

POSC 111: American National Government

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| Location: Jefferson City |
| Address: 3314 Emerald Lane, Jefferson City, MO 65109 |
| Section: 19SPRG2/POSC/111/AJEF |
| Semester Credit Hours: 3 |
| Class Day(s) and Time(s): Monday, Wednesday 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM from March 02, 2020 to April 25, 2020 |

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Course Information

Catalog Description

Survey of the American political system, with emphasis on the Constitution, governmental structure, the political process and the economic system. G.E.

Textbooks

As part of Truition®, students will receive their course materials automatically as described below.

 Sidlow. (2018). *Govt10* (10th). Cengage. eText

Bookstore Information

Visit <https://www.ccis.edu/bookstore.aspx> for details. Recommended texts are not included in the Truition®, No Book Costs, model. Students are responsible for purchasing their own recommended text if they desire to have it for class. Recommended eTexts are available for purchase directly from VitalSource.com.

eText Information

If a course uses an eText, (see textbook information above) the book will be available directly in Desire2Learn (D2L) seven days before the session begins, if registered for courses prior to that date. Upon first login to VitalSource, students should use their CougarMail email address; alternate email addresses cannot be used. More information about how to use the VitalSource platform, including offline access to eTexts, can be found in D2L.

Physical Course Materials Information

Students enrolled in courses that require physical materials will receive these materials automatically at the shipping address on file with Columbia College. Delivery date of physical materials is dependent on registration date and shipping location. Please refer to confirmation emails sent from Columbia College for more details on shipping status.

Returns: Students who drop a class are responsible for returning any physical course materials that were shipped. To initiate a return, visit [Ingram Returns](#) to generate a pre-paid return label. Materials from dropped courses must be returned within 30-days of receipt. **Failure to return physical items from a dropped course will result in a charge to the student account for all unreturned items.**

Note: Students who opt-out of having their books provided as part of [Truition®](#) are responsible for purchasing their own course materials.

Technology Requirements

THIS IS A TECHNOLOGY-ENRICHED COURSE WHICH COMBINES IN-SEAT INSTRUCTION WITH ONLINE LEARNING.

Participation in this course will require the basic technology for all classes at Columbia College:

- A computer with reliable internet access
- A web browser
- Acrobat Reader
- Microsoft Office or another word processor such as Open Office

For more information, see [technical requirements](#).

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Describe how the Constitution was developed and explain its primary provisions.
2. Describe the development of American federalism and explain its current application.
3. Describe the structure and evaluate the workings of the institutions of American government: Congress, Presidency, Bureaucracy and Supreme Court
4. Explain the impact of civil society, including public opinion, media organizations, interest groups and political parties on American politics.
5. Identify and explain civil liberties and civil rights protections and how these rights have been interpreted by the Supreme Court.
6. Use secondary sources to analyze contemporary issues in American politics.
7. Demonstrate engagement in civic activity.

Grading

| Grading Scale | | |
|---------------|------------|---------|
| Grade | Points | Percent |
| A | 900 - 1000 | 90-100% |
| B | 800 - 899 | 80-89% |
| C | 700 - 799 | 70-79% |
| D | 600 - 699 | 60-69% |
| F | 0 - 599 | 0-59% |

| Grade Weights | | |
|---------------------|--------|---------|
| Assignment Category | Points | Percent |
| Participation | 300 | 30% |

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|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Weekly News Item | 100 | 10% |
| Paper 1, Week 2 | 50 | 5% |
| Paper 2, Week 4 | 50 | 5% |
| Paper 3, Week 6 | 50 | 5% |
| Paper 4, Week 8 | 50 | 5% |
| Test 1 | 200 | 20% |
| Test 2 | 200 | 20% |
| Total | 1000 | 100% |

Schedule of Due Dates

Week 1

| Assignment | Points | Due |
|---------------------|--------|-------------|
| Course Introduction | 50 | March 2 & 4 |

Week 2

| Assignment | Points | Due |
|------------------------|--------|--------------|
| Chapters 4 & 5 Lecture | 50 | March 9 & 11 |
| Paper 1 | 50 | March 11 |

Week 3

| Assignment | Points | Due |
|------------------------|--------|---------------|
| Chapters 6 & 7 Lecture | 50 | March 16 & 17 |

Week 4

| Assignment | Points | Due |
|-----------------------------|--------|---------------|
| Chapters 8, 9, & 10 Lecture | 50 | March 23 & 25 |
| Paper 2 | 50 | March 25 |
| Test 1 | 200 | March 25 |

Week 5

| Assignment | Points | Due |
|--------------------------|--------|--------------------|
| Chapters 11 & 12 Lecture | 50 | March 30 & April 1 |

Week 6

| Assignment | Points | Due |
|--------------------------|--------|-------------|
| Chapters 13 & 14 Lecture | 50 | April 6 & 8 |
| Paper 3 | 50 | April 8 |

Week 7

| Assignment | Points | Due |
|--------------------|--------|---------------|
| Chapter 15 Lecture | 50 | April 13 & 15 |

Week 8

| Assignment | Points | Due |
|--------------------|--------|---------------|
| Chapter 16 Lecture | 50 | April 20 & 22 |
| Test 2 | 200 | April 22 |
| Paper 4 | 50 | April 22 |

Total Points: 1000

Assignment Overview

Assignments

Participation - Students are expected to participate in class. This means join in during discussions, ask questions, and practice engaged learning. Students will be regularly asked to complete work in a group or demonstrate their work in front of the class.

Weekly News Item - At the beginning of class each week we will, each of us, introduce a news item we found that relates to the classroom material. These should be from reputable news sources and concern governance more so than politics. We will collect these electronically on the course's D2L page.

Participation and weekly news items are worth a combined 50 points per week.

Papers - There are four, bi-weekly papers that will concern course materials covered. Students are asked to write three to four pages (APA format, double spaced) in response to a prompt released on the last day of class of the preceding week. Students will be graded on composition and their ability to craft an academic argument.

Examinations

There are two exams: A midterm and final each worth approximately 20% of the students' grades. These exams will only cover the materials preceding it (i.e. no cumulative final). These tests will be a mix of multiple choice, true-or-false, and essay questions.

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken every class. Make-up tests and quizzes will only be allowed in the event of a documented medical or family emergency, or College sanctioned event. In the case of the latter, student athletes, or members of any other College 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.

No makeup quizzes or exams will be given without the proper documentation.

Course Outline

Click on each week to view details about the activities scheduled for that week.

Week 1: March 2 & 4

Course Introduction

On March 2 we will have a course overview and syllabus review. We will spend some time getting to know each other, and have a brief lecture on Sidlow, Chapter 1. We will start our weekly news item discussion on March 4.

Chapters 2 & 3 Lecture

On Wednesday March 4 we will have a lecture and class discussion regarding two chapters of Sidlow. Specifically chapters 2 (The Constitution) and 3 (Federalism). The **Prompt for Paper 1** will be released at the end of class on the 4th.

Week 2: March 9 & 11

Chapters 4 & 5 Lecture

On March 9 we will begin a discussion regarding civil liberties and civil rights (Sidlow chapters 4 & 5) and finishing on March 11th.

Paper 1

Week 3: March 16 & 18

Chapters 6 & 7 Lecture

On the 16th of March we begin what is really two weeks on the actors that surround policy making processes and the institution of voting. This week we will be looking at political parties and interest groups (Sidlow chapters 6 & 7). The **Paper 2 prompt** will be released at the end of class on March 18th.

Week 4: March 23 & 25

Chapters 8, 9, & 10 Lecture

We will wrap up our discussion on actors in the political process this week. On the 25th we will have our first exam.

Paper 2

Test 1

Test 1 will cover chapters 1 - 10 of Sidlow.

Week 5: March 30 & April 1

Chapters 11 & 12 Lecture

This week starts the second half of our class. We will begin discussing the two branches of government that you are likely most familiar with; Congress (chapter 11) and the presidency (chapter 12). The **prompt for paper 3 will be released** at the end of class on April 1.

Week 6: April 6 & 8

Chapters 13 & 14 Lecture

This week will be devoted to the carrying out and interpretation of policy. We will discuss those who carry out policy directly (the bureaucracy, chapter 13) and those who interpret it as law (the judiciary, chapter 14).

Paper 3

Week 7: April 13 & 15

Chapter 15 Lecture

We begin to ease into the last week of class with two, one chapter weeks about policy making and policy domains. Week 7 we will concern ourselves with the domestic level (chapter 15). The **prompt for paper 4** will be released at the end of class April 15th.

Week 8: April 20 & 22

Chapter 16 Lecture

On April 20th we will have our last lecture for the course, this one on foreign policy (chapter 16).

Test 2

Our final exam for the class will cover chapters 11 - 16.

Paper 4

⊕ Additional Resources

Online databases are available at library.ccis.edu. You may access them using your CougarTrack login and password when prompted.

Technical Support

If you have problems accessing the course or posting your assignments, contact your instructor, the Columbia College Technology Solutions Center, or the D2L Helpdesk for assistance. If you have technical problems with the VitalSource eText reader, please contact VitalSource. Contact information is also available within the online course environment.

- Columbia College Technology Solutions Center: CCHelpDesk@ccis.edu, 800-231-2391 ex. 4357
- D2L Helpdesk: helpdesk@d2l.com, 877-325-7778
- VitalSource: support@vitalsource.com, 1-855-200-4146

Online Tutoring

Smarthinking is a free online tutoring service available to all Columbia College students. Smarthinking provides real-time online tutoring and homework help for Math, English, and Writing. Smarthinking also provides access to live tutorials in writing and math, as well as a full range of study resources, including writing manuals, sample problems, and study skills manuals. You can access the service from wherever you have a connection to the Internet. I encourage you to take advantage of this free service provided by the college.

Access Smarthinking through CougarTrack at [Students -> Academics -> Resources](#).

Columbia College Policies and Procedures

The policies set forth in the [Policy Library](#) are the current official versions of College policies and supersede and replace any other existing or conflicting policies covering the same subject matter. For more information on policies applicable to students, see [Student Policies](#). For more information on policies applicable to the entire Columbia College community, see [College-Wide Policies](#).

Students are expected to read and abide by the College policies. Policies of particular interest to students include, but not limited to the following:

- Graduate Grading Policy
- Undergraduate Grading Policy
- Registration Policy and Procedures
- Withdrawal Policy
- Alcohol and Other Drugs Policy
- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Additional Policies:

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is a cumulative process that begins with the first college learning opportunity. Students are responsible for knowing and abiding by the [Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures](#) and may not use ignorance of either as an excuse for academic misconduct. Additionally, all required papers may be submitted for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers may be included in the Turnitin.com reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. This service is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Use posted on the Turnitin.com site.

Disability Resources

If you have a disability that requires an accommodation, please speak with the instructor and consult the [Student Accessibility Resources](#) office. Student Accessibility Resources staff will determine appropriate accommodations and will work with your instructor to make sure these are available to you. To find additional information, see our [ADA and Section 504 Policy for Students](#).

Notice of Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity:

The College has a process through which students, faculty, staff and community members who have experienced or witnessed incidents of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation on the basis of protected status, can report their experiences to a College official. For more information, see our [Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity Policy and Complaint Resolution Procedure](#).

Title IX and Sexual Misconduct

The College is committed to addressing the issues of discrimination, harassment and sexual misconduct in the educational and workplace landscape and will continue to modify policies, procedures and prevention efforts as needed. For more information, see the College's [Title IX and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#).

Course Policies and Procedures:

Attendance Policy

Columbia College students are expected to attend all classes and laboratory periods for which they are enrolled.

For classes with an online component, attendance for a week includes submitting any assigned online activity. Assigned activities are scheduled prior to the course commencing. Assigned activity due dates are subject to change based on actual course progression and will be adjusted as necessary. Attendance for the week is based upon the date work is submitted. A class week is defined as the period of time between Monday and Sunday (except for week 8, when the work and the course will end at 11:59 PM Central Time on Saturday.) The course and system deadlines are based on the Central Time Zone.

Students are directly responsible to instructors for class attendance and work missed during an absence for any cause. If absences jeopardize progress in a course, the College reserves the right to drop or withdraw students from classes. For additional information, see the Administrative Withdrawal for Non-Attendance heading in the [Withdrawal Policy](#).

CougarMail

All students are provided a CougarMail account when they enroll in classes at Columbia College. You are responsible for monitoring email from that account for important messages from the College and from your instructor.

Students should use email for private messages to the instructor and other students. The class discussions are for public messages so the class members can each see what others have to say about any given topic and respond.

Late Assignment Policy

All classes rely on participation and a commitment to your instructor and your classmates to regularly engage in the reading, discussion and writing assignments. You must keep up with the schedule of reading and writing to successfully complete the class.

No late assignments will be accepted without the prior approval of the instructor.

Acceptance of a late assignment is at the discretion of the instructor.

Make-up examinations may be authorized for students who miss regularly-scheduled examinations due to circumstances beyond their control. Make-up examinations must be administered as soon as possible after the regularly scheduled examination period and must be administered in a controlled environment.

Student Conduct

All Columbia College students, whether enrolled in a land-based or online course, are responsible for behaving in a manner consistent with Columbia College's [Student Conduct Code](#) and [Acceptable Computing Use Policy](#). Students violating these policies or any other College policy will be referred to the office of Student Affairs and/or the office of Academic Affairs for possible disciplinary action. The Student Code of Conduct, the [Student Behavioral Misconduct Policy and Procedures](#), and the Acceptable Computing Use Policy can be found in the Policy Library at ccis.edu/policies. The adjunct faculty member maintains the right to manage a positive learning environment all students must adhere to the conventions of online etiquette when enrolled in a course with an online component.