

**POLS 1100 Introduction to American Government**

Tue/Thu: 12:45 PM–2:00 AM, Room: MCG 262

Department of Political Science

Saint Louis University

Spring 2024

- Use these theories and principles to acquire knowledge about individual, cultural, political, economic, or social events/processes
- Describe competing paradigms of knowledge (from the dominant discipline or field)
- Draw reasoned conclusions through the use of evidence and theories
- Apply social and behavioral knowledge to better understand contemporary issues and challenges

## **Course Description**

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to politics and gov-

1. Attendance (5%). Attending class on a regular basis is highly important for every student's academic success. I will take attendance randomly throughout the semester in accordance with the [University attendance policy](#). Each unauthorized absence will result in a point loss. I will allow one unexcused absence before I take points off. The attendance grades will not be posted until the end of the semester, although a student can email me about his/her attendance score at any time.
2. Legislative simulation project (15%). This is a group project designed to simulate legislative activities in the U.S. Congress. Students will be randomly selected to serve a variety of roles such as the President, Speaker, House representatives and senators. Some legislators will be divided into two to three groups that resemble different political parties or factions. They will try to propose a bill with the highest probability of passage. This project involves various parts throughout the

to secure a decent academic standing.

## Disability Accommodations

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations must formally register their disability with the University. Once successfully registered, students also must notify their course instructor that they wish to use their approved accommodations in the course.

Please contact the Center for Accessibility and Disability Resources (CADR) to schedule an appointment to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Most students on the St. Louis campus will contact CADR, located in the Student Success Center and available by email at [accessibility\\_disability@slu.edu](mailto:accessibility_disability@slu.edu) or by phone at 314.977.3484. Once approved, information about a student's eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors by email from CADR and within the instructor's official course roster. Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one also are encouraged to contact CADR. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.

## 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 must notify SLU's Title IX Coordinator that you shared an experience relating to Title IX. This 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](mailto:anna.kratky@slu.edu); 314-977-3886). If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the University Counseling Center at 314-977-TALK or make an anonymous report through SLU's Integrity Hotline by calling 1-877-525-5669 or online at <https://www.lightpurple.com/ly>. To view SLU's policies and for resources, please visit the following web address: <https://www.slu.edu/about/equal-justice/index>.

## Student Support Resources

### University Counseling Center

The University Counseling Center (UCC) offers free, short-term, solution-focused counseling to Saint Louis University undergraduate and graduate students. UCC counselors are highly trained clinicians who can assist with a variety of issues, such as adjustment to college life, troubling changes in mood, and chronic psychological conditions. To make an appointment, call 314-977-8255 (TALK), or visit the clinic on the second floor of Wuller Hall. For after hours needs, please press #9 after dialing the clinic number.

### Student Success Center

The Student Success Center (SSC) supports students in reaching their goals in and out of the classroom. Providing a variety of resources, the Student Success Center houses both the Center for Accessibility and Disability Resources (CADR) and Academic Support, which includes Tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, University Writing Services, and Student Success Coaching. The Student Success Center is located in the Busch Student Center, Suite 331, and students can make an appointment with any SSC resource via EAB Navigate. To learn more about the Student Success Center and its resources, please visit: <https://www.slu.edu/life-after-slucce-center/index>.

### University Writing Services

University Writing Services offers one-on-one consultations with trained writing consultants who help with everything from brainstorming, outlining, and proposing research questions to documenting sources, revising, and implementing feedback. These consultations can take place in-person, asynchronously, or via Zoom and can be scheduled through EAB Navigate-Student. Getting feedback benefits writers at all skill levels on different writing projects (including but not limited to class assignments, conference papers, cover letters, dissertations, group projects, multimedia assignments, personal statements, senior capstone projects, short answer questions on applications, speeches, and theses). For additional information, visit <https://www.slu.edu/life-after-slucce-center/academic-writing-service/index> or send an email to [writing@slu.edu](mailto:writing@slu.edu).

## **Wellness**

All students experience stressors and challenges at some point, and seeking support is beneficial. Such challenges may be the result of academic concerns (such as those related to particular assignments or content in a course), or they may be more personal in nature (such as concerns related to relationships, mental health, loss, identities, alcohol or drugs, housing or food security, or finances, among other things). If you experience these or other difficulties, please consider seeking support from the resources available to you.

- For concerns related to this course, please contact me. I am invested in your success and will support your success in the ways I can.
- Additionally, you have access to the many resources SLU provides in support of your personal wellness. You will find a list of available resources on the Well-being page of the SLU website.

If you or someone you know is experiencing a crisis, please consult the Crisis Support and Warning Signs on the University Counseling Center website.

In the spirit of *cura personalis*, the University sees your academic success as connected to your health and well-being and provides resources to support your holistic wellness.

## **Basic Needs Security**

Students experiencing food insecurity, housing insecurity, and any other challenges that are impacting their personal and/or academic wellbeing are encouraged to contact the Dean of Students Office for support. Students can submit an intake form, email [deanofstudents@slu.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@slu.edu), or call 314-977-9378 to connect with their office. Students may also communicate directly with their instructors about any challenges they are experiencing to receive support and resource referrals.





## **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 help students broaden their knowledge, skills, and values so that they will be able to:

- Draw reasoned conclusions through the use of evidence and theories.
- Use conceptual tools and methodologies to analyze and understand their social world in the context of the American politics and government.
- Think, speak, and write critically about human behavior and community in the context of American governmental powers and constraints.
- Discuss and defend ideas orally, as part of in-class and online discussion.
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