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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Evaluation and Grading</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journals/Discussion</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written response papers</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>Four exams</td>
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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
- Concordia uses Blackboard Learn which runs best in Firefox or Chrome.
- Students need a computer with reliable broadband internet access.
- Tablets and phones can be used but a laptop or desktop is suggested for tests and written assignments.
  It is OK if optional compliance on Java, Shockwave, and Flash show errors.
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