

**Note:**

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.**

## ***COURSE SYLLABUS***

---

### **GOVT 220**

#### **AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The issues, interest and institutions of American politics, emphasizing the struggle between liberalism and conservatism.

#### **RATIONALE**

The primary purpose of this course is to train the student for effective citizenship. No one can be an effective citizen without an understanding of how his/her government operates. This is especially true today because the growth in size of government at all levels has increased its impact on our daily lives. No one can avoid involvement with government. As both Christians and citizens, the student needs to understand his/her duties to the government and how he/she can defend the heritage of liberty.

#### **I. PREREQUISITE**

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE**

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

#### **III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Office
- E. U.S. Constitution including the Bill of Rights

#### IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- A. Identify the main provisions of the U.S. Constitution.
- B. Analyze the meaning of important constitutional provisions.
- C. Identify characteristics of liberalism and conservatism.
- D. Identify the constitutional powers granted to each branch of government.
- E. Differentiate between formal and informal changes made to the Constitution.
- F. Identify ways in which citizens can effectively participate in the political process.
- G. Identify the extent of Christian influence on the underlying principles of the U.S. Constitution and the way recent Supreme Court rulings have limited this influence.

#### V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations
- B. Course Requirements Checklist  
After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.
- C. Discussion Board Forums (2)  
Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student will create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each forum will be divided into 2 parts.  
  
Thread  
The student will create a thread of at least 250 words that demonstrates course-related knowledge. The thread provides the opportunity to research relevant materials and share that research with classmates.  
  
Replies  
The student is required to reply to 2 other classmates' threads with substantive and analytical points. Each reply must be 100–125 words.
- D. Presentation Assessments (2)  
After viewing the assigned presentation, the student will answer essay questions about the presentations. Answers to the questions must be well-organized and use proper grammar.

E. Research Paper

The student will write a paper of at least 6 pages (not including the title page or reference page) adhering to the format specified in the Course Style Guidelines document. The purpose of this paper is to provide practical application of Reading & Study materials by developing concepts discussed in the presentations. The paper must demonstrate mastery of material from the lectures as well as presentation of factual materials from peer-reviewed sources.

F. Exams (4)

Each test is open-book/open-notes, consists of 50 multiple-choice and true/false questions, and has a time limit of 1 hour and 30 minutes. Each module/week, the student will also have an opportunity to take an optional self-check quiz in preparation for the course tests; this will have no effect on the final grade.

G. Worldview-Political Ideology Activities (2)

Students will view two interactive presentations discussing the link between competing worldviews and various political ideologies. During each presentation, students will be required to answer questions and complete several activities based on the content within the presentation.

H. Mindtap Activities (8)

Students will complete interactive assignments based on the required reading, one set of activities per Module.

**VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist		10
Discussion Board Forums		
Threads	(2 at 50 pts ea)	100
Replies	(2 at 50 pts ea)	100
Presentation Assessments	(2 at 75 pts ea)	150
Exams	(4 at 50 pts ea)	200
Worldview- Ideology Activities	(2 at 25 pts ea)	50
Mindtap Exercises	(8 at 25 pts ea)	200
Research Paper		200
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1010</b>

B. Scale

A = 900–1010 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

C. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at [LUOODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUOODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at [www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport](http://www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport).

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **GOVT 220**

Textbook: Wilson et al., *American Government: Brief Edition* (2016).

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Wilson et al.: ch. 1 3 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist	10
		Class Introductions	0
		Presentation Assessment 1	75
		Mindtap 1	25
		Self-Check Quiz 1	*
<b>2</b>	Wilson et al.: chs. 2–3 2 presentations	Presentation Assessment 2	75
		Mindtap 2.1	12
		Mindtap 2.2	13
		Test 1	50
		Self-Check Quiz 2	*
<b>3</b>	Wilson et al.: chs. 4–5 2 presentations	DB Forum 1 – Thread	50
		Mindtap 3.1	12
		Mindtap 3.2	13
		Self-Check Quiz 3	*
<b>4</b>	Wilson et al.: ch. 12 1 presentation	DB Forum 1 – Replies	50
		Mindtap 4	25
		Test 2	50
		Self-Check Quiz 4	*
<b>5</b>	Wilson et al.: ch. 9 1 presentation	Research Paper	200
		Mindtap 5	25
		Self-Check Quiz 5	*
<b>6</b>	Wilson et al.: chs. 10–11	Worldview-Ideology Activity 1	25
		Worldview-Ideology Activity 2	25
		Mindtap 6.1	12
		Mindtap 6.2	13
		Test 3	50
<b>7</b>	Wilson et al.: ch. 7 1 presentation	DB Forum 2 – Thread	50
		Mindtap 7	25
		Self-Check Quiz 7	*
<b>8</b>	Wilson et al.: ch. 8 1 presentation	DB Forum 2 – Replies	50
		Mindtap 8	25
		Test 4	50
		Self-Check Quiz 8	*
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1010</b>

\* Self-check quizzes are optional and will not be graded.  
DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course module/week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.