**POLS201: AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**

**Course Overview:** This course studies the basic foundations and underlying principles of American, national, state and local government. (3 credits)

This course will challenge students to analyze both historic and contemporary issues with these two main goals:

- Help you grow in your understanding of the structure and function of the system of government in the United States.
- Give you the opportunity to explore the function of government from a Christian worldview perspective.

**Grading:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussions &amp; Journals</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written response papers</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
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**Attendance:**

Attendance is recorded for each discussion or assignment that is submitted. Students are encouraged to log on about 4 times per week and dedicate about 6 hours each week to their coursework.

**Assignments:**

**Journals and discussions:** Students will make a weekly journal entry or post and reply to a discussion board topic.

**Quizzes:** Weekly multiple-choice quizzes are used to check understanding of the weekly reading assignments.

**Written response papers:** Each week students will submit a written response and analysis to specific questions posted about the topics of the week.

**Exams:** Students will need to demonstrate understanding of concepts and apply learning to a given situation.

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15 week course

Not self-paced; assignments

Have weekly deadlines.

Students can access their course any time, from any location.

A laptop or desktop is recommended.

Students will set up a university email & use this while in the course.

Orientation will be required prior to the start of the course.
COURSE SCHEDULE

Unit 1: Students and the System
   Week 1: American Government and Christian Civic Engagement
      Quiz on Reading, Journal assignment, Written Assignment: Church and State
   Week 2: The Constitution and its Origin
      Quiz on Reading, Discussion assignment, Written Assignment: E Pluribus Unum
   Week 3: Federalism and American Exceptionalism
      Quiz on Reading, Journal assignment, Written Assignment: Who Should Decide?

Unit 2: Individual and Agency Action
   Week 4: Civil Liberties & the First Amendment
      Quiz on Reading, Unit 1 Essay Exam
   Week 5: Civil Rights - Creating and Equal Playing Field
      Quiz on Reading, Discussion assignment, Written Assignment: Documenting Hate
   Week 6: Public Opinion
      Quiz on Reading, Journal assignment, Written Assignment: Ideology
   Week 7: Voting & Elections in 2020 Context
      Quiz on Reading, Discussion assignment, Written Assignment: Campaign Ads

Unit 3: Toward Collective Action: Mediating Institutions
   Week 8: The Media & Truth
      Quiz on Reading, Unit 2 Essay Exam
   Week 9: Political Parties in an Age of Divide
      Quiz on Reading, Journal assignment, Written Assignment: Major Political Parties
   Week 10: Interest Groups and Advocacy
      Quiz on Reading, Journal assignment, Written Assignment: De Tocqueville

Unit 4: Delivering Collection Action: Formal Institutions and the Outputs of Government
   Week 11: Congress & Government Inertia
      Quiz on Reading, Unit 3 Essay Exam
   Week 12: The Presidency in a New Age
      Quiz on Reading, Journal assignment, Written Assignment: Executive Orders
   Week 13: Courts in a Partisan Era
      Quiz on Reading, Written Assignment: Supreme Court Cases
   Week 14: State and Local Government, Foreign Policy
      2 Quizzes on Readings, Journal assignment
   Week 15: Unit 4 Exam

This is a sample course schedule and the actual course layout could change each term.