



POLI 320A

Government and Politics of the United States of America



Course Information

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to US Politics. We will examine how various agents and institutions inside and outside of government interact with each other. The topics include: the constitution, federalism, civil rights, political institutions (the President, Congress, and the Supreme Court), public opinion, and elections and voting behavior.

Class Meeting/Format:

This course will meet **in-person** at **MATX-1100** on Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM (Pacific Time).

This course does not accommodate asynchronous learning.

Course Teaching Team

Communication

Instructor: Gyung-Ho Jeong

- Email: gyung-ho.jeong@ubc.ca (<mailto:gyung-ho.jeong@ubc.ca>)
- Office hours: Mondays 9:30-10:30AM or by appointment
- Office: BUCH - C307
- Zoom: [https://ubc.zoom.us/j/4671033468?](https://ubc.zoom.us/j/4671033468?pwd=b0JmeVICdmdMYVdIVXY0Vnp0WIFBZz09)
pwd=b0JmeVICdmdMYVdIVXY0Vnp0WIFBZz09

Teaching Assistant: Haley Magrill

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- Office: Wesbrook Building 232

- Email us if you need to set up an appointment.
- For substantive questions, ask in class or office hours.

For details, refer to the [Course Policies](#) section.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this course students should be able to:

- Communicate a thorough factual understanding of the structure and operation of the US political system.
- Apply political science theories to understand contemporary political events and public policies.

Required Textbook:

Christine Barbour and Gerald C. Wright. 2021. *Keeping the Republic: Power and Citizenship in American Politics*, 9th **Brief** Edition (CQ Press)

Note. Make sure to purchase "Brief" edition, as there are different editions. You can use the 8th or 7th Brief edition.

Course Requirements and Grade Distribution

1. **Pop Quizzes** (22%) and **Participation** (3%) - Students are expected to do the readings prior to the class. Also, students are encouraged to participate in class discussion (i.e. asking and answering questions). There will be unannounced pop quizzes in class throughout the term. Each quiz will ask about the material in the textbook or lecture. Each quiz will be graded pass/fail. iClicker Cloud (also known as iClicker Reef) will be used for these quizzes, except some quizzes that require group-discussion. You do not need a physical iClicker device. But you need to set up your account and bring a cellphone or computer to the

classroom. Go to [the guide \(https://lthub.ubc.ca/guides/iclicker-cloud-student-guide/\)](https://lthub.ubc.ca/guides/iclicker-cloud-student-guide/) to be ready to use it. If you don't have a phone or computer, you can submit your quiz on a paper in a in-person class.

- 2. Response Essay** (<https://canvas.ubc.ca/courses/117207/assignments/1486038>), (25%) – Each student will write an essay (5-6 pages, double-spaced; 12 font-size; 1 inch margins) responding to a question by the instructor. The question will be given after the midterm exam. It is due by 11:59PM on November 29th.
- 3. Midterm Exam** (25%) - There will be a midterm exam in class on Oct 18th (11:00AM - 12:20PM). This exam will include 10 true-false questions (2 points each), 10 multiple-choice questions (3 points each), and 5 short-answer questions (10 points each). Note that some exam questions will be drawn entirely from the textbook in order to give you an incentive to read the textbook. Also, some questions will be drawn from the syllabus (esp. course policies section) or other course-related contents (i.e., something those who attend the class regularly can answer).
- 4. Final Exam** (25%) - The final exam will be scheduled by University. This exam will include 10 true-false questions (2 points each), 10 multiple-choice questions (3 points each), and 5 short-answer questions (10 points each). This exam covers materials after the midterm exam. That is, exams are not cumulative. Note that some exam questions will be drawn entirely from the textbook in order to give you an incentive to read the textbook.

Tentative Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

Note. The schedule is subject to change

Date	Topic	Readings	Lecture Notes
Sept 8	Introduction	No Readings	Notes (https://canvas.ubc.ca/courses/117207/files/25099408/download_frd=1)
Sept 13	The Constitution	Keeping the Republic Ch. 2: Politics of the American Founding	Notes (https://canvas.ubc.ca/courses/117207/files/25099411/download_frd=1)
Sept 15	Federalism	Keeping the Republic Ch. 3: Federalism	Notes (https://canvas.ubc.ca/courses/117207/files/25099415/download_frd=1)
Sept 20	Civil Rights I	No Lecture. Watch a documentary and work on a quiz. Read and submit Quiz on "Eyes on the Prize" (\$CANVAS_OBJECT_REFERENCE\$/assignments/g9985da5786f662d4ce9242f17dacd6f8)	
Sept 22	Civil Rights II	Keeping the Republic Ch. 5: The Struggle for Equal Rights	Notes (https://canvas.ubc.ca/courses/117207/files/25099383/download_frd=1)
Sept 27	Civil Rights III and Civil Liberties I	Keeping the Republic Ch. 5: The Struggle for Equal Rights	Notes (https://canvas.ubc.ca/courses/117207/files/25099402/download_frd=1)
Sept 29	Civil Liberties II	Keeping the Republic Ch. 4: Fundamental American Liberties	Notes (https://canvas.ubc.ca/courses/117207/files/25099405/download_frd=1)
Oct 4	Civil Liberties III	Keeping the Republic Ch. 4: Fundamental American Liberties	Notes (https://canvas.ubc.ca/courses/117207/files/25099409/download_frd=1)
Oct 6	Congress I	Keeping the Republic Ch. 6: Congress	Notes (https://canvas.ubc.ca/courses/117207/files/25099413/download_frd=1)

Oct 11	Congress II	Keeping the Republic Ch. 6: Congress	Notes (https://canvas.ubc.ca/courses/117207/files/25099417/download_frd=1)
Oct 13	Review	No Lecture. Bring your questions.	Notes (https://canvas.ubc.ca/courses/117207/files/25099422/download_frd=1)
Oct 18	Midterm Exam	11:00AM - 12:20PM	
Oct 20	The Presidency I	Keeping the Republic Ch. 7: The Presidency	Notes (https://canvas.ubc.ca/courses/117207/files/25099424/download_frd=1)
Oct 25	The Presidency II	Keeping the Republic Ch. 7: The Presidency	Notes (https://canvas.ubc.ca/courses/117207/files/25099428/download_frd=1)
Oct 27	The Presidency III	Keeping the Republic Ch. 7: The Presidency	Notes (https://canvas.ubc.ca/courses/117207/files/25099430/download_frd=1)
Oct 31	The Presidency IV	Keeping the Republic Ch. 7: The Presidency	Notes (https://canvas.ubc.ca/courses/117207/files/25099431/download_frd=1)
Nov 3	The Bureaucracy	Keeping the Republic Ch. 8: The Bureaucracy	Notes (https://canvas.ubc.ca/courses/117207/files/25099403/download_frd=1)
Nov 8	The Judiciary I	Keeping the Republic Ch. 9: The American Legal System and the Courts	Notes (https://canvas.ubc.ca/courses/117207/files/25099426/download_frd=1)
Nov 10	Midterm Break - No Class		
Nov 15	The Judiciary II and Public Opinion I	Keeping the Republic Ch. 9: The American Legal System and the Courts	Notes (https://canvas.ubc.ca/courses/117207/files/25099432/download_frd=1)
Nov 17	Public Opinion II and Voting, Campaigns, and Elections I	Keeping the Republic Ch. 10: Public Opinion	Notes (https://canvas.ubc.ca/courses/117207/files/25099434/download_frd=1)
Nov 22	Voting, Campaigns, and Elections II	Keeping the Republic Ch. 12: Voting, Campaigns, and Elections	Notes (https://canvas.ubc.ca/courses/117207/files/25099441/download_frd=1)
Nov 24	Interest Groups 1	Keeping the Republic Ch. 11: Parties and Interest Groups	Notes (https://canvas.ubc.ca/courses/117207/files/25099374/download_frd=1)

Nov 29 Interest Groups II Keeping the Republic Ch. 11: Parties and Interest Groups and Parties

[Notes \(https://canvas.ubc.ca/courses/117207/files/25099436/wrap=1\)](https://canvas.ubc.ca/courses/117207/files/25099436/wrap=1) ↓
(https://canvas.ubc.ca/courses/117207/files/25099436/download_frd=1)

Dec 1 Review No Lecture. Bring your questions.

[Notes \(https://canvas.ubc.ca/courses/117207/files/25099443/wrap=1\)](https://canvas.ubc.ca/courses/117207/files/25099443/wrap=1) ↓
(https://canvas.ubc.ca/courses/117207/files/25099443/download_frd=1)

Dec 6 No Class

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Course Policies, Using Turnitin, & University Policies

[Course Policies](#)

[Using Turnitin](#)

[University Policies](#)

Course Policies

Policies on Make-up Exam, Missing Quizzes, and Deadline Extension

1. **Missed exams and essay deadline:** If you are an Arts student, review the Faculty of Arts' [academic concession page \(https://students.arts.ubc.ca/advising/academic-performance/help-academic-concession/\)](https://students.arts.ubc.ca/advising/academic-performance/help-academic-concession/) and then complete Arts Academic Advising's [online academic concession form \(https://students.air.arts.ubc.ca/academic-concession-form/\)](https://students.air.arts.ubc.ca/academic-concession-form/) so that an advisor can evaluate your concession case. If you are a student in a different Faculty, please consult [your Faculty's webpage on academic concession \(https://students.ubc.ca/enrolment/academic-learning-resources/academic-concessions/\)](https://students.ubc.ca/enrolment/academic-learning-resources/academic-concessions/), and then contact me where appropriate. I will grant academic concessions only when they approve your request. They will email me when they make a decision on your request. So, you do not need to contact me. There is no exception to this policy. Also, you should do this within two weeks of the missed exam or paper deadline.
2. **Missed quizzes:** Your first missed quiz will be excused automatically. However, from your second missed quiz, you need to get approval from the Arts Advising for academic concession.
3. **Make-up exam format (in-person exams only):** A make-up exam will consist of 10 short-answer questions only. There will be no true-false or multiple-choice questions. This is to prevent the instructor from producing two different sets of multiple-choice questions, which is likely to lead the second set too difficult or obscure.

Policies on Essay Submission

1. Your essay should be submitted to Turnitin.com as well as in Canvas-Assignment. See below.
2. Your essay should adhere to the page limits and due date. Violation of the page limits will be penalized by 1% per line. Larger or smaller font-size or margins will be penalized by 2%. Late papers will be penalized by 2% per day and per weekend. A written work will be considered late until it is submitted in both Canvas and Turnitin.com (by 11:59PM on the due date).

Policies on Emails

1. I will reply to your email within 24 hours (except for holidays and weekends) if you ask logistical questions, such as scheduling an appointment with me.
2. However, if you ask substantive questions via email—such as asking for more explanation on a concept in lecture slides—I will answer your question in class at the beginning of lecture. I will not answer your question via email. Do not expect me to answer your substantive questions via email the day before an exam. Come to my (extra) office hours. Before exams, I will hold a review session in class and extra office hours.

Policies on Re-grading

1. You can request for re-grading your essays after 24 hours but within two weeks of receiving your grade.
2. You should appeal to the TA first. If you are still not satisfied with the result, you can appeal to the instructor.
3. If you request for re-grading, your score can go up or down.

Student Resources

- [UBC Keep Learning Site \(https://keeplearning.ubc.ca/\)](https://keeplearning.ubc.ca/)
- [UBC Keep Learning Site - Get Support \(https://keeplearning.ubc.ca/support/\)](https://keeplearning.ubc.ca/support/)
- [UBC Student's Guide to Canvas \(https://students.canvas.ubc.ca/\)](https://students.canvas.ubc.ca/)
- [UBC Student Assistance Program \(https://students.ubc.ca/health/ubc-student-assistance-program-sap\)](https://students.ubc.ca/health/ubc-student-assistance-program-sap)
- [Learning Commons \(https://learningcommons.ubc.ca/\)](https://learningcommons.ubc.ca/)
- [Student Guide to Zoom \(https://keep Teaching.ubc.ca/files/2020/04/zoom-student-guide.pdf\)](https://keep Teaching.ubc.ca/files/2020/04/zoom-student-guide.pdf)

Acknowledgment: UBC's Point Grey Campus is located on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people. The land it is situated on has always been a place of learning for the Musqueam people, who for millennia have passed on in their culture, history, and traditions from one generation to the next on this site.