American Government Syllabus

P SC 1103

Course Information

Course Description

The TEL Library American Government course provides a comprehensive introduction to the concepts of United States government. The course explores all branches of the United States government and provides students with an understanding of the basic organizations and policies of the political system. An exploration of “What is Government?”, the Constitution and the philosophical origins of government systems are provided at the beginning of the course to provide students with a solid foundation. Other topics round out the course including public policy, civil liberties, and American political culture.

Course Outcomes

- Evaluate and apply the foundations of American Government to everyday life and scenarios; including interpretations of the constitution and civil liberties/rights.
- Evaluate and explain the structure of American politics including public policy and the role of state and local governments.
- Explain and compare the three branches of American Government and how they interact in the development, enforcement, and interpretation of legislation.
- Analyze and compare international and national policy as well as the different types of government and economic systems around the globe.

Course Materials

All required reading and other materials necessary to complete required exercises are provided within the course platform. Links to additional, optional resources on external websites are also provided for each lesson in a Lesson Toolbox.

Course Length
This is a self-paced course allowing students to learn according to their personal schedules. Overall, it is estimated that this course will take approximately 140 hours to complete.

We recommend that you work through the course at a comfortable pace that allows you to make regular, incremental (daily and/or weekly) progress. If neither of the schedules above work for you, please feel free to create your own.

On average, we estimate 45 minutes to read and watch all content in each lesson, and to complete the Check Your Knowledge quiz. In addition, we estimate an additional 75 minutes of study time per lesson to prepare for Module Quizzes and to complete the Evidence activity for each module.

The table below provides the estimated study time required to complete a typical module in this course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Module</th>
<th>Estimated Online Study Time</th>
<th>Estimated Offline Study Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lesson 1</td>
<td>45 minutes</td>
<td>75 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesson 2</td>
<td>45 minutes</td>
<td>75 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesson 3</td>
<td>45 minutes</td>
<td>75 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesson 4</td>
<td>45 minutes</td>
<td>75 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Total Study Time</td>
<td>8 hours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prerequisite(s)

None

Earning Credit

Minimum Passing Grade

To earn credit for this course, students must earn a minimum average grade of 70% or higher. A complete list of requirements is provided in the Course Requirements document.

Grading Policies

Grade Weighting
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Grade Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Check Your Knowledge Quizzes</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Evidence with Self and Peer-Evaluations</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Quizzes</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Exam 1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Exam 2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assignment Grading Descriptions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Check Your Knowledge (CYK) Quizzes</td>
<td>Multiple-choice quizzes that are autograded. Students may take these as many times as desired to practice for Module quizzes. Students receive full credit for attempting each CYK quiz but must complete it at least once to earn participation credit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Evidence</td>
<td>Short essay activities that are either auto-graded or graded manually by an instructor with feedback provided according to an assignment rubric or peer/self-evaluated for students to learn evaluation and goal setting skills (participation points are awarded). Students receive full credit for completing each activity according to the assignment rubric.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module Quizzes</td>
<td>Multiple-choice quizzes that are auto-graded. Students may take only once.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Exam 1</td>
<td>Proctored, multiple-choice exam that is auto-graded. Students may take only once.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Exam 2</td>
<td>Proctored, multiple-choice exam that is auto-graded. Students may take only once.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grading Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90.0 – 100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80.0 – 89.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70.0 – 79.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60.0 – 69.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
*To earn credit for this course, students must earn a minimum average grade of 70% or higher.

**Course Policies**

**Academic Integrity**

Students assume the responsibility for maintaining honesty and integrity in all work submitted (for credit and not for credit) in the course. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- Cheating
- Fabrication
- Hacking
- Plagiarism
- Reusing or re-purposing your own work
- Unauthorized collaboration

Students engaging in academic dishonesty are subject to losing credit for a quiz or assignment, or being denied credit for the course.

**Exams**

In this class, you will take your midterm and final examinations online and they will be proctored by a service called ProctorExam from MonitorEDU. This service uses a Chrome browser extension to record your computer webcam, speakers, and desktop during the exam. A Student Quick-Guide will be provided on how to use this service in the exam modules.

**Technical Requirements:**

- Desktop or portable computer, including Windows PC, Macintosh OS, or Chromebook (tablets, cell phones and iPads are not supported).
- **Google Chrome Browser**, with the ProctorExam Screen Sharing Chrome Browser Extension and pop-up blocker disabled
- A working built-in or external webcam, speakers, and microphone
- Internet speed must be at least 2 Mbps download and 2 Mbps upload. Hot spots are not recommended. Test internet speed at: [http://www.speedtest.net](http://www.speedtest.net)
Disability Services Statement

TEL Library is committed to providing equitable student access to course content and materials by providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Any student seeking to request academic accommodations on the basis of a documented disability should contact the TEL Library support team at disabilityservices@tellibrary.org to coordinate reasonable accommodations.

Course and Technical Support

If you have a question about course requirements, a technical issue, or other issue while taking this course, please contact our support team at support@tellibrary.org. The TEL Library support team member will prioritize your request and respond accordingly.

Technical Requirements

This course is delivered 100% online and you will be required to have access to a computer, laptop, or web-capable mobile device — along with consistent access to the internet — to access course material and complete assignments.

To access course materials including lectures, quizzes, assignments, and exams, you will need to be logged into your TEL Library account and enrolled in the course. Although you can access some course material without being logged into your TEL Library account, you will need to be logged in to access the entire course and to complete graded assessments.

To access detailed information about the minimum hardware requirements necessary to take full advantage of TEL Library courses, visit the course home page.
Course Schedule

General Due Dates:
All Module assignments are due Friday by 3:00 pm of the week unless otherwise indicated. You are welcome to turn in work early and work ahead. Please note, some of the assignments require a peer review - so make sure you give yourself and your reviewer plenty of time.

Week 0 (January 3rd - January 11th)

Module 0: Success in an Online College Course
- Lesson 1: Introduction to TEL Library Courses
  - Check Your Knowledge
- Lesson 2: Developing a College Mindset
  - Check Your Knowledge
- Lesson 3: Becoming a Successful Online Learner
  - Check Your Knowledge
- Lesson 4: Finding and Using Evidence Effectively
  - Check Your Knowledge

Graded Assignments
- Check Your Knowledge Quizzes
- Module 0 Quiz
- Module 0 Evidence

Week 1 (January 14th - January 17th)

Module 1: What is Government
- Lesson 1: Theories, States, and Characteristics of Governments
  - Check Your Knowledge
- Lesson 2: Purpose and Process of Government
  - Check Your Knowledge
- Lesson 3: Foundational Democratic Principal
  - Check Your Knowledge
- Lesson 4: U.S. Democratic Values
Check Your Knowledge

Graded Assignments
Check Your Knowledge Quizzes
Module 0 Quiz
Module 0 Evidence

Week 2 (January 22nd - January 25th)

Module 2: The Constitution
Lesson 1: Limiting Government
  ◦ Check Your Knowledge
Lesson 2: Independence and the Articles of Confederation
  ◦ Check Your Knowledge
Lesson 3: The Constitutional Convention
  ◦ Check Your Knowledge
Lesson 4: Ratification of the Constitution
  ◦ Check Your Knowledge
Lesson 5: The Constitutional Amendments
  ◦ Check Your Knowledge

Graded Assignments
Check Your Knowledge Quizzes
Module 2 Quiz
Module 2 Evidence

Week 3 (January 28th - February 1st)

Module 3: Federalism and Constitutional Interpretation
Lesson 1: The Founders and Federalism
  ◦ Check Your Knowledge
Lesson 2: Creating Federalism
  ◦ Check Your Knowledge
Lesson 3: Constitution Interpretation
  ◦ Check Your Knowledge

Graded Assignments
Check Your Knowledge Quizzes
Module 3 Quiz
Module 3 Evidence
Week 4 (February 4th - February 8th)

Module 4: Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

- Lesson 1: The Civil Rights Movement
  - Check Your Knowledge
- Lesson 2: The 14th Amendment and the Expansion of Civil Rights
  - Check Your Knowledge
- Lesson 3: Traditional Civil Rights
  - Check Your Knowledge
- Lesson 4: Civil Rights in the New World
  - Check Your Knowledge

Graded Assignments

Check Your Knowledge Quizzes
Module 4 Quiz
Module 4 Evidence

Week 5 (February 11th - February 14th)

Module 5: American Politics

- Lesson 1: Political Ideologies and Political Culture
  - Check Your Knowledge
- Lesson 2: Political Socialization and the Creation of Political Beliefs
  - Check Your Knowledge
- Lesson 3: Measuring Public Opinion
  - Check Your Knowledge
- Lesson 4: Involvement in Government
  - Check Your Knowledge
- Lesson 5: Voting
  - Check Your Knowledge

Graded Assignments

Check Your Knowledge Quizzes
Module 5 Quiz
Module 5 Evidence
Week 6 (February 19th- February 22nd)

Module 6: Public Policy

Lesson 1: Political Parties
  ◦ Check Your Knowledge
Lesson 2: Campaigns and Elections
  ◦ Check Your Knowledge
Lesson 3: Special Interest Groups
  ◦ Check Your Knowledge
Lesson 4: The Media and Politics
  ◦ Check Your Knowledge
Lesson 5: The Internet and Politics
  ◦ Check Your Knowledge

Graded Assignments

Check Your Knowledge Quizzes
Module 6 Quiz
Module 6 Evidence

Week 7 (February 25th - March 1st)

Mid-Term (Modules 1 - 6 Tested - Make sure you schedule your proctored exam!)

Week 8 (March 4th - March 8th)

Module 7: Congress

Lesson 1: Changes in Congressional Power
  ◦ Check Your Knowledge
Lesson 2: Congressional Leadership
  ◦ Check Your Knowledge
Lesson 3: Congressional Representation
  ◦ Check Your Knowledge
Lesson 4: Congressional Committees
  ◦ Check Your Knowledge
Lesson 5: Congressional Membership
  ◦ Check Your Knowledge
Lesson 6: How a Bill Becomes a Law
  ◦ Check Your Knowledge
Graded Assignments
   Check Your Knowledge Quizzes
   Module 7 Quiz
   Module 7 Evidence

Week 9 (March 11th - March 14th)

Module 8: The Expansion of Power
   Lesson 1: Becoming President
      ◦ Check Your Knowledge
   Lesson 2: The Job of a U.S. President
      ◦ Check Your Knowledge
   Lesson 3: The Evolution of the Presidency
      ◦ Check Your Knowledge
   Lesson 4: Presidential Character
      ◦ Check Your Knowledge
   Lesson 5: All the President's Men and Women
      ◦ Check Your Knowledge

Graded Assignments
   Check Your Knowledge Quizzes
   Module 8 Quiz
   Module 8 Evidence

Week 10 Spring Break (March 18th - March 22nd)

Week 11 (March 25th - March 29th)

Module 9: The Bureaucracy
   Lesson 1: The Evolution and Expansion of the Bureaucracy
      ◦ Check Your Knowledge
   Lesson 2: The Organization of the Bureaucracy
      ◦ Check Your Knowledge
   Lesson 3: The Models of Bureaucracy and Bureaucrats
      ◦ Check Your Knowledge
   Lesson 4: Reforming the Bureaucracy
      ◦ Check Your Knowledge
Graded Assignments

Check Your Knowledge Quizzes
Module 9 Quiz
Module 9 Evidence

Week 12 (April 1st - April 5th)

Module 10: The Judiciary
Lesson 1: Creation of the Federal Courts
  ◦ Check Your Knowledge
Lesson 2: Structure of the Federal Courts
  ◦ Check Your Knowledge
Lesson 3: The Supreme Court
  ◦ Check Your Knowledge
Lesson 4: Judges and Justices
  ◦ Check Your Knowledge
Lesson 5: Power of the Federal Courts
  ◦ Check Your Knowledge

Graded Assignments
Check Your Knowledge Quizzes
Module 10 Quiz
Module 10 Evidence

Week 13 (April 8th - April 12th)

Module 11: What is Government
Lesson 1: U.S. Foreign Policy
  ◦ Check Your Knowledge
Lesson 2: U.S. Foreign and Defense Policies
  ◦ Check Your Knowledge
Lesson 3: Economic Policy
  ◦ Check Your Knowledge
Lesson 4: Public Policy
  ◦ Check Your Knowledge

Graded Assignments
Check Your Knowledge Quizzes
Week 14 (April 15th - April 18th)

Module 12: The Constitution
   Lesson 1: State and Local Governments
     ◦ Check Your Knowledge
   Lesson 2: State and Local Taxation
     ◦ Check Your Knowledge
   Lesson 3: Funding Education
     ◦ Check Your Knowledge

Graded Assignments
   Check Your Knowledge Quizzes
   Module 12 Quiz
   Module 12 Evidence

Week 15 (April 22nd - April 26th)

Module 13: What is Government
   Lesson 1: Comparative Government
     ◦ Check Your Knowledge
   Lesson 2: Comparing Economic Systems
     ◦ Check Your Knowledge
   Lesson 3: Globalization
     ◦ Check Your Knowledge

Graded Assignments
   Check Your Knowledge Quizzes
   Module 13 Quiz
   Module 13 Evidence

Week 16 (April 30th - May 2nd)

Final Exam (Proctored Essay) - Must Be Scheduled and Taken No Later than May 2nd 12:00pm