Course Details

Format

- 15-week course
- Not self-paced: Assignments have specific weekly deadlines
- Students login when convenient

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 hours to complete.

Email

- New students must set-up a Concordia email account
- During a term, all communication is through Concordia email

Attendance

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

Payment

- Students are emailed an invoice
- Pay online, by mail, or by phone
- Concordia processes invoices for state funded students.

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

Course Evaluation and Grading

Journals/Discussion 20%
Quizzes 20%
Written response papers 30%
Four exams 30%

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

1. to help you grow in your understanding of the structure and function of the system of Government in the United States.
2. to give you the opportunity to explore the function of government from a Christian worldview perspective.

This class will require 5-8 hours of study time per week, approximately half for reading and half for written work.

- **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 (2-3 pages double-spaced):** Each week, students will submit a written response and analysis to specific questions posted about the topics of the week.
- **Exams (3-5 pages of double-spaced writing):** Four essay exams will ask students to demonstrate understanding of concepts and to apply learning to a given situation.

Textbook

Links to the free online textbook are included in the class.

Counts as... POLS 201 counts in the SOCIETY AND CULTURE portion of Concordia’s Liberal Arts Core curriculum.

Technology Requirements

Hardware

- Students need a laptop or desktop with reliable broadband internet access.
- The Blackboard App should be used on tablets and mobile devices.
- (Some courses) Camera & microphone may be needed for video conferencing.
- Speakers or headphones.

Browser

- Concordia uses Blackboard Learn which runs best in Firefox or Chrome.
- Disable pop-up blockers and ENABLE cookies.
- Errors are OK if they are for compliance of Java, Shockwave, and Flash.

Software

- A word processor is required. Office, Pages, Google docs will work.
- Some courses will require presentation or video software (PowerPoint or equivalent).
- Students have FREE access to Microsoft Office 365 ([download / instructions](http://download / instructions)).
Unit 1 Students and the System
Wk 1: American Government and Christian Civic Engagement
   Quiz on Reading, Journal assignment, Written Assignment: Church and State
Wk 2: The Constitution and its Origin
   Quiz on Reading, Discussion assignment, Written Assignment: E Pluribus Unum
Wk 3: Federalism and American Exceptionalism
   Quiz on Reading, Journal assignment, Written Assignment: Who Should Decide?

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

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

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