



Syllabus

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES **SSC 108: Introduction To American Government**

5 Credits
Effective: Spring 2018/2019

*Access to the Internet is required.
All written assignments must be in Microsoft-Word-compatible formats.
See the library's APA Style Guide tutorial for a list of resources that can help you use APA style.*

FACULTY

Faculty Name: FACULTY NAME

Contact Information: CONTACT INFORMATION

[INSTRUCTOR MAY INSERT PERSONAL MESSAGE IF DESIRED]

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introductory look at the American government for the beginning political science student. Topics include: Constitutional principles, rights and liberties, the political process, the making of national policy, and the nature of policy-making institutions.

COURSE RESOURCES

Required and recommended resources to complete coursework and assignments are found on the course [Reading List](#). The reading list can be found under Course Information in Blackboard as well as from the library homepage.

Note: Required resources that must be purchased by the student are tagged “Purchase from a vendor of your choosing.” Required resources with a direct link, “Available through CityU Library”, are available at no cost to students.

Students in Canada will see required resources they need to purchase tagged “Purchase from the Canadian Bookstore.” Students outside the U.S. and Canada should contact their advisor or textbook coordinator for additional information.

COURSE OUTCOMES

In this course, learners:

- Discuss the impact of constitutional amendments on the American way of life.
- Describe the influence of political parties, special interest groups, and the media over governmental policy.
- Explain the American governmental system of checks and balances among the executive, legislative, and judicial branches.

OVERVIEW OF COURSE GRADING

The grades earned for the course will be derived using City University of Seattle's decimal grading system, based on the following:

<i>Overview of Required Assignments</i>	<i>% of Final Grade</i>
Course Activities	60%
Position Paper 1: Amendments to the Constitution	20%
Position Paper 2: Landmark Supreme Court Case	20%
TOTAL	100%

SPECIFICS OF COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

The instructor will provide grading rubrics with more detail as to how this assignment will be graded.

Course Activities

Class participation through discussion and other activities are integral parts of this course. To provide structure for balanced participation and allow maximum benefit of enhanced discussion activities and learning, the following are required: 1) Post initial responses to discussion questions; 2) Post at least two thoughtful and topic-relevant comments or questions in response to classmates' posts on at least two different days during the school week; and 3) Respond to any questions the instructor or classmates have regarding the original post by the end of the school week. Other activities that support course outcomes (quizzes, knowledge checks, etc.) may be assigned.

<i>Components</i>	<i>% of Grade</i>
Quantity of Responses	25%
Style and Mechanics	25%
Timeliness of Responses	25%
Quality of Responses	25%
TOTAL	100%

Position Paper 1: Amendments to the Constitution

Using the concepts covered in this course, students write a position paper expressing their opinion of one of the 27 amendments to the Constitution. The paper will introduce one amendment and explain its impact on the American way of life (either negative, positive, or both). The paper will have a clear thesis statement stating the student's position, defend student's position with logical and persuasive arguments, and provide supporting evidence that is accurate and authoritative. This 5- to 6-page paper includes: 1) title page; 2) three- to four-page body; and 3) reference page. The paper must cite at least three scholarly sources and be formatted in APA Style. An abstract is not required.

<i>Components</i>	<i>% of Grade</i>
Use of course concepts	30%
Organization and Coherence	30%
Style and Mechanics	20%
APA style (citations/reference list)	10%
APA Style (formatting)	10%
TOTAL	100%

Position Paper 2: Landmark Supreme Court Case

Using the concepts covered in this course, students write a position paper expressing their opinion of a landmark supreme court case. The paper introduces the case and explains its impact on American society. The paper will have a clear thesis statement stating the student's position, defend student's position with logical and persuasive arguments, and provide supporting evidence that is accurate and authoritative. This 5- to 6-page paper includes: 1) title page; 2) three- to four-page body; and 3) reference page. The paper must cite at least three scholarly sources and be formatted in APA Style. An abstract is not required.

<i>Components</i>	<i>% of Grade</i>
Use of course concepts	30%
Organization and Coherence	30%
Style and Mechanics	20%
APA style (citations/reference list)	10%
APA Style (formatting)	10%
TOTAL	100%

COURSE POLICIES

Late Assignments

LATE ASSIGNMENT

Participation

PARTICIPATION

Professional Writing

Assignments require error-free writing that uses standard English conventions and logical flow of organization to address topics clearly, completely, and concisely. CityU requires the use of APA style.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

You are responsible for understanding and adhering to all of City University of Seattle's academic policies. The most current versions of these policies can be found in the [University Catalog](#) that is linked from the CityU Web site.

Non-Discrimination & Prohibition of Sexual Misconduct

City University of Seattle adheres to all federal, state, and local civil rights laws prohibiting discrimination in employment and education. The University is committed to ensuring that the education

environment is bounded by standards of mutual respect and safety and is free from discriminatory practices.

In the U.S., the University is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to ensure that all of its education programs and activities do not discriminate on the basis of sex/gender. Sex include sex, sex stereotypes, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, and pregnancy or parenting status. Sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, and stalking are forms of sex discrimination, which are prohibited under Title IX and by City University of Seattle policy. City University of Seattle also prohibits retaliation against any person opposing discrimination or participating in any discrimination investigation or complaint process internal or external to the institution. Questions regarding Title IX, including its application and/or concerns about noncompliance, should be directed to the Title IX Coordinator. For a complete copy of the policy or for more information, visit <https://my.cityu.edu/titleix> or contact the Title IX Coordinator.

In Canada, in compliance with the British Columbia Human Rights Code, the Alberta Human Rights Act, WorksafeBC, and the Workers' Compensation Board of Alberta, the University believes that its environment should at all times be supportive and respectful of the dignity and self-esteem of individuals. Discrimination, harassment and bullying conduct, whether through person to person behaviour or via electronic communications such as email or social media is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. As an educational institution, it is our responsibility to cultivate an environment of excellence, equity, mutual respect and to recognize the value and potential of every individual. The University will take all necessary steps to meet or exceed the requirements of the law to prevent discrimination, harassment and bullying. The Respectful Workplace Policy for the prevention of discrimination, harassment and bullying policy and procedure can be found at <https://www.cityu.edu/discover-cityu/about-cityu/> under the Policies section or at <https://www.cityuniversity.ca/about/>.

Religious Accommodations

City University of Seattle has a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The University's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available in the University Catalog and on the my.cityu.edu student portal. Accommodations must be requested by the 20% mark of this course (e.g. day 14 of a ten-week course, day 7 of a 5-week course) using the Religious Accommodations Request Form found on the student dashboard in the my.cityu.edu student portal.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity in students requires the pursuit of scholarly activity that is free from fraud, deception and unauthorized collaboration with other individuals. Students are responsible for understanding CityU's policy on academic integrity and adhering to its standards in meeting all course requirements. A complete copy of this policy can be found in the University Catalog in the section titled [Academic Integrity Policy](#) under Student Rights & Responsibilities.

Attendance

Students taking courses in any format at the University are expected to be diligent in their studies and to attend class regularly. Regular class attendance is important in achieving learning outcomes in the course and may be a valid consideration in determining the final grade. For classes where a physical presence is required, a student has attended if they are present at any time during the class session. For online classes, a student has attended if they have posted or submitted an assignment. A complete copy of this policy can be found in the [University Catalog](#) in the section titled Attendance under Student Rights & Responsibilities.

Final Assignments Due Date

Final assignments for each class at CityU must be due on or before the final date of the course as indicated in the university's course information system. Due dates that extend beyond the final date of the course may negatively impact tuition funding for students.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Disability Services Accommodations Statement

Students with documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Please contact Disability Support Services at disability@cityu.edu or 206.2369.4752 or visit the [Disability Support Services](#) page in the my.cityu.edu portal. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about academic accommodations will be shared with your course instructors.

Library Services

CityU librarians are available to help students find the resources and information they need to succeed in this course. Contact a CityU librarian through the [Ask a Librarian](#) service, or access [library resources and services](#) online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Smarthinking Tutoring CityU students have 24/7 access to free online tutoring offered through Smarthinking, including writing support, from certified tutors. Contact CityU's Student Support Center at mycityusupport@cityu.edu to request a username and password.