

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 328

AMERICAN POLITICAL PROCESSES

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the electoral process in American and the organizations such as political parties and interest groups that influence it. Topics included are political campaigns, electoral laws, voting behavior, and the development of political parties and interest groups. In election years, students are encouraged to participate in the campaign of the party of their choice.

RATIONALE

Political parties and interest groups play a key role in the American political process. In this course, the student will be challenged to develop a deeper understanding of the ways in which political parties as well as interest groups function as organizations, in the electorate, and in government. The knowledge the student will learn in this course will equip him/her to play a part in shaping public policy through these organizations.

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. Turabian Style Manual
<https://www.liberty.edu/academics/casas/academicsuccess/index.cfm?PID=11954>

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- A. Compare the differences in purpose and functions of political parties and interest groups.
- B. Describe the development and operation of political parties and interest groups in the United States at the federal, state, and local level.
- C. Explain the impact of the Constitution and federal law on elections, evaluating the impact of items such as the Electoral College and campaign finance laws.
- D. Analyze the interaction of Christianity and politics by reviewing faith-based advocacy groups.
- E. Demonstrate ways Christians can have a positive impact on the political process.

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 (3)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences.

Thread

The student is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be 500–750 words, include at least 1 outside scholarly source, and demonstrate course-related knowledge.

Replies

In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates' threads. Each reply must be 250–350 words and include at least 1 outside scholarly source.

D. Research Paper

Thesis and Outline

The student will write a thesis and create an outline in preparation for the Research Paper – Final Submission. The thesis and outline must be 2–3 pages and must include at least 7 references.

Final Submission

The student will write a 5–7-page research-based paper in current Turabian format that focuses on an in-depth study of a faith-based interest group of his/her choosing. The paper must include at least 10 scholarly references in addition to the course textbooks, the Bible, and course presentations.

E. Exams (2)

Each exam will cover the Reading & Study material for the module/week in which it is assigned and all prior modules/weeks. Each exam will be open-book/open-notes, contain multiple-choice and short answer questions, and have a 2-hour time limit.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums	
Threads (3 at 100 pts ea)	300
Replies (3 at 50 pts ea)	150
Research Paper	
Thesis and Outline	100
Final Submission	150
Exams (2 at 150 pts ea)	300
Total	1010

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 to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

COURSE SCHEDULE

GOVT 328

Textbooks: Hershey, *Party Politics in America* (2017).

Nownes, *Interest Groups in American Politics: Pressure and Power* (2013).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Hershey: chs. 1–2 Nownes: chs. 1, 2 (pp. 24–32), 8 1 presentation 1 paper	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1 – Thread	10 0 100
2	Hershey: chs. 3–5 1 presentation	DB Forum 1 – Replies	50
3	Hershey: chs. 6–8 1 presentation	DB Forum 2 – Thread	100
4	Hershey: chs. 13–15 1 presentation	DB Forum 2 – Replies Exam 1	50 150
5	Nownes: chs. 2–4 1 presentation	DB Forum 3 – Thread Research Paper – Thesis and Outline	100 100
6	Nownes: chs. 5–7 2 presentations	DB Forum 3 – Replies	50
7	Hershey: chs. 9–12 1 presentation 1 website	Research Paper – Final Submission	150
8	Hershey: ch. 16 Nownes: chs. 9–10 1 presentation 1 website	Exam 2	150
TOTAL			1010

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**.