

# POLS 1100 Introduction to American Government

Spring 2023

Professor Brian B. Arendt Ph.D.

Days and time 12:00 pm- 12:50 pm MWF McGannon Hall 26

Office hours Friday 10:00 am to 11:45 am

Course Credits: 3

## Ways of Thinking: Social and Behavioral Sciences

This course is part of the Saint Louis University Core, an integrated intellectual experience completed by all baccalaureate students, regardless of major, program, college, school or campus. The Core offers all SLU students the same approach to

undergraduate Core Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs).

Ways of Thinking: Social and Behavioral Sciences is one of 19 Core Components. The University Core SLO(s) that this component is designed to intentionally advance are listed below:

### University Core Student Learning Outcomes

The Core SLO(s) that this component is intentionally designed to advance are:

SLO 2: Integrate knowledge from multiple disciplines to address complex questions

SLO 3: Assess evidence and draw reasoned conclusions

Additionally, the Core Component-level Student Learning Outcomes are listed below:

### Component-level Student Learning Outcomes

Students who complete this course will be able to:

1. Understand a range of social or behavioral theories and principles

2. Use these theories and principles to acquire knowledge about individual, cultural, political, economic, or social events/processes

3. Describe competing paradigms of knowledge (from the dominant discipline or field)

4. Draw reasoned conclusions through the use of evidence and theories

5. Apply social and behavioral knowledge to better understand contemporary issues and challenges

## I. Course Description:

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to politics and government. ( ) Ta.9 0 g ent 6(o)i



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All students are required to fill out the online course evaluation at the end of the semester.

VII. REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

American Government: Stories of a nation 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition by Scott F. Abernathy, CQ Press, 2020.

VIII. CLASS OUTLINE:

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>CHAPTER</u>	<u>PAGES</u>	<u>TEST</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>PROJECT</u>
1	Introduction ± Why do I care?	1	2-30			
2	Federalism	3	62-91	QUIZ 1		Choose Party
3	The Constitution	2	30-61		Discussion 1*	
4	Bill of Rights	4	92-121			Join Committee*
5	Congress	12	322-355	QUIZ 2		Choose Leader
6	The Presidency	13	356-381		Discussion 2*	
7	The Bureaucracy	14	384-411			Select Topic*

## X. Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

See the Modules on Canvas for the learning objectives for each week/Module. In general, the course is designed to achieve the following broad course objectives and CORE Student Learning Outcomes.

This course is designed to

the context of American governmental powers and constraints.

‡Discuss and defend ideas orally, as part of-class and online discussion.

‡Engage in meaningful and productive dialogue with others.

## XI. Honor Code

Students are expected to be honest in their academic work. The University reserves the right to penalize any student whose academic conduct at any time is, in its judgment, detrimental to the University. Such conduct shall include cases of plagiarism, collusion, cheating, giving or receiving information or soliciting information in examinations, or the use of previously prepared materials in examinations or quizzes.

Violations should be reported to me and will be investigated and adjudicated according to the Policy on Academic Honesty of the College of Arts and Sciences. If the charges are found to be true, the student may be liable for academic or disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion from the University. Please refer to the university policy at <http://www.slu.edu/x12657.xml>

## XII. Expectations and Procedures

### Technology

Put everything on mute. You do not need to use your laptop for this course. Please take notes the old fashioned way. This will dissuade the trend of college students to browse the web, check email, and frequent social networking sites during lecture. I will upload to Canvas all lecture PowerPoints

### Communication

I will post grades, send class emails, etc. through the SLU Banner and Canvas systems. Be sure that you can access the email address listed. I will only send email out to SLU email accounts listed on the course roster in Banner. I will not keep track of any other email addresses you may use.

### Academic Integrity and Honesty

Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors. The mission of the University is to advance the knowledge and understanding of the human condition and to promote the well-being of the community. We are committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and to the highest standards of ethical conduct. We will not tolerate any behavior that undermines the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care, and community service in which SLU embodies its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern.

The governing University-level Academic Integrity Policy was adopted in Spring 2015,

and is available at <https://www.slu.edu/provost/policies/academic-integrity>

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## Title IX

Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual harassment, including sexual assault, stalking, domestic or dating violence, we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident that involves a Title IX matter, that faculty member is true even if you ask the faculty member not to disclose the incident. The Title IX Coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

Anna Kratky is the Title IX Coordinator at Saint Louis University (DuBourg Hall, room 36; anna.kratky@slu.edu; 314-777-3886). If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the University Counseling Center at 314-777-5669 or make an anonymous report at 314-777-5669 or online at <http://www.lighthouse.org>. For more resources, please visit the following web addresses:

<https://www.slu.edu/about/safety/sexualassaultresources/index.php> and

<https://www.slu.edu/generalcounsel>.

Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about the  
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instructors via email from Disability Services and viewed within Banner via the  
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Note: Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have  
one are encouraged to contact to Disability Services.

## University Writing Services

Students are encouraged to take advantage of University Writing Services in the Student  
Success Center; getting feedback benefits writers at all skill levels. Trained writing  
consultants can help with writing projects, multimedia projects, and/or  
presentations. University Writing Services offers ~~one~~ consultations that address  
everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and  
documenting sources. For more information, visit [https://www.slu.edu/it/slu/  
student-successcenter/](https://www.slu.edu/it/slu/student-successcenter/) or call the Student Success Center at ~~977~~3484.

## Basic Needs Security

Students in personal or academic distress and/or who may be specifically experiencing  
challenges such as securing food or difficulty navigating campus ~~resources~~ and who  
believe this may affect their performance in the course, are encouraged to contact the  
Dean of Students Office ([deanofstudents@slu.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@slu.edu) or ~~977~~49378) for support.  
Furthermore, please notify the instructor if you are comfortable in doing ~~so~~ this will  
enable them to assist you with finding the resources you may need.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, key safeguards like face masks have allowed SLU to safely maintain  
in-person learning. If public health conditions and local, state, and ~~federal~~ restrictions demand it, the  
University may require that all members of our campus community wear face masks indoors.

Therefore, any time a University ~~wide~~ face mask requirement is in effect, face masks will be required in  
this class. This expectation ~~will~~ apply to all students and instructors, unless a medical condition warrants  
an exemption from the face mask requirement (see below).

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{ Students who do not comply with the expectation that they wear a mask in accordance with the Universitywide face mask requirement may be subject to disciplinary actions per the rules, regulations, and policies of Saint Louis University, including but not limited to those outlined in the Student Handbook. Noncompliance with this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including any of the following:

- o dismissal from the course(s)
- o removal from campus housing (if applicable)
- o dismissal from the University

{ To immediately protect the health and well-being of all students, instructors and staff, instructors reserve the right to cancel or terminate any class session at which any student fails to comply with a Universitywide face mask requirement.

When a Universitywide face mask requirement is not in effect, students and instructors may choose to wear a face mask or not, as they prefer for their own individual comfort level.

#### ADA Accommodations for Face Mask Requirements

Saint Louis University is committed to maintaining an inclusive and accessible environment. Individuals who are unable to wear a face mask due to medical reasons should contact the Office of Disability Services (students) or Human Resources (instructors) to initiate the accommodation process identified in the Student Handbook. Notification to instructors of approved ADA accommodations should be made in writing prior to the first class session in any term (or as soon thereafter as possible).

The health and well-being of our learning environments. Accordingly, the following University policy statements, person class attendance are designed to preserve and advance the collective health and well-being of our institutional constituencies and to create the conditions in which all students have the opportunity to learn and successfully complete their courses.

1. Students who exhibit any potential COVID symptoms (those that cannot be attributed to some other medical condition the students are known to have, such as allergies, asthma, etc.) shall absent themselves from any-person class attendance or-person participation in any class-related activity until they have been evaluated by a qualified medical official. Students should contact the University Student Health Center for immediate assistance.
2. Students (whether exhibiting any of potential COVID symptoms or not, and regardless of how they feel) who are under either an isolation or quarantine directive issued by a qualified health official must absent themselves from all-person course activities per the stipulations of the isolation or quarantine directive.
3. Students are responsible for notifying their instructor of absence as far in advance as possible; when advance notification is not possible, students are responsible for notifying each instructor as soon after the absence as possible. Consistent with the University Attendance Policy, students also are responsible for all material covered in class and must work with the instructor to

complete any required work. In situations where students must be absent for an extended period of time due to COVID-19 isolation or quarantine, they also must work with the instructor to determine the best way to maintain progress in the course as they are able based on their health situation.

4. Consistent with the University Attendance Policy, students may be asked to provide medical documentation when a medical condition impacts a student for an extended period of time.

5. As a temporary amendment to the current University Attendance Policy, all absences due to illness or an isolation/quarantine directive issued by a qualified health official, or due to an adverse reaction to a COVID-19 vaccine, shall be excused.