

Dual Credit: What to Expect

POLS 201 American Government

This is a general course preview. The actual course syllabus may change each term.

Course Details

Format

- 15 week course
- Not self-paced: Assignments have specific weekly deadlines
- Students login independently but will interact with classmates

Orientation

Before Class Begins

- New students must complete an online student orientation in Blackboard BEFORE the class begins.
- Students will be emailed a login link.
- Allow 2-3 hours to complete the orientation course.

Email

- Students should daily check their Concordia email for announcements and reminders.

Attendance

- Attendance is recorded when a discussion or assignment is posted.
- Login at least 5 times per week.

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Payment

- Students will be emailed a bill after the course begins
- Payments are made online

Course Overview:

This course studies the basic foundations and underlying principles of American national, state and local government. 3 credits.

Course Evaluation and Grading

Participation	50%
1st Reflection Paper	10%
2nd Reflection paper	10%
Mid-term exam	15%
Final exam	15%

This class will require 5-8 hours of study time per week, approximately half of which should be spent reading and the other half completing online research, homework and class discussion boards.

- **Readings and participation (50% of the final grade):**

Students must complete the reading assignments according to the course schedule and participate fully in each class session. Participation includes homework assignments and discussion board entries.

- **Online Discussions:**

Students are expected to make two original entries (7 complete sentences with clear thesis and premise) per week responding to the questions posed AND also respond (3 sentences) to the entries or comments of at least three other students during the week.

- **Two (2) Exams (30% of the final grade) Midterm and Final:**

Each will include multiple choice questions and short essay responses.

- **Two (2) Reflection Papers (20% of the final grade):**

Two reflection papers (800-1000 words each) are required on topics discussed in class. The first paper is due before mid-term; the second is due the last week of classes before final exams.

Textbook Locke, Joseph, and Ben Wright, eds. [The American Yawp](#). Creative Commons License. Free. Available in the course.

Counts as... HIST 153 counts as elective credit for undergraduate students at Concordia University.



Success Advisor / Coach

jessica.valdes@cuw.edu

Jessica Valdes is the dual credit success advisor. She can help with:

- Enrollment questions
- If you are struggling in a class
- Questions you don't want to ask your instructor



Drop Policy

- After a course begins, the student will pay for a course, even if dropped.
 - The student pays based on the number of weeks completed.
 - Week 1-5 : A percent refund
 - Week 6-10 0% and 'W' grade
 - Week 11-16 0% and 'F' grade
- "W" Withdraw does not count in GPA
"F" Counts as a 0.0 in GPA



Technology

- Blackboard Learn is Concordia's web based learning system.
- Blackboard contains all course content, videos, links, and course calendar.
- It runs best in **Firefox** or **Chrome**.
- Assignments are posted using the Drop Box feature in Blackboard

Course Schedule

Unit 1: Foundational Principles of Government and Society	
Week 1: Introduction to the Course and Political Thinking	<p><i>“Do Humans Need ‘God’ to be Good?”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “estrangement” and the essence of being human • “government” as a consequence of political thinking • “estrangement and unity” as a focus of political science and government
Week 2: Roots of American Government: Ancient Greeks	<p><i>“If ‘All Men are Created Equal,’ Why are We So Different?”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preamble to the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence • Plato: the root of society and the classes of people • Plato: Justice as Harmony—moving toward a Republic
Week 3: Aristotle and the justification for slavery	<p><i>“...and Some Men are Born to be Slaves,” says Aristotle</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aristotle: teleology and hylomorphism, the science of politics • Aristotle: ultimate happiness (eudaimonia) through virtue (arête) • Aristotle: the various constitutions and why democracy is only fourth best
Week 4: Political Philosophy of the Founding Fathers (part 1)	<p><i>“Is Life Really ‘solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short,’ as Hobbes Says?”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Machiavelli, Hobbes, Locke
Week 5: Political Philosophy of the Founding Fathers (part 2)	<p><i>“Man is born free, but everywhere he is in chains”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rousseau, Burke, J.S. Mill
Week 6: Declaration of Independence to Federalism	<p><i>“Is Anything Really ‘Self-Evident’?”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continental Congress to a Constitution • Federalism considered
Week 7: Federalism Continued	<p><i>“So We are Not Founded on Christian Principles After All?”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil rights and civil liberties (Magna Carta) • What happened to our religious underpinnings?
Unit Two: American Political Structure: A Constitutional Democracy/Republic	
Week 8: Institutions	<p><i>“Show Me the Money”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congress and Article 1, Section 8: Power of the Purse <p>Reflection Paper #1 is due and Midterm Exam</p>
Week 9: Presidency	<p><i>“Hail to the Chief”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Constitution, Article 2 and the War Power • the Executive Order: Lincoln, FDR, Truman, Clinton and Obama
Week 10: Judiciary	<p><i>“The Power of Nine”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Constitution Article 3 • Who says what the law is? Marbury v. Madison • A new Federalism or an old problem with an Electoral College? Bush v. Gore
Week 11: Political Processes and Influences	<p><i>“Buying Favor: Is Politics Just a Matter of Money?”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideologies and partisanship • voting and elections: Citizens United and the future of democracy
Week 12: Campaigning and the Media	<p><i>“Is ‘Yellow Journalism’ Still Around?”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the 4th Estate • how politicians use the media and vice versa
Unit Three: Public Policy	
Week 13: Law and Economics, foreign and domestic policy	<p><i>“Warrior Nation: Are We Plato’s Prophecy?”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spheres of influence (military and political) • global economics (from GATT to NAFTA to WTO)
Week 14: Citizenship and the Christian	<p><i>“In God We Trust....but only on ‘Hail Mary’ Passes”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freedom of Religion Yoder v. Wisconsin • Hobby Lobby freedom from religion
Week 15:	<p>Reflection Paper #2 is due</p> <p>Final Exam</p>