

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 460

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the contemporary legal, economic, political, religious, philosophical, and cultural issues impacting the political context in the areas of government, politics, and international relations. These factors will be considered in light of a Biblical perspective. Students will be challenged to apply key concepts of political science to these discussions.

RATIONALE

GOVT 460 provides the student a history of the origins and explanation of the motivations of the political, economic, and cultural institutions that he/she has examined in previous political science courses.

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 Word

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- A. Explain the relationship between worldview and the contemporary political process.
- B. Explain the relationship between one's philosophical presumptions regarding human nature and the development and/or choice of political systems.
- C. Identify significant trends in the development of institutions in the modern state.
- D. Explain the effects of modern presuppositions on several facets of modern society: political, economic, religious, cultural, etc.

- E. Compare sources in political, economic, religious, and cultural studies.
- F. Analyze contemporary policies and/or governmental actions in light of their philosophical roots.

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. Therefore, the student is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be 400–500 words, demonstrate course-related knowledge, and include at least 3 references to course readings and at least 1 Scripture reference. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to at least 2 classmates' threads. Each reply must be 200–250 words and include at least 1 reference to course readings and at least 1 Scripture reference. Each reply must be unique; merely posting the same reply in 2 places is not sufficient and may be treated as a form of academic misconduct.

- D. Book Reviews (3)

The student will be required to submit 3 Book Reviews. Each Book Review must be at least 3 pages, must be written in current Turabian format, and must cite at least 5 appropriate sources to justify the student's position and/or conclusions. Each review must also cite at least 1 Scripture reference. In all other respects, each review must be in accord with the standards of academic writing.

- E. Final Research Paper

The student will be required to submit a Final Research Paper. The paper must be 7–10 pages, must be written in current Turabian format, and must cite 7–10 appropriate sources in sufficient quantity to justify the student's position and/or conclusions. The paper must also cite at least 1 Scripture reference. In all other respects, the paper must be in accord with the standards of academic writing. The topic for this paper is an assessment of the prospects for a return to a religious basis for Western Civilization.

- F. Final Essay Exam

This exam will consist of 5 questions and is open-book/open-notes. Answers to each of these questions must be separate short essays of at least 3 paragraphs each (8–10 sentences per paragraph). Each essay must be 400–500 words and include at least 3 citations from the course readings. Therefore, the entire exam must contain at least 15 paragraphs (120–150 total sentences) and at least 15 citations. All 5 short essays must follow current Turabian format and be included in 1 document.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**A. Points**

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (3 at 100 pts ea)	300
Book Reviews (3 at 100 pts ea)	300
Final Research Paper	200
Final Essay Exam	200
Total	1010

B. Scale

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

D. 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 460

Textbooks: Dreher, *The Benedict Option* (2017).
 Johnson, *A History of the American People* (1999).
 Kreeft, *Back to Virtue* (1992).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Johnson: 1st half 1 presentation	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1	10 0 100
2	Johnson: 2nd half 1 presentation	Book Review 1	100
3	Kreeft: 1st half 1 presentation	DB Forum 2	100
4	Kreeft: 2nd half 1 presentation	Book Review 2	100
5	Dreher: 1st half 1 presentation	DB Forum 3	100
6	Dreher: 2nd half 1 presentation	Book Review 3	100
7	1 presentation 1 website	Final Research Paper	200
8	1 presentation 1 website	Final Essay Exam	200
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course module/week 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**.