political participation by interest groups and political parties, the behavior of individuals in the political arena, the measurement of public opinion, the role of the media, the power and procedures of national governmental institutions and agencies, and an assessment of the processes by which domestic and foreign policy is made.

UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER

115 Halle Library

734-487-0694

<http://www.emich.edu/uwc>

FALL 2018 SYLLABUS TEXT

The **University Writing Center** (115 Halle Library; 487-0694) offers one-to-one writing consulting for both undergraduate and graduate students. Hours are **10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays**. The UWC opens **Monday, September 10**, and closes **Thursday, December 13**.

The UWC also has several college and program satellite locations across campus. **The locations and hours for the other satellites can be found on the UWC web site:**

<http://www.emich.edu/ccw/writing-center/contact.php>

Students seeking writing support at any UWC location should bring a draft of their writing (along with any relevant instructions or rubrics) to work on during the consultation.

In addition to the articulated course specific policies and expectations, students are responsible for understanding all applicable University guidelines, policies, and procedures. The EMU Student Handbook is the primary resource provided to students to ensure that they have access to all university policies, support resources, and student's rights and responsibilities. Changes may be made to the EMU Student Handbook whenever necessary, and shall be effective immediately, and/or as of the date on which a policy is formally adopted, and/or on the date specified in the amendment. Please note: Electing not to access the link provided below does not absolve a student of responsibility. For questions about any university policy, procedure, practice, or resource, please contact the Office of the Ombuds: 248 Student Center, [734.487.0074](tel:734.487.0074), emu_ombuds@emich.edu, or visit the website: www.emich.edu/ombuds.”

University Course Policies: <http://www.emich.edu/studenthandbook/policies/academic.php#univ>

Student Handbook Link: <https://www.emich.edu/studenthandbook/index.php>

Graduate School Policies: <http://www.emich.edu/graduate/policies/index.php>

Additional Resources:

Library Research and Technology Help

The EMU Library offers support for finding, evaluating, and using information sources for research papers and projects.

Use **Library research guides** for your assignments or subject area. You'll also find **self-service help** on using the library, research basics, plagiarism, and citing sources at: <http://www.emich.edu/library/help/index.php>

Get **one-on-one research help** by visiting the Library, calling the Information Desk at 734-487-2445, or making an appointment with a subject specialist librarian. Subject specialist librarians, assigned to each EMU department, can give you friendly expert advice on your research project. You can also **consult a librarian online** via the 24/7 *Ask-A-Librarian* chat service. For details, visit: <http://www.emich.edu/library/help/ask.php>

The **Academic Projects Center**, *located on the Halle Library first floor*, offers drop-in help with research, writing, and technology to improve the quality of your research paper, project, or presentation. You can get help with brainstorming ideas, finding sources, structuring an essay, or putting together a presentation using PowerPoint or Emich Google Apps. The APC is staffed by writing and technology consultants as well as Library faculty. More info at: <http://www.emich.edu/apc/>

Fall 2018 Registration Dates and Deadlines

Deadlines shown here are for Part of Term 1 (15 week session) only.

Last date to add courses via the web (a)

Oct. 26, 2018

Last date to add courses with departmental authorization

Sept. 14, 2018

Last date for 100% tuition refund (individual or total withdraw from term)

Nov. 13, 2018

Last date for individual class withdrawal (with W grades) - No Refund

Oct. 1, 2018 (b)

Last date for 50% tuition refund (total withdrawal only) with W grades

Oct. 26, 2018 (b)

Last date for 25% tuition refund (total withdrawal only) with W grades

Dec. 11, 2018 (b)

Last date for total withdrawal from term (with W grades) - No Refund

Sept. 14, 2018

Last date to declare pass/fail grading option or select to audit a course

Dec. 11, 2018

Last date to remove pass/fail grading option and receive letter grade

(a) Initial registration occurring on or after the Part of Term start date will incur a one-time \$175 late registration fee

(b) Date applicable only if student's classes are ALL within the same Part of Term and/or a later starting Part of Term

(**) A written request must be faxed to the Office of Records and Registration at 734.487.6808 before midnight