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.

**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](#)
POLS 201 Course Schedule

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