

## 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:

Discussions & Journals	20%
Quizzes	20%
Written response papers	30%
Exams	30%

### 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.



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.