

PS 101: American Government

General overview of the curriculum

An analysis of the American political system, with emphasis on the Constitution. Topics include American conservative and liberal political traditions, political parties, and the organization and operation of the executive, judicial, and legislative branches of government. (3 semester hours) Fall

Overview of assignments

There will be critical thinking questions assigned for each chapter, along with a chapter and unit exams. The students will participate in the “Stock Market Game” and present their experience to the class. The students will also complete a “Personal Budget” project at the end of the semester, along with a number of seminar debates on key economic issues.

PS 101: American Government

Summer Assignment

There is no summer assignment.

Expectations, policies, and tips for success

All assignments must be completed in full and on time. Late work is strongly discouraged and accepted only in the most extenuating of circumstances. Students should use the class calendar and plan ahead so that they can stay on pace with their work and not get overwhelmed. Students may submit essays days early to receive feedback and improve their writing. Students should be fully committed to the course once they begin and should plan for a challenging but fulfilling year. Students should avoid registering for the course to be with friends or “just to try it out.”

Materials list

1. Folder
2. Loose leaf paper for homework and warmup responses
3. Pens and pencils