



Arts

POLITICS 218 : American Politics and Public Policy (15 POINTS)

Course Prescription

An overview of structures and processes in American politics and policy. Topics include American political development, elements of civil society, the machinery of government, and contemporary politics and policy.

Course Overview

An overview of institutions, structures and processes in American politics and policy. Topics include American political development, elements of civil society, the branches and machinery of government, political campaigns, the courts and the media. We will analyze the US political system and its governance, which is built upon the ideas of federalism, separation of powers, as well as checks and balances. We will study the country's development, its legal and policy-making system, the dynamics between the various actors, and the struggle for power and policy. It includes studying the governmental branches, political parties, the media, social movements, interest groups, campaigns.

Course Requirements

Prerequisite: 30 points at Stage I in Political Studies or Politics and International Relations, or POLITICS 106 and 30 points in Global Politics and Human Rights Restriction: POLITICS 319

Capabilities Developed in this Course

- Capability 1: Disciplinary Knowledge and Practice
- Capability 2: Critical Thinking
- Capability 3: Solution Seeking
- Capability 4: Communication and Engagement
- Capability 5: Independence and Integrity
- Capability 6: Social and Environmental Responsibilities

Graduate Profile: [Bachelor of Arts](#)

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyse and understand political power in the US system. Critically analyse democratic systems and threats to that system through the lens of US politics. (Capability 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 5.1 and 6.3)
2. Identify and critically analyse democratic systems and threats to that system through the lens of US politics. (Capability 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.3, 3.1 and 3.2)

Assessments

Assessment Type	Percentage	Classification
Test	20%	Individual Test
Test	25%	Individual Test
Final Exam	45%	Individual Examination
Quizzes	5%	Individual Coursework
Participation	5%	Group & Individual Coursework
5 types	100%	

Learning Resources

<http://www.saylor.org/site/textbooks/American%20Government%20and%20Politics%20in%20the%20Information%20Age.pdf>
 And the table of contents is here: https://saylordotorg.github.io/text_american-government-and-politics-in-the-information-age/

Workload Expectations

This course is a standard 15 point course and students are expected to spend 20 hours per week involved in each 15 point course that they are enrolled in during a summer semester.

Digital Resources

Course materials are made available in a learning and collaboration tool called Canvas which also includes reading lists and lecture recordings (where available).

Please remember that the recording of any class on a personal device requires the permission of the instructor.

Academic Integrity

The University of Auckland will not tolerate cheating, or assisting others to cheat, and views cheating in coursework as a serious academic offence. The work that a student submits for grading must be the student's own work, reflecting their learning. Where work from other sources is used, it must be properly acknowledged and referenced. This requirement also applies to sources on the internet. A student's assessed work may be reviewed against online source material using computerised detection mechanisms.

Inclusive Learning

All students are asked to discuss any impairment related requirements privately, face to face and/or in written form with the course coordinator, lecturer or tutor.

Student Disability Services also provides support for students with a wide range of impairments, both visible and invisible, to succeed and excel at the University. For more information and contact details, please visit the Student Disability Services' website at <http://disability.auckland.ac.nz>

Well-being always comes first

We all go through tough times during the semester, or see our friends struggling. There is lots of help out there - for more information, look at this Canvas page (<https://canvas.auckland.ac.nz/courses/33894>), which has links to various support services in the University and the wider community.

Special Circumstances

If your ability to complete assessed coursework is affected by illness or other personal circumstances outside of your control, contact a member of teaching staff as soon as possible before the assessment is due.

If your personal circumstances significantly affect your performance, or preparation, for an exam or eligible written test, refer to the University's aegrotat or compassionate consideration page: <https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/students/academic-information/exams-and-final-results/during-exams/aegrotat-and-compassionate-consideration.html>.

This should be done as soon as possible and no later than seven days after the affected test or exam date.

Student Feedback

At the end of every semester students will be invited to give feedback on the course and teaching through a tool called SET or Qualtrics. The lecturers and course co-ordinators will consider all feedback and respond with summaries and actions.

Your feedback helps teachers to improve the course and its delivery for future students.

Class Representatives in each class can take feedback to the department and faculty staff-student consultative committees.

Student Charter and Responsibilities

The Student Charter assumes and acknowledges that students are active participants in the learning process and that they have responsibilities to the institution and the international community of scholars. The University expects that students will act at all times in a way that demonstrates respect for the rights of other students and staff so that the learning environment is both safe and productive. For further information visit Student Charter (<https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/students/forms-policies-and-guidelines/student-policies-and-guidelines/student-charter.html>).

Disclaimer

Elements of this outline may be subject to change. The latest information about the course will be available for enrolled students in Canvas.