

**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***

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### **PPOL 501**

#### **FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN GOVERNANCE: AN INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides a broad study of the philosophical, intellectual, political, and cultural influences on Western Society and examines the manner in which those influences have been and are being reflected in American Public Policy. More specifically, it will examine the manner in which various worldviews affect American Public Policy, with particular emphasis on the contrast between the Judeo-Christian worldview and Secular Humanism, Marxism/Leninism, and Islamic Fundamentalism.

#### **RATIONALE**

Foundations of American Governance is a required and foundational course providing the mechanical, philosophical, and substantive framework for the study of public policy that will occur throughout the remainder of the program.

#### **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. Microsoft Office

#### **IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

- A. Evaluate how ideas affect and inform public policy.
- B. Analyze the sources, characteristics, and influences of particular philosophies and ideas on American public policy.
- C. Evaluate the tangible implications of public policies and the ideas affecting them as to their impacts on individuals, groups, and/or society.
- D. Synthesize particular public policies from a practical and Judeo-Christian perspective.

**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 is required to provide a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be 400–500 words and contain at least 3 citations in current Turabian format. In addition to the thread, the student must reply to at least 2 other classmates’ threads. Each reply must be 200–250 words and contain at least 1 citation in current Turabian format.

- D. News Article Reviews (4)

The student will be required to submit 4 News Article Reviews in this course. Each News Article Review must demonstrate comprehension and identify key elements related to concepts discussed in the course. Each News Article Review must be 150–250 words and cite the reviewed article in current Turabian format.

- E. Research Papers (2)

The student will be required to submit 2 research papers written in current Turabian format. Both papers must cite appropriate grad-level sources and contain a title page and bibliography. The first Research Paper will require at least 3 sources and have a 500-word body. The second Research Paper must cite at least 5 sources and have a 1,750–2,000-word body.

**VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**

- A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (2 at 75 pts ea)	150
News Article Reviews (4 at 100 pts ea)	400
Research Paper 1	100
Research Paper 2	350
<b>Total</b>	<b>1010</b>

- B. Scale

A = 940–1010    A- = 920–939    B+ = 900–919    B = 860–899    B- = 840–859  
 C+ = 820–839    C = 780–819    C- = 760–779    D+ = 740–759    D = 700–739  
 D- = 680–699    F = 0–679

- 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***

### **PPOL 501**

Textbooks: Alinsky, *Rules for Radicals: A Pragmatic Primer for Realistic Radicals* (1971).  
 Bastiat, *The Law: The Classic Blueprint for a Free Society* (2010).  
 Beckwith, *Politics for Christians: Statecraft as Soulcraft* (2010).  
 Schaeffer, *A Christian Manifesto* (2005).

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Beckwith: Preface, Introduction, chs. 1–2 2 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1	10 0 75
<b>2</b>	Beckwith: chs. 3–5, Conclusion	News Article Review 1	100
<b>3</b>	Bastiat: Entire book	Research Paper 1	100
<b>4</b>	Schaeffer: chs. 1–4 2 presentations	News Article Review 2	100
<b>5</b>	Schaeffer: chs. 5–8	DB Forum 2	75
<b>6</b>	Schaeffer: chs. 9–10 Alinsky: Prologue - p. 47	News Article Review 3	100
<b>7</b>	Alinsky: pp. 48–124	News Article Review 4	100
<b>8</b>	Alinsky: pp. 125–96 1 presentation	Research Paper 2	350
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1010</b>

DB = Discussion Board

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