

# Political Science – 1100

## American Government

M-W-F: 11a – 11:50a  
Agriculture Building 2-10

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Office Hours: T-R, 9a – 12p

### Course Description

As the title suggests, this course is your classic overview of the American government. While much of this might seem familiar from your junior or high school civic courses, much of the content (particularly the literature) should be new to you. We will examine the U.S. government, its formation, and its activity, in three parts. First, we will take on the grand theories and ideas that shaped the institutions (like the presidency, Congress, bureaucracy, etc.) and rights. Second, we will take a politics-free look at these institutions, and especially the bureaucracy, to see just how banal governance really is. Finally, in the third and last section, we will discuss political behavior and policy making; are politics good for policy? Is political gridlock the wave of the future?

While this class is of the “lecture” variety I welcome your input, insight, and opinions. Students should feel free to ask questions and make statements.

### Grading

There will be three tests and one Missouri constitution assignment comprising the greater bulk of your grade. Quizzes will be administered (in the classic “pop” fashion), but their impact on one’s overall grade will be minimal.

- Missouri Constitution Assignment = 22.5%
- Section 1 Test = 22.5%
- Section 2 Test = 22.5%
- Section 3 Test (Final) = 22.5%
- Quizzes = 10%

Each test will be 50 questions, multiple choice. They will be administered on the assigned dates (per the syllabus description) and students will have the entirety of the class period to complete them. This does not include the final which will occur at an assigned date and time during finals week.

The *Missouri Constitution Assignment Instructions* can be found on Blackboard under Course Content. It consists of 25 questions from the Missouri constitution and may be answered directly from the Missouri constitution. It should be emailed, to me, by 11:59pm Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>.

Your final, letter grade for the class will be calculated by the following scale:

- 97 to 100 - A+
- 94 to 97 - A
- 90 to 93 - A-
- 87 to 89 - B+
- 84 to 87 - B
- 80 to 83 - B-
- 77 to 79 - C+
- 74 to 77 - C
- 70 to 73 - C-
- 67 to 69 - D+
- 64 to 67 - D
- 60 to 63 - D-
- 59 and below - F

### **University Policies**

*Attendance* is mandatory, as in, you must come to class. While I do not count attendance in the final grade, it will be incumbent on you to collect any missed lecture notes. Tests and quizzes are *only* administered in class on the date assigned. Make-up tests and quizzes will only be allowed in the event of a *documented* medical or family emergency, or university sanctioned event. In the case of the latter, student athletes, members of Marching Mizzou, or any other University organization, it is in your and my best interest that I be informed of any of these events as soon as possible so that we may schedule a make-up.

*Academic honesty*... don't cheat. Per the University's policy "[a]ny effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor." (See: <http://provost.missouri.edu/faculty/syllabus-information.php>)

*Classroom conduct:* This class, and its students will be respectful of others. I welcome diverse opinions and invite you all to do the same. If for any reason you have questions or concerns regarding “the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the departmental chair or divisional director; the director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities; the MU Equity Office, or [equity@missouri.edu](mailto:equity@missouri.edu).

“University of Missouri System Executive Order No. 38 lays out principles regarding the sanctity of classroom discussions at the university. The policy is described fully in Section 200.015 of the Collected Rules and Regulations. In this class, students may make audio or video recordings of course activity unless specifically prohibited by the faculty member. However, the redistribution of audio or video recordings of statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the course is prohibited without the express permission of the faculty member and of any students who are recorded. Students found to have violated this policy are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of section 200.020 of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters.” (See: <http://provost.missouri.edu/faculty/syllabus-information.php>)

*Disability services:* “If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible.

“If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please register with the Disability Center (<http://disabilitycenter.missouri.edu>), S5 Memorial Union, 573- 882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for persons with disabilities, click on ‘Disability Resources’ on the MU homepage.”

## Course Textbook

There is one required textbook for this course and a required companion “e-reader”.

- Morone, J.A. & Kersh, Rogan. (2016). *By the People, Brief* 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Oxford University Press.
- University of Missouri E-reader.

Assigned readings should be completed before class.

## Class Outline

Week 1: January 19 – January 23, Bienvenidos!; Begin Section 1.

Monday – **NO CLASS**      Wednesday – Introduction      Friday – M&K, Chapt. 1

E-Reader – Chapt. 1: Chapter II of the State of Nature.

Summary: Syllabus review and a broad introduction to the grand ideas that we will be revisiting throughout the semester.

Week 2: January 26 – January 30, The founding and foundational thoughts.

Monday – M&K Chapt. 2      Wednesday – M&K Chapt. 2/3      Friday – M&K Chapt. 2/3

E-Reader – Chapt. 1: Alexis de Tocqueville’s “Introduction to Democracy in America”  
Chapt. 3: McCulloch v. Maryland; Barron v. Mayor, *et al.*

Summary: This week is devoted to the political thoughts and foundational theories that were prevalent at the nation’s founding, and their place in contemporary American political thought. Also, an overview of the federalist system.

Week 3: February 2 – February 6, Civil Liberties and the Struggle for Civil Rights

Monday – M&K Chapt. 4      Wednesday – M&K Chapt. 4      Friday – M&K Chapt. 4

Summary: In depth overview of civil liberties; defining and recognizing these rights, their origin, and their status today.

Week 4: February 9 – February 13, Civil Liberties and the Struggle for Civil Rights, Cont’d.

Monday – M&K Chapt. 5      Wednesday – M&K Chapt. 5      Friday – M&K Chapt. 5

E-Reader – Chapt. 7: Mo. Ex. Rel. v. Canada; Brown v. Board of Education (I and II)

Summary: Continuation of Week 3’s discussion, this time focusing on the legal, social, and political battles that have attended the advancement of civil rights.

Week 5: February 16 – February 20, **NO CLASS, ISA** New Orleans.

Monday – **NO CLASS**      Wednesday – **NO CLASS**      Friday – **NO CLASS**

Summary: **NO CLASS** (International Studies Association annual conference). Study break for **Test 1** on February, 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mo. Constitution Assignment: **DUE 02/20/15, 11:59PM** to Blackboard.

Week 6: February 23 – February 27, **Test 1**; Begin Section 2.

Monday – M&K Chapt. 6      Wednesday – M&K Chapt. 6      Friday – **Test 1**

E-Reader – Chapt. 4: What Does an Election Tell You? (50 – 53)

Summary: Introduction to and beginning matter for Section 2, Political Behavior. Particularly focusing on political participation.

**Test 1:** Friday, February, 27<sup>th</sup>: Same class time and room. Bring a No. 2 pencil!! Test will consist of 50, multiple choice questions.

Week 7: March 2 – March 6, Politics and the Media

Monday – M&K Chapt. 7      Wednesday – M&K Chapt. 7      Friday – M&K Chapt. 7

Summary: A discussion on politics and the media. **See Blackboard for supplemental readings for class!**

Week 8: March 9 – March 13, Campaigns and Public Opinion.

Monday – M&K Chapt. 6,8    Wednesday – M&K Chapt. 6,8    Friday – M&K Chapt. 6,8

E-Reader – Chapt. 5: The Logic of Collective Action.

Summary: A discussion regarding the formation of public opinion, campaigns, and the logic (or lack there of) in collective action. **See Blackboard for supplemental readings!**

Week 9: March 16 – March 17, Interest Groups, Lobbying, and the Political Parties.

Monday – M&K Chapt. 9    Wednesday – M&K Chapt. 9    Friday – M&K Chapt. 9

E-Reader – Chapt. 5: The Scope and Bias of the Pressure System

Summary: An examination of how interest groups lobby and effect policy (if they have any effect at all!). Further, how do political parties react to lobbying, lobby for policy change themselves, and ultimately seek to reflect their constituency in policy outcomes.

Week 10: March 23 – March 27, **NO CLASS, Spring Break!**

Monday – **NO CLASS**    Wednesday – **NO CLASS**    Friday – **NO CLASS**

Summary: **NO CLASS.** MU Spring Recess. Study for **Test 2!**

Week 11: March 30 – April 3, **Test 2, Begin Section 3.**

Monday – M&K Chapt.10,11    Wednesday – Chapt.10,11    Friday – Chapt. 10,11

E-Reader – Chapt. 6: Congress: The Electoral Connection  
The Power to Persuade

Summary: Begin Section 3, Institutions and Policy Making. Focus this week is on Congress, the president, and the interplay between the two.

**Test 2:** Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Same class time, same classroom. Bring a No. 2 pencil!! Test will consist of 50 multiple choice questions.

Week 12: April 6 – April 10, The Bureaucracy.

Monday – M&K Chapt.12    Wednesday – M&K Chapt.12    Friday – M&K Chapt. 12

E-Reader – Chapt.6: Bureaucracy and the Public Interest.

Summary: Beginning of a lengthy discussion regarding the bureaucracy and its place in American political life. **See Blackboard for supplemental readings!**

Week 13: April 13 – April 17, The Bureaucracy, Cont'd.

Monday – M&K Chapt. 12    Wednesday – M&K Chapt. 12    Friday – M&K Chapt. 12

E-Reader – Chapt.6: Bureaucracy and the Public Interest.

Summary: Conclusion of a lengthy discussion regarding the bureaucracy and its place in American political life. **See Blackboard for supplemental readings!**

Week 14: April 20 – April 24, The Judicial Branch.

Monday – M&K Chapt. 13    Wednesday – M&K Chapt. 13    Friday – M&K Chapt. 13

Summary: One week on the American judiciary system.

Week 15: April 27<sup>th</sup> – May 1, Policy Making.

Monday – M&K Chapt. 14    Wednesday – M&K Chapt. 14    Friday – M&K Chapt. 14

E-Reader – Chapt. 8: Showdown in the Show-Me State.

Summary: Beginning of a long discussion on policy making, both domestic and foreign. This week's focus will be primarily domestic policy. **See Blackboard for supplemental readings!**

Week 16: May 4 – May 8, Policy Making, Cont'd; class wraps up!

Monday – M&K Chapt. 14    Wednesday – M&K Chapt. 14    Friday – **NO CLASS**

Summary: Closing remarks on policy making, this time focusing on foreign policy making. **See Blackboard for supplemental readings!** Also **NO CLASS** Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>: MU reading day! Study for your final!

Week 17: May 11 – May 15, **FINALS WEEK**

Summary: **FINAL, Wednesday May 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 – 9:30am, Agriculture Building Room 2-10.**