# *CPOL 2013 Introduction to American Government* Syllabus

Creative Commons Attribution License *CPOL 2013 Introduction to American Government Syllabus* is licensed [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) by *George L. Amedee, James Gilley, Kenya Jackson, Melanie Johnson, and Hayley Johnson*

**CPOL 2013 Introduction to American Government:**   
*The principles, institutions, processes, and functions of the government of the United States, and American political behavior*

**Course Brief Description:**   
*CPOL 2013 Introduction to American Government, three credit hours. The principles, institutions, processes, and functions of the government of the United States, and American political behavior.*

*The course is divided into thirteen modules covering fourteen chapters.*

**Prerequisite Knowledge:**

*There are no prerequisites for this course.*

**Course Learning Objectives:**

* Identify and understand the historical and political context of the creation of the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution.
* Analyze differences between the American form of government and other national governance structures.
* Describe the contributions and challenges of underrepresented populations within the American context
* Describe the rights, civil liberties, and responsibilities of citizens within the American context.
* Explain the selection process of US Political Leadership, and how citizens can be informed and engaged with the political process.

**Course Materials:**

*Intro to American Government* is an Open Access text provided to you at no additional cost.

<https://louis.pressbooks.pub/introamericangov/>

**Instructor Contact Information:** [*Keep as a placeholder for future adopters]*

Instructor:

* Name:
* Email:
* Phone:
* Office:
* Office Hours:
* Communication policy:

**Course Schedule:**

| Module | Topics and Concepts  List and describe as necessary the topics and concepts covered in each weekly unit. | Corresponding Course Materials  Where relevant, indicate if the resource is a chapter(s) or section(s) of a larger resource. |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Foundations of American Politics | Chapter 1 |
| 2 | Constitution | Chapter 2 |
| 3 | Federalism | Chapter 3 |
| 4 | Civil Liberties | Chapter 4 |
| 5 | Civil Rights | Chapter 5 |
| 6 | Participation (Interest Groups & Parties | Chapters 10 & 11 |
| 7 | Voting | Chapter 7 |
|  | Exam 1 |  |
| 8 | Congress | Chapter 11 |
| 9 | Executive | Chapter 12 |
| 10 | Judiciary | Chapter 13 |
| 11 | Bureaucracy | Chapter 15 |
| 12 | Domestic Policy | Chapter 16 |
| 13 | Foreign Policy | Chapter 17 |
|  | Exam 2 |  |

**Course Policies:** *[outline these as best as you can in terms of what is required for this course]*

* **Technology Requirements** *[This section is a placeholder for adopting instructors. Please customize accordingly.]*

*Example Language:*

You are responsible for ensuring that your computer or electronic device is able to connect to your school’s LSM and /or Moodle as required. You will need to login regularly to access the course. It is not the role of the instructor to help with technological issues, and you will be directed to the Information Technology Services desk at XXXX.

* **Computer Skills** [This section is a placeholder for adopting instructors. Please customize accordingly.]

*Example Language:*

This course requires proficiency with LMS / Moodle, modern internet browsers, word processing software, and viewing videos on YouTube.

To be successful in the course you will need regular access to a computer and a stable internet connection. Mobile devices such as phones, and chromebooks, will allow you to read documents, check grades and complete some activities including discussions. You might not be able to access all features of the course on a smaller device. You should have some familiarity with your institution’s LMS (eg. Canvas, Moodle), know how to access your library’s database, etc.

* **Evaluation** [Evaluation is left up to the adopting instructor.]

*May include both formative and summative assessment, graded items, and expectations around assessments (participation, submission process). Note the role of the H5P content in Pressbooks: is this for self-practice or for a grade. If graded, indicate the grading scheme (is it graded based on average attempt, best attempt, first attempt, or last attempt).*

*For Example:*

The graded work for this class falls into 4 categories: Exams, Quizzes, Papers, and Participation

* + Exams: There will be two exams given in this class: Midterm and Final. The midterm will be worth 20 percent of your final grade. The final will be worth 30 percent of your final grade. The format will be multiple choice. The exams will be auto-graded upon submission.
  + Quizzes: There will be one multiple choice quiz each module. These quizzes will cover material from the reading for the week. These quizzes will make up 20 percent of your final grade. Quizzes are auto graded upon submission.
  + Response papers: You are required to write one 300-500 word response paper each week in response to a question. Submit them in the Moodle portal. These are worth 20% of your final grade. All response papers will be graded based on this rubric:

**Critical Thinking Questions**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **RATING** | **Failing** | **Below Average** | **Competent** | **Advanced/ Sophisticated** |
| Criteria for evaluation. | Answer does not provide an argument for or against. Answer contains inaccuracies. Writing is poor and contains numerous grammatical mistakes and misspellings. | Answer fails to provide examples to support an argument for or against. Writing is poor and grammatical errors are common. Answer is somewhat incoherent. | Answer provides an argument with one or two examples that support it. Writing is acceptable for the college level but may contain one or two grammatical mistakes or misspellings. | Answer clearly provides an argument with two or more excellent examples that support it; student makes the argument clearly and eloquently. Answer is well organized and free of grammatical errors and misspellings. |
| **POINT VALUE** | **0** | **1** | **2** | **3** |
|  |  |  |  |  |

* + Participation: Students are required to be engaged and participate in class. This is worth 10% of your final grade. Points are earned on a weekly basis based on time spent in the course, engagement in discussions, and submitting assignments on or before the due date.
* **Grading Policy**

This course is taught on a 10 point grading scale, for example a 90=A 80=B etc. All late assignments will be penalized 1 letter grade per every 12 hours late.

**University Policies and Support:** *[Keep as a placeholder for future adopters]*

* **Code of Conduct**
* **Online Etiquette**
* **Academic Integrity**
* **Diversity Statement**
* **Accessibility and Disability Services**
* **Technology Support**
* **Academic Support Services**