



**NATIONAL
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UNIVERSITY**

1886

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Course Number: HIS 102

Course Name: Civics and American Government

Start & End Date: 15-JAN-2020 - 18-MAR-2020

Day(s) & Time: Wednesday, 9.00AM-12.00PM

Credit Hours: 5 quarter hours

Campus Location: WHMAIN 344

Delivery Method: BLENDED

Instructor: Dr. Magda Giurcanu

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Office Hours: Wednesday, Study Tables: 12.00-1.00PM

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

This course serves as an introduction to the organization and function of the U.S. national government. Its course topics include the U.S. Constitution, the federal system, political participation, the presidency, the executive bureaucracy, Congress, the courts, and the role of the media.

Prerequisite(s):

None

Co-requisite(s):

None

Instructional Materials

Required Textbooks:

All required materials are provided in the D2L course shell at no additional cost.

- Acrobatiq: Introduction to Political Science
- Lumen: American Government

Recommended Textbooks:

None

Student Course Level Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, the students will be able to:

1. Examine prevalent political ideologies, analyzing their relationship to political parties and their evolution, and the deployment of political ideologies in policy discourse.
2. Describe the foundational principles and major institutions of the U.S. federal system.
3. Identify the powers and functions of Congress.
4. Connect the legislative process to the dynamics of interest group politics and electoral politics.
5. Analyze the philosophical framework and enduring relevance of the Constitution and its historic role in the evolution of civil rights and civil liberties.
6. Identify the powers and functions of the Supreme Court and the judiciary.
7. Debate and deliberate on a matter of public policy.
8. Identify the powers and functions of the president and the federal bureaucracy, and their role in policymaking.
9. Compare different forms of political behavior, both institutional and extra-institutional, and evaluate their impact on the policymaking process.
10. Examine the role of the media and other social influences in shaping public opinion and spreading political ideologies.
11. Write a policy paper using research drawing on empirical data and legal reasoning.

Description of Major Assessments:	Aligned Course Level Outcome Numbers:
<p>Milestone 1: Civic Footprint Audit In this milestone, you will gather information on your elected representatives and other key government officials. You will then audit this group of people, surveying their position on an issue of importance to you. Finally, you will write a summary of your findings, answering the questions below, to reflect on what strategy/strategies you might employ in order to lobby or persuade them to address your issue.</p>	1, 2
<p>Milestone 2: Democratic Debate In this milestone, you will engage in a deliberative debate with your classmates on a given topic. Your instructor will assign you to a position on that topic and you, with your teammates, will attempt to persuade the other side. The object here is not to simply “win” the debate. The object is to use evidence to make the best arguments in favor of your position and to listen and anticipate how someone who disagrees with you might counterargument. This requires reading, research, and reflection. After you have prepared notes and participated in the in-class deliberation, you will then summarize the debate’s outcome in a written reflection.</p>	7

<p>Milestone 3: Policy Memo Draft</p> <p>In this milestone, you will draft a policy memo that offers analysis and advice to an individual or group of your choosing on a given issue of your choosing. The purpose is two-fold: (1) to evaluate in a succinct manner the policy options on a specific issue for a specific audience and (2) to make a policy recommendation and justify it. There are four parts to a standard policy memo: the executive summary, the situation brief, a set of policy options or recommendations with their justifications, and a list of key sources for your findings. For this Milestone you will be tasked with integrating various course topics in order to analyze and make recommendations about the specific political issue you choose, including identifying stakeholders, Constitutional or other legal constraints or opportunities, and any trade-offs between costs and benefits for pursuing your proposed policy.</p>	9, 11
<p>Final Product: Policy Briefing</p> <p>For your final project, you will finalize the draft of the policy memo you completed in Milestone 3, incorporating feedback from your peer reviewer and your instructor. You will also take on the role of a political operative/policy expert and present your recommendations in class as a policy briefing. Based on the policy recommendation(s) you are proposing, you will create a political strategy for the policy's implementation, thinking through which decision-makers could be approached to champion or be persuaded by your briefing. Keep in mind that strategies may run the gamut between traditional forms of political participation and non-traditional forms. Given your recommendations, would it be better to brief an elected official, for instance, or might it make more sense to brief the leader of a grassroots organization? Include these considerations and plans in your presentation.</p>	11

IDEA Objectives for This Course

NLU uses the IDEA Student Ratings of Instruction survey to collect students' feedback on learning and satisfaction in their course work. Instructors select which of the IDEA Learning Objectives are most closely related to their course goals and expected outcomes, and students are asked to rate their learning in these areas during the course. For this course, those objectives are:

Essential: Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories.

Essential: Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends).

Important: Learning to apply course materials (to improve rational thinking, problem solving and decisions).

Important: Acquiring an interest in learning more by asking questions and seeking answers.

Important: Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance Policy: Class attendance is expected as it is a strong predictor of student success.

Students are expected to attend every class, and participate in class discussions and activities, to ensure maximum class engagement and success. This means being prepared prior to coming to class by completing assigned readings, Adaptive Courseware assignments, and milestones. All assignments must be posted by the due date listed in the course schedule.

Late Policy:

All work will be turned in by the assignment deadline. Extensions may be granted at the instructor's discretion.

Extensions may be granted for:

- Extenuating circumstances. Students must communicate this need to the instructor, preferably prior to the due date, and the two will agree to a revised timeline. Twenty-four to forty-eight hours is considered standard for grace periods. Instructors may alter this depending upon the circumstances.
- Severe extenuating circumstances can be determined and negotiated, in consultation with the student's coach/advisor. These circumstances may include medical emergencies or other situations that severely impact the student's ability to complete course work.
- ADA accommodations that have been issued by the NLU ADA Coordinator. All ADA accommodations will take precedence over instructor and departmental policies.

Resubmissions may be considered by the instructor if the assignment is submitted on time. Resubmissions may be allowed (with instructor approval) for work that requires edits to meet minimal requirements, within 5 days of receiving faculty feedback, without penalty.

Participation Policy: Active participation in courses is expected to achieve CLOs, build classroom culture, and enhance the learning environment.

In order for you to receive the maximum points for each assignment, students need to achieve mastery on the assignment's competency. Be sure you review the course rubrics for specific requirements. You need to come to class on time and be active in class discussions and activities.

Incentive Points

It is possible for students to receive "incentive points" at the instructor's discretion. These points can mean the difference between an "A" and a "B," so be sure to keep in touch with your instructor about these opportunities.

Possible point options:

- **High Attendance** (Up to 2 percentage points)
Examples of this are when students fully attend at least 90% of classes on time and notify their instructor prior to any absences to request an excused absence.
- **Thoughtful, Engaged Participation, Building Teamwork Capabilities in Yourself and Others or Demonstrating Respect** (Up to 3 percentage points)
Examples of this are when students contribute to classroom activities thoughtfully, while not distracting from classroom climate, or students engage in group activities in the spirit of cooperation and collaboration, encouraging growth for all members. Students are also eligible for incentive points when they are active listeners, empathetic, and courteous towards others during and outside of class.

Recommended Course Schedule and Assignments

**Current syllabi are on file in the UGC Curriculum & Instruction Committee. Clickable links all required materials are available in the D2L course.*

Week/ Session	Meeting Date or “Online”	Work Assigned This Week	Due Date
1	1/15/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read Lumen: American Government. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 6: The Politics of Public Opinion ● Read Acrobatiq: Introduction to Political Science. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Module 9: Public Opinion ● Begin or continue working on Milestone 1. 	Due: Monday, 1/20/2020 11:59 PM
2	1/22/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Watch Constitution: Foundation of Our Government. ● Read Lumen: American Government. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 2: The Constitution and its Origins ○ Chapter 3: American Federalism ● Read Acrobatiq: Introduction to Political Science. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Module 1: The Formation of the American Government ○ Module 2: The Constitution ● Complete and submit D2L Quiz 1. ● Complete and submit Milestone 1. 	Due: Monday, 1/27/2020 11:59 PM
3	1/29/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read Lumen: American Government. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 10: Interest Groups and Lobbying 	Due: Monday, 2/3/2020

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 11: Congress ● Read Acrobatiq: Introduction to Political Science. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Module 5: The Legislative Branch of the Federal Government ○ Module 11: Campaigns and Elections ○ Module 12: Public Policy ● Complete and submit D2L Quiz 2. 	11:59 PM
4	2/5/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read Lumen: American Government. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 13: The Courts ○ Chapter 4: Civil Liberties ○ Chapter 5: Civil Rights ● Read Acrobatiq: Introduction to Political Science. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Module 7: Judicial Branch of the Federal Government ○ Module 3: Civil Rights ○ Module 4: Civil Liberties ● Complete and submit D2L Quiz 3. ● Begin or continue working on Milestone 2. 	Due: Monday, 2/10/2020 11:59 PM
5	2/12/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Complete and submit Milestone 2. 	Due: Monday, 2/17/2020 11:50 PM
6	2/19/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read Lumen: American Government. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chapter 12: The Presidency ○ Chapter 15: The Bureaucracy ● Read Acrobatiq: Introduction to Political Science. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Module 6: The Executive Branch ● Complete and submit D2L Quiz 4. 	Due: Monday, 2/24/2020 11:59 PM
7	2/26/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read Lumen: American Government. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ (Review) Chapter 5: Civil Rights ○ Chapter 7: Voting and Elections ● Read Acrobatiq: Introduction to Political Science. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Module 4: Civil Liberties ○ Module 13: Voting and Political Participation ● Begin or continue working on Milestone 3. 	Due: Monday, 3/2/2020 11:59 PM

8	3/4/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Lumen: American Government. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ (Review) Chapter 6: The Politics of Public Opinion ○ Chapter 8: The Media • Read Acrobatiq: Introduction to Political Science. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Module 10: Politics and the Media ○ Module 9: Public Opinion • Complete and submit D2L Quiz 5. • Complete and submit Milestone 3. 	Due: Monday, 3/9/2020 11:59PM
9	3/11/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and submit the final project. 	Due: Monday, 3/16/2020 11:59PM
10	3/18/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and submit the course evaluation. 	Due: Wed, 3/18/2020 In-Class

Grading

Methods of Evaluating Student Progress

Evaluation	Percentage
Classroom Activities	20%
Quizzes	20%
Project milestones	20%
Final project	40%
Incentive points (extra credit)	5%
Total	100%

Course work will be graded on the following scale:

Final Percentage	Letter Grade
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
<60	F

Technology and Computer Literacy Requirements

Students are expected to have basic computer literacy skills and access to technology that supports student learning. The University's Technology and Student Computer Literacy requirements are available on the [LMS Student Resource website](#).

DIVERSITY, ACCESS, AND EQUITY

Equal Opportunity

National Louis University affords equal opportunity to all qualified persons regardless of race, color, age, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, disability, political beliefs, marital status, military status, and unfavorable military discharge other than dishonorable.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 and University policy, we work hard to ensure that all facilities and programs are accessible to students with special needs. For information about accessibility or to request special accommodations, contact the **Student Accommodations Coordinator** at ADA@nl.edu.

If you have academic accommodations approved by the Student Accommodations Coordinator, please see your instructor for an alternate submission schedule.

Students who believe they or someone in the NLU community is being discriminated against, please complete an **Incident Report** so the university can investigate. **Incident Reports** can be filed at www.nl.edu/letusknow.

Title IX

In the event that you choose to write or speak about having survived sexualized violence, including rape, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, federal law and university policies require that your instructor share this information with NLU's Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX Coordinator will contact you to let you know about accommodations and support services at NLU, as well as options for holding accountable the person who harmed you. It is your decision to respond to the outreach from the University.

- [More information about Sexual Respect and Title IX at NLU](#)
- To report incidents of violence, self-harm, suicidal behaviors, sexual harassment, or other issues that affect you or someone you care about, use the [NLU "Let Us Know" page](#).
- If you wish to seek a confidential source for support and do not want the University notified, instead of disclosing this information to your instructor, coach, or reporting to

“Let Us Know,” you can speak confidentially with the University’s confidential advisor – Rolanda Brown at rolanda@skylightcounselingcenter.com. The confidential advisor can connect you with support services and help explore your options now, or in the future. Additional confidential sources can be found [online](#).

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Students are expected to be honest and ethical in pursuit of their academic goals, in accordance with National Louis University’s [Academic Honesty policy](#). Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary action and may be dismissed from the University. Faculty has the right to analyze and evaluate students' course work.

For resources on how to cite properly and avoid plagiarism, please visit the NLU Library & Learning Support’s guide at <http://libguides.nl.edu/plagiarism>.