

Political Science 101 (GT-SS1), Section 1
American Government
Monday, Wednesday 10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.
Friday (Online)
Fall, 2022
Houston Hall, 138

Professor: Justin Gollob, Ph.D.

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Office Hours

Monday: 9:00-10:00 a.m.
Tuesday: 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Wednesday: 9:00-10:00 a.m.
Thursday: 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Anytime by Appointment
(Zoom appointments available by email request)

I. Required Text

Ginsberg, Benjamin, Theodore J. Lowi, Margaret Weir, Caroline J. Tolbert and Andrea Campbell. 2021. *We the People: An Introduction to American Politics*. 13th ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.¹

II. Catalogue Description

Structures and functions of the American political system and the constitutional development of federalism and separation of powers. Also, citizen participation and influence in politics, the Congress, presidency and the supreme court, and public policy including civil rights.

III. Course Overview

Are you confused by politics? Do you find yourself unable to decipher the complex game of politics? Have you concluded that politics is illogical? If you said “yes” to any of these questions you are not alone. Many Americans see little rhyme or reason to politics and are quickly losing faith in their political system. If this sounds like you then this course may be helpful.

In this course we will examine the logic of American politics. While many may see this as fool’s errand, the use of rational choice theory will help us. At the heart of this approach is the basic premise that individuals (politicians, voters, etc.) are rational beings acting in ways that are consistent with their preferences. By understanding the preferences of politicians and citizens, and the rules that structure their range of choices/actions, you may find that politics is relatively logical. We will also explore possible reforms to our system and the likely impacts those reforms would have on American politics.

¹ The cost of *We the People* has been billed directly to your student account through participation in the Direct Digital program. The eBook will be delivered to you digitally on the first day of class. This program is designed for convenience and cost savings. If you drop the course by the Fall 2022 deadline (September 6, 2022), you will receive a full refund for this Direct Digital charge on your student account. If you do not want to participate in the Direct Digital program, you may opt out. To opt-out, follow the instructions on the email sent to your student email account from the MavStore. If you opt out, you will be responsible for obtaining the course material on your own. New copies of the textbook (printed and eBook) include complimentary access to InQuizitive. If you possess a used copy of the book (which does not provide access to InQuizitive), you will need to purchase access to InQuizitive. See me for ordering instructions.

The first section of this course will cover the American founding, the US Constitution and the development of federalism, civil rights, and civil liberties. The second section examines the institutions and processes of the federal government. The final section explores the role of citizens in American government and the actions the federal government takes in major policy areas.

The Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) for this course, include:

- Explain the structures and function of the American political system.
- Describe the constitutional development of federalism and separation of powers.
- Explain citizen participation and influence in politics, Congress, the presidency and supreme court.
- Describe civil rights and civil liberties.

IV. Additional Student Learning Outcomes

This course is a critical component of CMU's Essential Learning Curriculum and a CMU Degree. In addition to knowledge in the course content area, this class will provide specific learning opportunities in the following areas:

- Produce effective arguments and summaries in written English,
- Critically examine and evaluate an argument,
- Demonstrate investigative and analytical thinking skills to solve problems.

As a GT Pathways course (GT-SS1), the following Student Learning Outcomes apply:

Critical Thinking:

1. Explain an Issue (required for GT-SS1)
 - a. Use information to describe a problem or issue and/or articulate a question related to the topic.
2. Utilize Context (required for GT-SS1)
 - a. Evaluate the relevance of context when presenting a position.
 - b. Identify assumptions.
 - c. Analyze one's own and others' assumptions.
5. Understand Implications and Make Conclusions (required for GT-SS1)
 - a. Establish a conclusion that is tied to the range of information presented.
 - b. Reflect on implications and consequences of stated conclusion.

Civic Knowledge

- 2a. Connect disciplinary knowledge to civic engagement through one's own participation in civic life, politics, and/or government.

All CMU baccalaureate graduates are expected to demonstrate proficiency in specialized knowledge/applied learning, quantitative fluency, communication fluency, critical thinking, personal and social responsibility, and information literacy. In addition to these campus-wide student learning outcomes, graduates of this major will be able to:

- Critically analyze the theories and concepts relevant to political science (specialized knowledge),
- Defend a political argument using established methods (empirical and normative) in the field of political science (intellectual skills, communication fluency),
- Articulate diverse perspective surrounding a political issue (critical thinking),

- Devise a strategy to promote civic involvement within the broader community for themselves and others (civic engagement).

V. Grading

Because learning comes in different forms, your progress is measured through a variety of activities. My hope is that you will shine in areas where you are naturally talented and work hard to develop hidden talents. Every attempt will be made to return graded work within one week of submission and will take no longer than two weeks (absent any unusual circumstances). The breakdown is as follows:

- Writing Assignment 10 percent
- Course Engagement 10 percent
- InQuizitive 20 percent
- Exam #1 20 percent
- Exam #2 20 percent
- Exam #3 20 percent

1.) **Writing Assignment:** You will complete a short (3-5 pages) writing assignment. More details (including format and due date) will be distributed in class.

2.) **Course Engagement:** To encourage regular engagement I will randomly assess attendance (or other appropriate course engagement activities). There will be a minimum of six attendance checks, but there can be as many as one per class if attendance starts to dwindle. If you miss class, but notify me BEFORE your absence, AND see me when you return to class, that absence will not count against your grade.

3.) **InQuizitive:** Much of your hybrid time will be spent completing InQuizitive exercises to help you prepare for the following week of class. The quizzes are adaptive and have a bit of gaming capability to help you grasp the core learning outcomes of each chapter. InQuizitive is included in the cost of a NEW textbook/ebook, or you can purchase access as a standalone product. Some details: (1) YOU MUST ACCESS INQUIZITIVE THROUGH THE INQUIZITIVE LINK IN THE INQUIZITIVE MODULE ON D2L. IF YOU DO NOT ACCESS INQUIZITIVE THROUGH D2L, YOUR GRADE WILL NOT BE SYNCED WITH THE GRADEBOOK. (2) InQuizitive chapters are listed on the syllabus. (3) Unless otherwise noted on the InQuizitive website, quizzes close the following Sunday at 11:59 p.m. (4) It is each student's responsibility to make sure that their online InQuizitive grade matches the InQuizitive grade listed in the D2L gradebook and to notify me of any discrepancies no later than the date of the final exam. (5) Each InQuizitive chapter counts the exact same to your grade no matter the length of the chapter.

4.) **Exams:** Three exams will be administered. More information about the exams will be discussed in class. The dates of the exams are listed on the course calendar.

VI. Class Policies

1.) **Readings:** Readings should be completed PRIOR to class. The readings are available through three separate sources:

- a. Course Textbook: Readings from your textbook will be listed on the syllabus as "We the People" followed by the chapter(s) you are required to read before class.
- b. D2L Readings: All readings on the syllabus listed as "D2L" can (coincidentally) be found

on D2L.

- c. **E-Reserve:** All readings on the syllabus listed as “*E-Reserve Reading*” can be found on Colorado Mesa University’s library webpage. To access these readings, go to the Tomlinson Library homepage and select “Course Reserves” towards the bottom of the page. Search by the course name or my name. If you have any problems accessing this material, contact me immediately.

2.) **Policy on Missed Exams:** Make-up exams are given at my discretion and only for legitimate reasons. Legitimate reasons are limited to circumstances where the cause of the absence from the regularly scheduled exam was unforeseen, uncontrollable, and reasonable in explaining your absence. *Requests for makeup exams must include official documentation from a recognized authority (e.g. physician) excusing you from class on the day of the regularly scheduled exam.* Without a legitimate and documented excuse, you may receive a *zero* on the exam (depending on the circumstances). If you are allowed to complete a makeup exam, it must be completed within one class of the regularly scheduled exam. Additionally, one full letter grade will be deducted from the assigned grade each day (calendar) that passes beyond the makeup exam date. Failure to take the makeup exam within five days will result in a zero.

3.) **Policy on Missed and Late Work:** Missed or late work will NOT be accepted unless: (1) advance notice is provided with documentation from a recognized authority (e.g. physician), or (2) the student provides a legitimate excuse that is documented by a recognized authority. Legitimate excuses are limited to circumstances where the cause of the lateness or absence was unforeseen, uncontrollable, and reasonable in explaining the lateness.

4.) **Incomplete Policy:** According to Colorado Mesa University’s academic policies, “Incomplete grades are temporary grades given to a student only in an emergency case and at the discretion of the instructor.” As such, you will not be allowed to take a grade of “Incomplete” unless there is a compelling and documented reason from a recognized authority (i.e.: physician) AND you have completed most of the course. If an “Incomplete” is justified it is **your** responsibility to make sure that the proper procedures are followed. If you are unsure of the policy, you should refer to Colorado Mesa University’s policy.

5.) **Academic Dishonesty Policy:** According to *The Maverick Guide*, academic dishonesty is defined as an “...intentional act of fraud, in which an individual seeks to claim credit for the work and efforts of another or uses unauthorized material or fabricated information in any academic exercise.” For a list of actions that qualify as academic dishonesty, please refer to the aforementioned guide (<http://www.coloradomesa.edu/studentservices/documents/MaverickGuide.pdf>). The same guide also states that “...penalties that lie within a professor’s prerogative include giving a reduced grade or failing the student for the plagiarized assignment/compromised exam, or failing the student for the course.” I reserve the right to impose any (or none) of these penalties depending on factors that include the severity and/or frequency of the offense. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with this policy.

6.) **Educational Access:** In coordination with Educational Access Services, reasonable accommodations will be provided for qualified students with disabilities. Please meet with the instructor the first week of class to make arrangements. The Coordinator of Educational Access Services, can be contacted at 248-1826, or in person in Houston Hall, Suite 108.

7.) **Changes to the Syllabus:** I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus. You will be notified of any and all changes in a timely manner.

8.) **Grade Policy:** You will receive a grade of *zero* for work that is not submitted on time and in the requested format. The grade system used in this class is the standard A through F system where 90-100% = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D; and 0%-59% = F. I reserve the right to “bump” borderline final grades to the higher grade, but this is at my discretion and is not automatic. Students rarely receive a bump if they have not submitted all required work throughout the semester.

9.) **Tutorial Learning Center (TLC) in Houston Hall 113:** The TLC is a FREE academic service for all Colorado Mesa University students. Tutors are available on a walk-in basis for many courses. They are open Monday through Thursday from 8am-6pm, and Fridays from 8am-5pm. They are also open Sundays from 1pm-6pm. Check their website for schedules and locations at www.coloradomesa.edu/tutoring or call 248-1392 with any questions.

10.) **The Writing Center in Houston Hall 223:** The Writing Center serves students across all disciplines and various stages of the writing process. We provide support for students to assimilate into the writing conventions of the university and their specific academic disciplines. Hours of operation are Monday-Friday 10-5 pm. Tutoring in writing will be located at branch campus also. Workshops for students in APA/MLA and English Language Learner small group tutoring is available.

11.) **Library Services:** CMU’s professional reference librarians support students with their research (finding print and electronic resources, evaluating sources, and citing them). 24/7 chat support from librarians is available via the library. The Reference Desk is on the first floor of Tomlinson Library. Reference Desk hours: Monday-Thursday 8am-9pm; Friday 8am-5pm; Saturday 10am-5pm; and Sunday 1pm-9pm. You can also reach a librarian by calling (970) 248-1860.

12.) **Student Services:** The Office of Student Services works to support CMU students in all aspects of college life, by offering a vast array of services, resources and programs that make each student's time at Colorado Mesa as exciting and successful as possible. Student Services works collaboratively with faculty, students, and staff to create a campus community that fosters the growth of students as strong individuals and productive citizens. To learn more, go to <http://www.coloradomesa.edu/student-services>.

13.) **Time Commitment:** An undergraduate student should expect to spend on this course a minimum of two hours outside the classroom for every hour in the classroom. Therefore, for this course (which constitutes three hours in the classroom a week) students should expect to spend no less than six hours a week on reading, writing, and studying in order to be fully successful in the course.

VII. Online Learning

1.) **Netiquette:** Communication is very important in any course, and especially so in an online environment. To maintain a positive and safe environment, please follow these netiquette guidelines. “Netiquette” refers to the etiquette or politeness you should utilize in online communications for this course. This includes email, discussions and chats. Even though this is a partially online course,

the CMU Student Code of Conduct still applies. Students in this class are expected to behave in a professional, respectful manner that is supportive of yourself, other students and faculty in creating a thoughtful and productive online environment. Netiquette includes the following:

Respect. Be respectful. Even though online communications are not face-to-face in this course, those communications are with real people. We can and will have differences of opinion but those differences can be expressed respectfully and politely.

Think. Think before you post. Follow the directions for posting. Be aware that multiple people will be viewing your posting and how that post might be interpreted. Maintain a fair and objective tone.

Focus. Focus and stay on topic. Make sure your communication is related to the topic being discussed. Ask questions and provide comments that are appropriate and relevant to the topic.

Clarity. Write clearly. The online environment can seem less formal than the traditional class. However, it is still an academic class in an institution of higher learning. Correct grammar and spelling are still important and required. Avoid abbreviations, the use of acronyms, slang and “text speak.”

Appropriateness. Use appropriate language and style. Profanity, slurs, flaming and offensive language are not acceptable. Ignore statements that do this. All caps and repeated punctuation is considered rude and aggressive and should not be used. Differences of opinions should be expected that lead to robust discussions. In disagreeing with someone, use language that encourages an intelligent discourse and discussion.

Consideration. Be considerate of others. Do not make derogatory, condescending or harassing remarks. Bullying, threatening or abusive language will not be tolerated.

Understanding. Allow for misunderstandings. Keep in mind that writing can often convey the incorrect tone or intention. Be forgiving of unintended rudeness or misunderstanding.

Citations. If you post contains work that is not your own, be sure to reference your sources.

2.) **Technology & Technology Skill Requirements:** You will need basic computer skills and should be comfortable using a word processing program, browsing for files, and copying and pasting between programs. You should have access to a computer that connects to high-speed internet and know your username and password. If you do not own a computer or if your computer malfunctions during the term, you will be expected to identify a computer to use.

To have the best learning experience possible, Colorado Mesa University strongly recommends students use the following technology minimums:

- High-speed Internet connection
- Microsoft Windows 8.1 or higher
- Microsoft Office 2013 or later (CMU offers Office 365 free of cost to all students.)
- Mac OS 10.14 (Mojave) or higher
- Java Runtime Environment 8
- The current version of Adobe Acrobat Reader DC
- D2L works best with Chrome and Firefox. You may also use the new Chromium version of Edge. Safari does **NOT** work reliably with D2L. The old versions of Edge and Internet Explorer are **NOT** supported by D2L. Remember to keep your browser updated. For more information on supported browsers for desktop and mobile devices, check out D2L's [Brightspace Help Browser Support](#).
- To check your personal system, check out D2L's [System Check](#).

- For courses using multimedia, you will also need speakers or earphones to play sound.
- Please note: A Chromebook is **NOT** compatible with all technology needed for online classes.

3.) **Technical Help:** If you experience a technical problem, call the Help Desk at (970) 249-2111 to receive technical support in the following areas:

VIII. Communication with the Instructor and Other Students

I encourage you to communicate with me regularly throughout the semester. Please send all emails to jgollob@coloradomesa.edu using your CMU email account. Considering I make a concerted effort to respond to email as soon as I receive it, kindly resend your email if you have not heard back from me within 24 hours. You are also required to regularly check your CMU email throughout the semester.

IX. Course Conduct

My teaching is guided by the basic belief that you are here by choice. I work hard to help motivated students succeed and do not tolerate disruptive behavior. Disruptive behavior includes any inappropriate action that reduces the amount of attention, time, and energy I can give to the class. As such, the following policies will be strictly enforced.

- 1.) Please use personal communication devices in a manner that poses **NO DISRUPTIONS** to the class.
- 2.) I will not tolerate disrespectful behavior towards other students' opinions, comments, or views. If a student does not wish to "debate" their standpoint, they are not required to do so. Rude, disrespectful, and uncivil behavior will force me to remove you from the class and report your behavior to the administration for possible further sanctions.
- 3.) Frequent tardiness is unacceptable as it is disruptive to the flow of class. If you are unable to attend class on time, you should register for a class that meets at a more convenient time.
- 4.) Sleeping in class is unacceptable behavior. If you do sleep during a class in which an assignment is distributed, you will not be allowed to complete it as you would be "gaming" the system.
- 5.) It is your responsibility to keep graded work that is returned over the course of the semester in the chance there is a grade dispute. I will only accept original graded work if such a dispute arises.

Course Calendar

Week 1

Monday, August 22

- 1.) Introduction

Wednesday, August 24

- 1.) Introduction (continued)
- 2.) D2L: InQuizitive (How to Use InQuizitive)

Friday, August 26

- 1.) D2L: InQuizitive (How to Read Charts and Graphs)
- 2.) D2L: InQuizitive (How to Evaluate Sources)
- 3.) D2L: InQuizitive (Chapter 1)

Week 2

Monday, August 29

- 1.) Discussion: The Logic of Politics . . . An Oxymoron?
- 2.) Reading: *We the People*: Chapter 1

Wednesday, August 31

- 1.) Discussion: The Logic of Politics . . . An Oxymoron?

Friday, September 2

- 1.) D2L: InQuizitive (Chapter 2)

Week 3

Monday, September 5

- 1.) Discussion: The American Founding & The United States Constitution
- 2.) Reading: *We the People*: Chapter 2
- 3.) Reading: *We the People*: The Declaration of Independence & The US Constitution (appendix)

Wednesday, September 7

- 1.) Discussion: The American Founding & the United States Constitution
- 2.) D2L: *Federalist Papers Numbers 15, 51, 46*
- 3.) E-Reserve Reading: Charles Beard, *An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States*

Friday, September 9

- 1.) D2L: InQuizitive (Chapter 3)

Week 4

Monday, September 12

- 1.) Discussion: Federalism I
- 2.) Reading: *We the People*: Chapter 3

Wednesday, September 14

- 1.) Discussion: Federalism II

2.) D2L Reading: *Barron v. Baltimore & McCulloch v. Maryland*

Friday, September 16

1.) D2L: InQuizitive (Chapters 4 and 5)

Week 5

Monday, September 19

- 1.) Discussion: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights I
- 2.) Reading: *We the People*: Chapters 4 & 5

Wednesday, September 21

- 1.) Discussion: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights II
- 2.) D2L Reading: Abraham Lincoln & Martin Luther King Jr.
- 3.) D2L Reading: *Brown v. Board of Education*

Friday, September 23

1.) Study Guide

Week 6

Monday, September 26

1.) Catchup and Review for Exam

Wednesday, September 28

Exam #1 Administered

Friday, September 30

1.) D2L: InQuizitive (Chapter 12)

Week 7

Monday, October 3

- 1.) Discussion: The Legislative Branch I
- 2.) Reading: *We the People*: Chapter 12

Wednesday, October 5

1.) The Legislative Branch II

Friday, October 7

1.) D2L: InQuizitive (Chapter 13)

Week 8

Monday, October 10

- 1.) Discussion: The Executive Branch I
- 2.) E-Reserve Reading: Richard Neustadt, *Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents*, Chapter 3
- 3.) Reading: *We the People*: Chapter 13

Wednesday, October 12

1.) Discussion: The Executive Branch II

2.) D2L: InQuizitive (Chapter 15)

Friday, October 14

*** FALL BREAK ***

Week 9

Monday, October 17

- 1.) Discussion: Judicial Review
- 2.) D2L Reading: *Federalist Paper Number 78*
- 3.) D2L Reading: *Marbury v. Madison*
- 4.) Reading: *We the People*: Chapter 15

Wednesday, October 19

- 1.) Discussion: The Judicial Branch

Friday, October 21

- 1.) D2L: InQuizitive (Chapter 14)

Week 10

Monday, October 24

- 1.) Discussion: The Bureaucracy I
- 2.) Reading: *We the People*: Chapter 14

Wednesday, October 26

- 1.) Discussion: The Bureaucracy II

Friday, October 28

- 1.) Study Guide

Week 11

Monday, October 31

- 1.) Catchup and Review for Exam

Wednesday, November 2

Exam #2 Administered

Friday, November 4

- 1.) D2L: InQuizitive (Chapter 10)

Week 12

Monday, November 7

- 1.) Discussion: The Electoral System I
- 2.) Reading: *We the People*: Chapter 10

Wednesday, November 9

- 1.) Discussion: The Electoral System II

Friday, November 11

- 1.) D2L: InQuizitive (Chapters 6 and 8)
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Week 13

Monday, November 14

- 1.) Discussion: Political Ideology & Public Opinion I
- 2.) Reading: *We the People*. Chapters 6 & 8

Wednesday, November 16

- 1.) Discussion: Political Ideology & Public Opinion II

Friday, November 18

- 1.) D2L: InQuizitive (Chapters 9 and 11)
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Week 14

Monday, November 21

** THANKSGIVING BREAK **

Wednesday, November 23

** THANKSGIVING BREAK **

Friday, November 25

** THANKSGIVING BREAK **

Week 15

Monday, November 28

- 1.) Discussion: Political Parties and Interest Groups I
- 2.) Reading: *We the People*. Chapter 9
- 3.) D2L Reading: Federalist Paper Number 10

Wednesday, November 30

- 1.) Discussion: Political Parties and Interest Groups II
- 2.) Reading: *We the People*. Chapter 11

Friday, December 2

- 1.) D2L: InQuizitive (Chapter 17)
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Week 16

Monday, December 5

- 1.) Panopto Video: Social Policy
- 2.) Reading: *We the People*. Chapter 17
- 3.) D2L Reading: Franklin Roosevelt, *Call for Federal Responsibility*
- 4.) D2L Reading: Herbert Hoover, *Against the Proposed New Deal*

Wednesday, December 7

- 1.) Catch-up
- 2.) Review Session for Final Exam

Friday, December 9

- 1.) Study Guide

FINAL EXAM: DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED