

**Course Number: PSI 101**  
**Course Title: American Politics**  
**Term and Year:**

## I. Course Instructor

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- Instructor Name:
- Contact information for instructor:
- Office Hours: Available for emails anytime. Texts and calls during normal business hours. If you have questions of a personal nature such as relating a personal emergency, questioning a grade on an assignment, or something else that needs to be communicated privately, you are welcome to contact me via email. Please allow 24 hours for me to respond to emails Monday-Friday and 48 hours on the weekend. If you have a question about the technology being used in the course, please contact the Doane University Help Desk for assistance (contact information is listed below).

## II. Course Details

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- **Course dates/times:** Online Course This is an online course and there will not be any face-to-face class sessions. All assignments and course interactions will utilize internet technologies. You must have a reliable internet connection throughout the duration of the course. This course uses Canvas for the facilitation of communication between faculty and students, submission of assignments, and posting of grades. The Canvas Course Site can be accessed at <https://doane.instructure.com>. In addition, check your Doane University email account regularly, as I may send important information via email.
- **Course pre/co-requisites:** No prerequisites required.
- **Course description: American Politics:** This course is designed to introduce students to several areas of American political science such political institutions, processes, behavior, and problems of government. These areas focus on political problems that affect our lives and shape the world around us. Important theories and models to politics will be introduced as well as how political science study is conducted. This course gives students an introduction into different philosophies of government and how various political systems may be organized.
- **Program Learning and Student Course Learning Outcomes:**

Course Objectives:	Aligned Module Objectives:
1. Explain the various American political institutions and describe how they interact to protect individual liberties and limit government	1.1 Define politics, government, popular sovereignty 1.2 Identify types of U.S. representative systems 1.3 Describe reasons for the U.S. Constitution 1.4 Evaluate the Constitutional Convention 1.5 Recognize constitutional principles 1.6 Describe restrictions on the government 1.7 Discuss the growth of interest groups 1.8 Explain the concept of a free press 1.9 Explain the concept of public opinion 1.10 Explain the concept of elections

2. Compare the key functions of the three branches of government and distinguish each branch between federal, state, and local systems.	2.1 Recognize division of powers in U.S. System 2.2 Categorize U.S. Federalism evolution periods 2.3 Identify responsibilities of Congress 2.4 Explain bicameralism in Congress 2.5 Diagram the legislative process 2.6 List constitutional duties of the Presidency 2.7 Name the informal duties of the President 2.8 Discuss the structure of the bureaucracy 2.9 Explain the jurisdiction of the U.S. Judiciary 2.10 Identify the structure of Federal Courts 2.11 Evaluate the selection of Federal Judges
3. Demonstrate how government and politics impact individuals and apply this to the student's daily interactions with government.	3.1 Explain the freedom of religion and expression 3.2 Illustrate civil liberty protections 3.3 Describe the concept of civil rights 3.4 Explain the nominating and election process
4. Assess the different kinds of political systems and compare the advantages and disadvantages of each system using recognized theories and models.	4.1 Define direct and representative democracy 4.2 Compare forms of governmental systems 4.3 Analyze the pros and cons of Federalism 4.4 Evaluate the stages of policymaking 4.5 Rate the concept of majority rule 4.6 Demonstrate Political Freedom and Equality
5. Categorize political ideologies according to their impact on political systems and formulate how modern political parties align to each ideology.	5.1 Examine political ideology 5.2 Discuss interpretations of the Constitution 5.3 Explain the concept of political parties 5.4 Illustrate political parties' activities & strength 5.5 Describe presidential & congressional elections
6. Evaluate the effectiveness of each political institution and assess their sustainability for future generations.	6.1 Evaluate various U.S. Civil Rights Movements 6.2 Justify interest groups resources and activities 6.3 Assess two-party competition in politics 6.4 Evaluate media bias in the U.S. 6.5 Assess interpreting public opinion polls 6.6 Compare voter choice outcomes 6.7 Justify the power of the U.S. Bureaucracy 6.8 Rate judicial review and decision making

- [Doane Core LAR or FAK Outcomes](#): Students will gain a greater understanding of themselves and the communities in which they live and work, and how identity is formed through the interaction of the individual and larger society. Students will work to explore dimensions of human experience regarding perceptions of self, understand how individuals interact to form communities and social structures, and analyze the practical and ethical implications of interactions between individuals and those social structures.
- Course credit hours: 3
- Textbook/Supplemental Reading: [Doane Bookstore Link](#)
  - **Title:** *Analyzing American Democracy - Politics and Political Science*
  - **Author:** Jon R. Bond
  - **Edition/Publisher:** Routledge Taylor & Francis Group (3rd Ed. 2019)
  - **ISBN #:** 978-1-138-34519-5
- Additional resources required by the student: No optional textbook and materials.

- Minimum Technology Suggestions:
  - Reliable computer and internet connection
  - Web browser access (Chrome, Edge, Firefox, Safari)
  - Adobe Acrobat Reader (free)
  - Word processing software -Microsoft or Google Docs
  - Webcam and mic

### III. Instructional Details

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- Instructional Approach: My instructional approach is founded on fostering an environment of active engagement and critical thinking. I prioritize student-centered learning by employing a variety of interactive techniques such as group discussions, case studies, and hands-on activities that encourage students to apply theoretical concepts to real-world scenarios. I aim to create a supportive atmosphere where students feel empowered to express their ideas, ask questions, and challenge assumptions. By incorporating multimedia resources, incorporating diverse perspectives, and providing timely feedback, I strive to cultivate a dynamic learning experience that promotes both academic excellence and personal growth among my students.
- Learning Management System: Canvas <https://doane.instructure.com>

### IV. Course Evaluation

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- Assessments/Point Structure:
 

Final Exam	30% of Grade
Short Papers	20% of Grade
Quizzes	10% of Grade
Concept Map	10% of Grade
Journal Takeaway Points	10% of Grade
Other Activities	20% of Grade

- Grading Process/Scale: Assignment of letter grades is based on a percentage of points earned. The letter grade will correspond with the following percentages achieved. All course requirements must be completed before a grade is assigned.

A+	97 – 100	A	94 – 96	A-	90 – 93	B+	87 – 89
B	84 – 86	B-	80 – 83	C+	77 – 79	C	74 – 76
C-	70 – 73	D+	67 – 69	D	64 – 66	D-	60 – 63
F	59 or below						

- Participation policy: Preparation for class means reading the assigned readings and reviewing all information required for that week.
- Late Work policy: All assignments must be completed and turned in to finish the course. Unless you discuss a late assignment with your instructor prior to the assignment due date, your assignment will lose 20% each day it is late.
- Assessment Submission process: All assignments, unless otherwise announced by the instructor, must be submitted via Canvas. Each assignment will have a designated place to submit the assignment. All material, assignments, and deadlines are subject to change with prior notice. It is your responsibility to stay in touch with your instructor and review the course site regularly to learn about changes to assignments or due dates.
- Attendance/Participation: You should plan to work on this course every day. This is a condensed, fast-paced, course. Expect to spend approximately 18 hours a week preparing for and actively participating

in this 8-week course. Attendance in an online course means logging into the Canvas on a regular basis and participating in all the activities that are posted in the course.

## V. Preliminary Class Plans and Topics

### Course Schedule/Information – Subject to Change:

Class Session	Topics	Readings	Assessments & Activities Due	Assessments Matched to Learning Outcomes
Week 1	- American Democracy	- Chapter 1	-	Quiz
Week 2	- Government of Laws	- Ch. 2 and 3	- Paper submission	Quiz
Week 3	- Liberty and Freedom	- Ch. 4 and 5	-	Quiz
Week 4	- Citizen Involvement	- Ch. 6 and 7	- Paper submission	Quiz
Week 5	- Influencing Public Opinion	- Ch. 8 and 9	- Paper submission	Quiz
Week 6	- Electing American Leaders	- Ch. 10 and 11	- Paper submission	Quiz
Week 7	- Making and Enforcing Laws	- Ch. 12, 13, and 14	- Paper submission	Quiz
Week 8	- Judiciary and Policymaking	- Ch. 15 and 16	-	Quiz, Final Exam

## VI. Standard Syllabus Information

### Technical Support Contact Information:

If you need technical assistance, please access the [Self Service Portal](#). You may reach the Service Center at 402-826-8411 or by email at [help@doane.edu](mailto:help@doane.edu).

### Academic Integrity:

Fundamental to our mission, our core values, and our reputation, Doane University adheres to high academic standards. Students of Doane University are expected to conduct themselves in a manner reflecting personal and professional integrity. Disciplinary actions may be taken against students whose

academic behavior is not congruent with the expectations of the University. Students are responsible for adhering to the standards detailed in this policy. Not being familiar with these standards does not mean that the students will not be accountable for adherence to them. Additional details on the Academic Integrity policy for violating academic integrity are published in the undergraduate and graduate [catalogs](#).

**Accommodations:**

Any student who thinks they may need an accommodation based upon the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Disability Services (<https://www.doane.edu/disability-services>) to coordinate reasonable accommodations as soon as possible.

**Course Participation:**

Doane University expects active participation by a student in a course, whether the course is on-ground or online. A student is expected to be prompt and regularly attend on-ground classes in their entirety. Regular engagement is expected for online courses.

**Grade Appeal Process:**

Students who believe that their grade was miscalculated due to a mathematical error should contact the instructor within ten (10) days of the grade posting. A student is encouraged to talk with their advisor to offer an assessment of the concern and to clarify the steps of the appeal process. More information is published in the undergraduate and graduate [catalogs](#).

**Anti-Harassment Policy:**

Doane University, referred to as the "University", is committed to providing a safe and non-discriminatory learning, living, and working environment for all members of the University community. This policy addresses the University's responsibilities under Title IX, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013, and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act ("Clery Act"). More information is published in the student [handbooks](#).

**Syllabus Changes:**

The instructor and Doane University reserve the right to make changes as necessary to this course syllabus. All students will be notified of any changes.

**Doane Syllabus Addendum:**

Each student is responsible for being aware of the policies, resources, and expectations as specified in the Doane Syllabus Addendum located at: <https://www.doane.edu/Syllabus>