

**WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY**

**SCHOOL OF BEHAVIORAL & SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**Virtual Campus**

**Wayland Mission Statement:** Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused, and distinctively Christian environment for professional success, and service to God and humankind.

**Course Title, Number, and Section:** POLS 2301 VC01 - American Government

**Term:** Fall 2017

**Instructor:** Dr. Colleen Mruzik

**Office Phone Number and WBU Email Address:** Phone: (314) 881-8308

Email: mruzikc@wbu.edu

**Office Hours, Building, and Location:** On-line via Blackboard, Announcements, and Discussion Board. I will answer e-mails within 24 hours. I am available by phone MWF 9am - 5pm CST, T 8am - 12pm, and Sa 1pm - 6pm.

**Class Meeting Time and Location:** Virtual Campus

**Catalog Description:**Survey of the American national government including such topics as the U.S. Constitution, institutional structures and processes, political parties, elections, civil liberties, and civil rights

**There is no prerequisite for this course**

**Required Textbook(s) and/or Required Material(s):** Losco, *AM GOV 2017-2018*, McGraw-Hill, 2017, ISBN: 9781259444937

**Optional Materials:**

* WBU Learning Resources <http://www.wbu.edu/academics/academic_resources/wayland_learning_resource_center_library/>

**Course Outcome Competencies:** Upon completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of:

* national constitutions,
* the major institutions of the national government,
* the national policymaking process,
* the electoral system, federalism, civil liberties and civil rights.

**Attendance Requirements:**

Virtual Campus

Students are expected to participate in all required instructional activities in their courses. Online courses are no different in this regard; however, participation must be defined in a different manner. Student “attendance” in an online course is defined as active participation in the course as described in the course syllabus. Instructors in online courses are responsible for providing students with clear instructions for how they are required to participate in the course. Additionally, instructors are responsible for incorporating specific instructional activities within their course and will, at a minimum, have weekly mechanisms for documenting student participation. These mechanisms may include, but are not limited to, participating in a weekly discussion board, submitting/completing assignments in Blackboard, or communicating with the instructor. Students aware of necessary absences must inform the professor with as much advance notice as possible in order to make appropriate arrangements. Any student absent 25 percent or more of the online course, i.e., non-participatory during 3 or more weeks of an 11 week term, may receive an F for that course. Instructors may also file a Report of Unsatisfactory Progress for students with excessive non-participation. Any student who has not actively participated in an online class prior to the census date for any given term is considered a “no-show” and will be administratively withdrawn from the class without record. To be counted as actively participating, it is not sufficient to log in and view the course. The student must be submitting work as described in the course syllabus. Additional attendance and participation policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the university’s attendance policy.

**Statement on Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:** Wayland Baptist University observes a zero tolerance policy regarding academic dishonesty. Per university policy as described in the academic catalog, all cases of academic dishonesty will be reported and second offenses will result in suspension from the university.

**Disability Statement:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university.  The Coordinator of Counseling Services serves as the coordinator of students with a disability and should be contacted concerning accommodation requests at (806) 291- 3765.  Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.

**Course Requirements and Grading Criteria:**

Daily access to computer, internet, e-mail and use Microsoft Word (doc) word processing software for all assignments. All communications and assignments are to be done online via the online course and/or e-mail.

**A. Reading Assignments:** Reading assignments are to be completed on time (i.e., by the Wednesday of the week they are scheduled for discussion). You should be prepared to participate in online discussions about the assigned reading.

**B. Discussion Boards/Journals/Group Posts:** There will be a discussion topic each week of class. All responses to the prompt must be done by Wednesday @ 11:59 p.m. CST of each week, and the remaining 2 classmate posts must be in by Sunday at 11:59 p.m. CST each week

**C. Course Exams:** You will have a midterm and final. Both exams will be open book/open note. Exams will be timed and will cover the material extensively. Questions may consist of multiple choice, true/false, matching, and short answer.

**Course Grading:**

Discussion Boards 40%

Midterm 25%

Final Exam 35%

**Note:** Posting all your discussions answers on Bb is a major requirement of this course. In this context, Plagiarism will not be tolerated in any way (Wayland Baptist University Policy on Dishonesty). You may view your peers work and postings to learn from one another, but you can’t copy their work. Students who have circumstances which prevent them from participating or completing an assignment on time must communicated with me in order to find reasonable accommodations to complete the required course work.

There are specific assignments that must be completed each week.   Your individual responses must be insightful, thorough, and interesting.   These responses should demonstrate an understanding of the assigned readings and should be substantiated by two or more examples from the textbook and/or appropriate websites.

Each response to your classmates should be substantive.  Participation is measured on the student’s interaction and contribution with the course and other students as demonstrated through active involvement on the virtual classroom discussion board. A student’s contribution must add value to the course.  A discussion board posting is determined to be of substance by containing information that supplements, contradicts, questions, or furthers discussion on a subject area contained in the course.  Additionally, it is expected that student participation reflect critical thinking and good grammar.

The University has a standard grade scale:

A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F= below 60, W = Withdrawal, WP = withdrew passing, WF = withdrew failing, I = incomplete. An incomplete may be given within the last two weeks of a long term or within the last two days of a microterm to a student who is passing, but has not completed a term paper, examination, or other required work for reasons beyond the student’s control. A grade of “incomplete” is changed if the work required is completed prior to the last day of the next long (10 to 15 weeks) term, unless the instructor designates an earlier date for completion.  If the work is not completed by the appropriate date, the I is converted to an F.

Student grade appeals:

Students shall have protection through orderly procedures against prejudices or capricious academic evaluation. A student who believes that he or she has not been held to realistic academic standards, just evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course by using the student grade appeal process described in the Academic Catalog. Appeals may not be made for advanced placement examinations or course bypass examinations. Appeals limited to the final course grade, which may be upheld, raised, or lowered at any stage of the appeal process. Any recommendation to lower a course grade must be submitted through the Executive Vice President/Provost to the Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee for review and approval. The Faculty Assembly Grade Appeals Committee may instruct that the course grade be upheld, raised, or lowered to a more proper evaluation.

**Tentative Schedule:**

**Week 1 August 21, 2017** Chapters 1 &2

Meet & Greet Discussion Board (DB)

Week 1 DB

**Week 2 August 28, 2017** Chapter 3

Week 2 DB

**Week 3 September 4, 2017** Chapters 6 & 7

Week 3 DB

**Week 4 September 11, 2017** Chapters 4 & 5

Week 4 DB

**Week 5 September 18, 2017 Midterm Exam Chapters 1-7**

Chapter 8

Week 5 DB

**Week 6 September 25, 2017**  Chapters 9 and 10

Week 6 DB

**Week 7 October 2, 2017** Chapter 11

Week 7 DB

**Week 8 October 9, 2017**  Chapter 12

Week 8 DB

**Week 9 October 16, 2017** Chapter 14

Week 9 DB

**Week 10 October 23, 2017** Chapters 13 & 15

Week 10 DB

**Week 11 October 30, 2017 Final Exam**

**Additional Information:** N/A

[**http://catalog.wbu.edu**](http://catalog.wbu.edu)