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**SYLLABUS**

**POLS&202: AMERICAN GOVERNMENT** (5 cr)  
**Spring 2023** TTh 9:00 am-11:20 am (Class Meetings on campus)  
Additional classroom work in *Canvas* <https://lwtech.instructure.com/>)

Instructor: Prof. Ted Maloney   
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*WELCOME TO CLASS!* Credit: usgs.gov

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**OUR VALUES   
*Leading with racial equity, our colleges maximize student potential and transform lives within a culture of belonging that advances racial, social, and economic justice in service to our diverse communities.***   
(State Board Vision Statement, WA State Board for Community & Technical Colleges; adopted by LWTech)

**TRIBAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**  
*We acknowledge that the* ***LWTech campus is on the traditional land of the first people of Seattle,*** *past and present, and we honor with gratitude the land itself, and the Coast Salish, Stillaguamish, Snoqualmie, Muckleshoot and Duwamish tribes****.****​ We acknowledge these tribes by showing respect, and take an intentional step toward correcting the stories and practices that erase Indigenous people’s history and culture, and toward inviting and honoring the truth.*

COURSE OVERVIEW

**Course Description.**  This course explores American democracy and evaluates the changing nature of the American political system, origins, institutions, and operations. Students investigate issues of individual rights, popular representation, power and policies, analyze formal and informal institutions of government, articulate conventional and unconventional means of citizen participation, and interpret political outcomes. As a Diversity and Social Justice (DSJ) designated course, content also includes a central focus on diversity and social justice. Prerequisite**.**  ENGL 99 or equivalent placement test score.

Student Learning Outcomes.

**Course Outcomes.**  
Upon successful completion of this course students will be able to:

* Discuss rights and responsibilities of citizens addressed in the Washington state and United States Constitutions
* Describe electoral issues, including elections, ballot measures, initiatives, and referenda
* Evaluate information about American political ideologies and evidence used to support them
* Analyze real world evidence and hypothetical political and economic issues
* Evaluate the analyses of political commentators and actors and other sources of political information to distinguish between fact and opinion
* Identify the key features of tribal, local, state, and federal government
* Evaluate and articulate the impact of historical and current events on the development and functioning of American government
* Evaluate and draw conclusions from competing and contradictory sources
* Present theoretical solutions to contemporary political and economic problems
* Complete the civics component of the federally administered naturalization test required of persons seeking to become naturalized United States citizens
* Discuss the importance in a free society of living the basic values and character traits specified in Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 28A.150.211

**Diversity & Social Justice (DSJ) Outcomes.**

* Discuss and analyze how categories of difference are or have been created, maintained, and experienced through power, privilege, and inequity.
* Communicate one’s own intersecting identities of difference and how they position oneself in relation to power, privilege, and inequity.   ​
* Identify specific ways in which individuals and social and artistic movements attempted to disrupt systems of power, privilege, and inequity.
* Analyze and apply ethical practice in relation to diverse communities and cultures for the promotion of equity and social justice.

**Method of Instruction.**  This course consists of lecture and class discussion, as well as online discussions and other learning activities and assignments (in *Canvas*). You will come to class having completed assigned readings, quizzes, and homework/discussion assignments due by that date – all of which is accessible on the course Canvas page under the appropriate Module. You are expected to take notes during class sessions. Check your LWTech email and Canvas daily; if you do not have access to computers, Internet or email, or anticipate other technology barriers, speak with me at the start of the quarter or as soon as possible.

COURSE POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

**Workload.** This is a 5 credit (5 classroom hours per week) college-level course that is transferable to four-year universities as equivalent to a sophomore level class. You are expected to perform at that level. In addition to our class meeting activities, you may be required to complete some assignments in Canvas. This is in addition to work that would normally be assigned as homework. You should expect to spend an average of **10-15 hours per week outside of class time** to complete coursework successfully. Plan accordingly!

**Required Textbooks and Materials**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| WTP | We The People, 13th Core Edition, Ginsburg et al, authors; OPTIONAL Code Key for access to publisher’s online resources, including extra credit assignments in InQuizitive. Available at LWTech bookstore, [LWTech.edu/Bookstore](https://www.lwtech.edu/campus-life/bookstore/), or direct from publisher, <https://digital.wwnorton.com/>. |
| SR | Supplemental Reading assignments posted to Canvas under each Module. |

**Graded Work and Point Values.**  Your grade in the course is based on performance across the following categories:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Work | Points | Description |
| Module Quizzes  **20%** | 200 | Timed, open book, multiple-choice quizzes corresponding to the assigned chapter readings. |
| Canvas Discussion  **20%** | 200 | Critical thinking prompts based on supplemental readings, videos, activities, or other materials. |
| Research Project  **30%** | 300 | Research paper based on selected topic using scholarly and other approved sources, plus oral presentation to class and online PowerPoint |
| Participation  **30%** | 300 | -Completion of specified Canvas-based assignments  -In-class attendance and active participation (contributing to discussions and asking questions; paying attention and taking notes)  **-**Weekly Journals |
|  | **1000** |  |

**Extra Credit.** There are limited extra credit opportunities. It is your responsibility to do the work that is assigned by the due dates. If you complete every assignment with demonstrated effort you will receive no less than a passing grade in the course. If you find yourself falling behind, **take action** immediately and contact me! **Don’t wait until end of the quarter.**

**Current Grades are available on Canvas.** Some assignments may take a few days to grade accurately and fairly, so please be patient. Technical issues sometimes result in displayed grades that are inconsistent with your actual course grade. When in doubt, please contact me about your grade.

**Scaled Score/Grade Chart**

Points, not grades, are given for assigned work. Your final course grade will reflect the following points earned. **GPA of 2.0 is generally considered the minimum passing grade**. Per LWTech’s grading policy, a minimum grade of 2.0 is required to apply the course towards both satisfying a prerequisite and meeting college graduation requirements. However, a grade between 0.7 and 1.9, while not passing, demonstrates that you earned credit for the course to meet certain financial aid or high school requirements. Any grade below 0.7 is entered as 0.0 in Washington State’s community and technical college grading system. **“Letter” grades are not given** – below for illustrative purposes only.

| ***GPA*** | ***Points*** | ***GPA*** | ***Points*** | ***GPA*** | ***Points*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 4.0 | 950-1000 | 3.0 | 850-859 | 2.0 “C” | 750-759 |
| 3.9 | 940-949 | 2.9 | 840-849 | 1.5-1.9 | 700-749 |
| 3.8 | 930-939 | 2.8 | 830-839 | 1.0-1.4 | 650-699 |
| 3.7 “A” | 920-929 | 2.7 “B” | 820-829 | 0.7-0.9 “D” | 600-649 |
| 3.6 | 910-919 | 2.6 | 810-819 | 0 | 599 or Less |
| 3.5 | 900-909 | 2.5 | 800-809 |  |  |
| 3.4 | 890-899 | 2.4 | 790-799 |  |  |
| 3.3 | 880-889 | 2.3 | 780-789 |  |  |
| 3.2 | 870-879 | 2.2 | 770-779 |  |  |
| 3.1 | 860-869 | 2.1 | 760-769 |  |  |

**Assignment Pacing and Deadlines**

CAUTION Late work is generally not accepted. Missed assignments will not be re-opened absent a compelling reason. You will receive a zero for late or missed assignments.

**Communication Policies and Expectations**

CAUTION **LWTech email** is the preferred method for communicating with me and your classmates and should be used unless otherwise noted. Use your LWTech account only, not a personal email account. Email should NOT be used to submit assignments, unless requested by me. Emails sent through personal accounts may not be answered. (Canvas Inbox may be used when email is unavailable.)

Please write a clear subject in the subject line of your email message. I will try to respond to your email within 24 hours, with the exception of weekends or holidays.

You are expected to check Canvas and LWTech email at least daily for ANNOUNCEMENTS and other information about the course or college announcements. Always check email and Canvas before messaging me with questions about an assignment or other aspect of the course.

**Attendance & Participation.**  Your attendance at class sessions is mandatory, as is participation in class discussions. If you anticipate an absence for a reasonable purpose (i.e., sickness, emergency, family event), please email me before the start of the class session(s) you intend to miss. If I approve the absence, it will count as “excused” rather than “unexcused” (see note below).

CAUTION You are afforded one unexcused absence without penalty; any others will result in a score of zero for the day and jeopardize your course grade.

**Absences and Accommodations for Faith and Conscience**. Students who will be absent from course activities due to reasons of faith or conscience may seek reasonable accommodations so that grades are not impacted. Such requests must be made within the first two weeks of the quarter and should follow the procedures listed [online](https://www.lwtech.edu/about/policies-procedures/absence/) (<https://www.LWTech.edu/About/Policies-Procedures/Absence/>).

Tardiness: Not Accepted. Don’t be late. Students are expected to arrive to class at least 5 minutes before the scheduled start of class.

Cell Phones: Unless your phone is your only access to *MS Teams* meetings, please mute or put your phone away during class sessions (exceptions for emergencies – ask.)

**Grade Disputes.** If you dispute a grade, you must submit to me, via email, a coherent explanation and defense of the issue. The explanation must reference material from your own assignment or work. I reserve the right to give you a lower score as well upon second review.

### **Academic Integrity.** Students should review the [Academic Dishonesty Program Dismissal/Appeal and Final Grade Appeal policy](https://www.lwtech.edu/about/policies-and-procedures/grade-appeal-and-change-procedures/). Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and fabrication.

* Cheating includes any attempt to give or obtain unauthorized assistance relating to the completion of an academic assignment.
* Plagiarism includes taking and using as one’s own, without proper attribution, the ideas, writings, or work of another person in completing an academic assignment. Prohibited conduct may also include the unauthorized submission for credit of academic work that has been submitted for credit in another course.
* Fabrication includes falsifying data, information, or citations in completing an academic assignment and also includes providing false or deceptive information to an instructor concerning the completion of an assignment.

Violations of academic honesty, including plagiarism, may result in *no credit awarded* on the assignment or assessment in question. A second violation of academic integrity may result in *no credit awarded* for the course. All violations of academic integrity shall be reported to the college's confidential database, which may result in additional investigation and corrective action through the student conduct process.

WARNING If you are found to have committed plagiarism or other academic dishonesty – knowingly or otherwise – you will receive a zero for the assignment and may face other consequences for the course or disciplinary action from the college.

**Accessibility & Accommodation.**  If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact the Disability Support Services office by phone 425-739-8300, or by email dssinfo@lwtech.edu. They will coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. All information and documentation is confidential. DSS is located in W207. For additional information please refer to: <https://www.lwtech.edu/campus-life/disability-support/>

CANVAS NAVIGATION

This chart identifies the major categories within Canvas where work will be assigned.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| SYLLABUS | A copy of this course syllabus. Also available to download under the “Welcome” Module. |
| MODULES | All Assignments, Reading, Quizzes, PowerPoints, Supplemental Readings and other material can be found in weekly Modules. |
| GRADES | Where you can find your current course and assignment grades. If your grade is not immediately updated after an assignment submission, be patient. Quiz scores are automatically inputted. |

### **Community Standards.** It is expected that we will respect the rights and dignity of students, faculty, and all others on campus and online at all times. This includes doing our part to create a safe, distraction-free, and collaborative learning environment. Homophobic, racist, sexist, and other demeaning language and/or actions are not permitted. If you would like to report a bias incident use the [bias incident reporting form](https://www.lwtech.edu/about/campus-safety/incident-reporting/bias-response-team/). (<https://www.LWTech.edu/About/Campus-Safety/Incident-Reporting/Bias-Response-Team/>)

**Equal Education Opportunity.**  Lake Washington Institute of Technology is an equal opportunity college and is committed to principles of diversity. The college accepts students without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or Vietnam-era veteran.

**Revisions.**  I reserve the right to make revisions to the course syllabus as deemed necessary. You will be notified of any revisions and you are responsible for complying with the changes.

**COURSE SCHEDULE  
(Subject to change)**NOTE: This is only a summary overview of the course schedule. Detailed e official assignments and schedule are in the Modules in Canvas. (“WTP” = *We the People*, your textbook)

| Week/Date\* | Topic(s) | In-Class Activities | Out-of-Class Work |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Week 1  Apr 3-7 | -Syllabus  -Using Canvas, *MS Teams*  -Questions  -Course Overview  -Historical Overview | Syllabus  Orientation to Canvas  Course Theme: *Power, Privilege & Inequity* | Module 0 – Canvas  Module 0 Quiz  Module 1 Assignments |
| Week 2  Apr 11-14 | -Understanding Politics  -News Media & Politics | Lecture/Discussion | READ: WTP Chapters 1, 7  Module 2 Assignments |
| Week 3  Apr 17-21 | -Constitution & Founding  -Federalism | Lecture/Discussion | READ: WTP Chps. 2, 3  Module 3 Assignments  Module 3 Quiz (Chps. 1-3, 7) |
| Week 4 Apr 24-28 | Civil Rights | Lecture/Discussion | READ: WTP Chp. 5  Module 4 Assignments |
| Week 5  May 1-5 | Civil Liberties | Lecture/Discussion | READ: WTP Chp. 4 Module 5 Assignments  Module 5 Quiz (Chps. 4, 5) |
| Week 6  May 8-12 | -Congress  -Presidency | Lecture/Discussion | READ: WTP Chps. 12, 13  Module 6 Assignments |
| Week 7  May 15-19 | -Bureaucracy  -Courts | Lecture/Discussion | READ: WTP Chps. 14, 15  Module 7 Assignments  Module 7 Quiz (Chps. 12-15) |
| Week 8  May 22-26 | -Political Parties  -Elections | Lecture/Discussion | READ: WTP Chps. 8, 9, 10  Module 8 Assignments |
| Week 9  May 29-Jun 2 | -Public Opinion  -Interest Groups | Lecture/Discussion | READ: WTP Chps. 6, 11  Module 9 Assignments  Module 9 Quiz (Chps. 6, 8-11) |
| Week 10  Jun 5-9 | Presentations | Student Presentations | Final Exam Quiz – weekend Jun 10-11 only (optional) |
| Week 11  Jun 12-14 | Presentations | Student Presentations |  |
| Jun 14 | QUARTER ENDS |  | All unfinished assignments due |

**\*** NOTE:Dates above are M-F, but some due dates will occur on weekends; class meets only on Tues and Thurs. Last Day to Withdraw from Classes: Wednesday, May 31. The following are non-academic (no class) days: Wednesday, April 19 (Employee Inservice Day); Tuesday, May 9 (Advising Day); Monday, May 29 (Holiday)

\**Student Conduct Expectations.** All students must conduct themselves as responsible college community members by following the Student Code of Conduct ([www.LWTech.edu/StudentConduct](http://www.LWTech.edu/StudentConduct)). The Student Code of Conduct applies to conduct on-campus (at all times), while participating in off-site college sponsored activities (including field trips and online classes), and off-campus (when the actions/behavior impact the college community). While students are participating in face to face or online classes, prohibited behavior includes but is not limited to: use of drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products, and/or being observably under the influence of drugs or alcohol while participating in classes. Adherence to LWTech’s Health and Safety guidelines, such as truthful answers to on-campus door monitoring questions and proper mask wearing on campus are also required.All potential student conduct violations will be referred to the student conduct officer.

## **Disability Support Services.** If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may impact your course work, you may request accommodations and apply for services through [DSS Online](https://cascade.accessiblelearning.com/LWTech/ApplicationStudent.aspx) (<https://Cascade.AccessibleLearning.com/LWTech/ApplicationStudent.aspx>).

After you provide documentation of a disability, the office will coordinate directly with your faculty to ensure you are given reasonable accommodations to support your success. All information and documentation is confidential. You can reach DSS by phone at 425-739-8300 or by [email](mailto:dssinfo@lwtech.edu) ([dssInfo@LWTech.edu](mailto:dssInfo@LWTech.edu)). For additional information please refer to [LWTech.edu/dss](https://www.lwtech.edu/campus-life/disability-support/).

## **Non-Discrimination**. Lake Washington Institute of Technology is committed to equality of educational opportunity. LWTech does not discriminate in offering access to its educational programs and activities on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, citizenship or immigration status, sexual orientation, gender identity, sex, honorably discharged veteran or military status, status as a mother breastfeeding her child, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability ([RCW 49.60.215](https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=49.60.215)).

## **Title IX.** LWTech provides a safe learning environment for all students that is free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these incidents, know that you are not alone. As an institution of higher learning that receives federal funds, LWTech is required to abide by Title IX, which states: "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” For more information on Title IX, including contact information, go to the college’s [Policies and Procedures, Title IX webpage](https://www.lwtech.edu/about/policies-and-procedures/title-ix-and-sexual-misconduct/) (<https://www.LWTech.edu/About/Policies-and-Procedures/title-ix-and-Sexual-Misconduct/>). In many cases, such discrimination violates state and federal law. The Executive Director of HR, Meena Park ([Meena.Park@lwtech.edu](mailto:Meena.Park@lwtech.edu)) handles inquiries regarding LWTech’s non-discrimination policies.

## **Student Support Resources.** Visit [www.LWTech.edu/StudentSupportResources](http://www.lwtech.edu/studentsupportresources) for more information on each of the following:

* [Bookstore](https://www.lwtech.edu/current-students/student-support-resources#bookstore)
* [Campus Public Safety](https://www.lwtech.edu/current-students/student-support-resources#campus-public-safety)
* [Canvas Support - eLearning](https://www.lwtech.edu/current-students/student-support-resources#canvas-support)
* [Counseling Services](https://www.lwtech.edu/current-students/student-support-resources#counseling-services)
* [DEN Food Pantry](https://www.lwtech.edu/current-students/student-support-resources#DEN)
* [Disability Support Services](https://www.lwtech.edu/current-students/student-support-resources#dss)
* [Financial Assistance: Financial Aid and Workforce Development](https://www.lwtech.edu/current-students/student-support-resources#finaid)
* [Food and Shelter](https://www.lwtech.edu/current-students/student-support-resources#food-and-shelter)
* [Justice Involved Students: Re-Entry Support](https://www.lwtech.edu/current-students/student-support-resources#justice-involved-students)
* [Library](https://www.lwtech.edu/current-students/student-support-resources#library-learning-commons)
* [Meditation Room](https://www.lwtech.edu/current-students/student-support-resources#meditation)
* [Paying for College](https://www.lwtech.edu/current-students/student-support-resources#paying-for-college)
* [RISE Center](https://www.lwtech.edu/current-students/student-support-resources#rise-center)
* [Student Representation and Advocacy](https://www.lwtech.edu/current-students/student-support-resources#asg)
* [Supplemental Instruction (Help with Writing, Math, Computer and Software Development)](https://www.lwtech.edu/current-students/student-support-resources#supplemental-instruction)
* [TRiO](https://www.lwtech.edu/current-students/student-support-resources#TRIO)
* [Tutoring](https://www.lwtech.edu/current-students/student-support-resources#tutoring)
* [Veteran’s Center](https://www.lwtech.edu/current-students/student-support-resources#veterans-center)