

POL 120—U.S. National Government and Politics

University of Michigan-Flint
Mondays/Wednesdays 4-5:15 pm

Winter 2020

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appointment

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

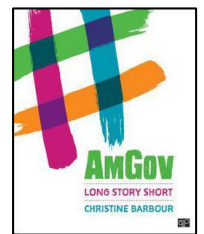
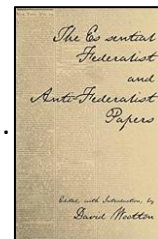
Theory and practice of democratic government in the United States and the institutions and processes of American government as manifestations of democratic values. Representative democracy, federalism, the Presidency, Congress, the Courts, political parties, interest groups and voting as expressions of, and at times contradictions to, democratic values.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course is designed to provide you the essential tools to understand the American government and the everyday political issues in the U.S. By the end of the semester you should be able to participate in that usually dreaded family discussion of government and politics with ease. You also will be exposed to many source texts, especially documents used surrounding the debates over the ratification of our Constitution—the Federalist papers and the writings collectively known as the Anti-Federalist Papers.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. *AmGov: Long Story Short* by Christine Barbour. ISBN: 978-1-5443-2592-7
2. *The Essential Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers* edited by David Wootton.
ISBN: 978-0-87220-655-7
3. Supplemental readings available on Blackboard

**GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS AT-A-GLANCE**

Assignment	Assigned	Due Date	Point Value	Total Points
Weekly Quizzes*	n/a	Every Wednesday <i>In class</i>	10 points	100*
iCitizen 1—Political Ideology Essay	1/13/20	1/22/20	50 points	50
iCitizen 2—Civic Engagement Experience	1/27/20	3/18/20	100 points	100
iCitizen 3—American Citizenship Appraisal	1/29/20	2/22/20	100 points	100
iCitizen 4—Dear Congressperson Letter	2/10/20	2/24/20	100 points	100
iCitizen 5—Chaos of Democracy	2/26/20	3/11/20	50 points	50
iCitizen 6—Essay on American Citizenship and Politics	4/13/20	4/22/20	100 points	100
In Class Exercises/Free Writes*	n/a	Ongoing	10 points each	100*
TOTAL				700 POINTS

*For both Weekly Quizzes and In Class Exercises/Free Writes, you will be given no fewer than 12. I will count all of those that you take and anything over 10 will be counted as extra credit. This incentivizes good attendance and also allows you to miss a couple of days without penalty.

HOW TO TURN IN ASSIGNMENTS

You are expected to submit assignments on time by the date stated on this syllabus. Penalties for late assignments are listed by each assignment's description below. Extenuating circumstances will be considered if you talk to me as soon as possible. **YOU MUST SUBMIT ALL ASSIGNMENTS ON BLACKBOARD** unless otherwise instructed.

GRADING SCALE

Based on percentage of total points earned

<i>Grade</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>%</i>
A+	97-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A	93-96	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62
						E	59 or less

ASSIGNMENTS IN DETAIL

There are three major components to your grade: (1) WEEKLY QUIZZES; (2) FREE WRITES AND IN CLASS EXERCISES; and, (3) the iCITIZEN PROJECT, a semester-long portfolio of six assignments.

- (1) WEDNESDAY QUIZZES.** Each Wednesday we will take a brief quiz (10-15 minutes) on the material that we have covered since the last quiz. While anything is open game that we have covered, the quizzes will cover mainly the readings. Each quiz is worth 10 points. You will be given at least 12 opportunities to take quizzes on Wednesdays, but graded only for 10 (in other words, there are 100 points built into the final grade, not 120). You can take the extra ones as extra credit or if you miss a class or do poorly on one or two quizzes, you have a built in buffer. **NO LATE QUIZZES/NO MAKE UPS.**
- (2) FREE WRITES/IN CLASS EXERCISES.** While we will have some mini-lectures in class, much of our class will be built around activities and discussion. Part of that will be graded in terms of participation (in class exercises) and sometimes you will be asked to briefly write about a topic (free writes). There will be no fewer than 12 of these opportunities in class (likely more) and you will be graded on having completed 10 of them, just like the quizzes. **NO LATE QUIZZES/NO MAKE UPS.**
- (3) iCITIZEN PROJECT.** This project is composed of all six (6) of the writing assignments you will do in this class. You will be given the full information on each of these assignments closer to their due date. These papers will be graded based both on content and form/grammar. The goal is to demonstrate your understanding of the material and your ability to think critically. You are expected to write clear and concise essays that address the question asked. ***Late submissions: late submissions will have 5% of the grade deducted for each day late up to 7 days. No assignments accepted after 7 days.***

EXTRA CREDIT... Extra credit opportunities will be available throughout the semester. You should take advantage of them as you can. They will be announced as early as possible in class and via email. Some already known extra credit events are listed below. Be sure to sign in for all events.

Coffee and Conversation. Once a month, the Department of Political Science hosts conversations on a topic of relevance to our modern politics. This semester's list will be posted on Blackboard. (10 points)

IMPORTANT POLICIES

ACADEMIC HONESTY. *Cheating and plagiarism are not tolerated and may lead to your failing this course.*

Plagiarism is the taking of credit for someone else's work or ideas, submitting a piece of work which is not entirely the student's own work without fully and accurately attributing those same portions to their correct source. If you are unsure whether something violates the University's policies or my own, talk to me first. You will not be penalized for asking. I reserve the right to fail you on an assignment if I believe the work you submit is not your own. You can learn more about the University's policies on academic honesty at :

<http://catalog.umflint.edu/content.php?catoid=28&navoid=3045>.

ACCOMMODATIONS. The University of Michigan–Flint strives to make learning experiences as accessible as possible and complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the American with Disabilities Act. The university provides individuals with disabilities reasonable accommodations to participate in educational programs, activities, and services. Students with disabilities requiring accommodations to participate in class activities or meet course requirements must self-identify with Disability and Accessibility Support Services as early as possible at (810) 762-3456 or dassflint@umich.edu. The office is located in 264 University Center, inside the CAPS Office. Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined you will be issued an Accommodation Letter. Please present this letter to each faculty member in each class at the beginning of the term, or at least two weeks prior to the need for the accommodation (test, project, etc.).

INCLUSION AND PRONOUNS. All people have the right to be addressed and referred to appropriately. I will gladly recognize your pronouns and any alternate or preferred name, and I will enforce the use of these pronouns and name in our class interactions. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. You can also change your pronouns and name in Wolverine Access, using the Gender Identity tab under Student Business. I will do my best to address and refer to all students accordingly and create a supportive learning environment for all. For the record, you can call me Dr. McManaway, Dr. Saks McManaway, or Professor Saks McManaway. My pronouns are she/her.

RELIGIOUS/CULTURAL OBSERVANCE. Persons who have religious or cultural observances that coincide with this class should let the instructor know in writing (by e-mail for example) as soon as possible. I strongly encourage you to honor your cultural and religious holidays! However, if I do not hear from you by January 30, I will assume that you do not have any such conflicts.

EXPECTATIONS

I expect all students enrolled in this course to take personal responsibility for their work, their participation and their grade in this course. I am always available to meet with students during my office hours or by appointment to go over material, discuss education and/or career objectives and to help you make a plan to earn a better grade in this course. I have three main expectations in this course:

EXPECTATION 1: FULLY ENGAGING IN CLASS.

Participation. This means you (1) attend class regularly; (2) actively participate in class discussions.

Experience has shown that more than four absences may lead to your failing this course and will certainly lower your grade.

Academic Honesty. **CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM ARE NOT TOLERATED AND MAY LEAD TO YOU FAILING.**

Plagiarism is the taking of credit for someone else's work or ideas, submitting a piece of work which is not entirely the student's own work without fully and accurately attributing those same portions to their correct

source. If you are unsure whether something is plagiarism, ask. You will not be penalized for asking. You will be penalized for willful ignorance without asking up to and including failing the assignment, the course and other disciplinary action.

EXPECTATION 2: RESPECTFUL PARTICIPATION. This is a course that does not shy away from the discussion of political and social topics. Debate and disagreement is welcomed and encouraged, but disrespect is not. Your ideas are always welcome if they are presented with logic, respect and supporting facts.



EXPECTATION 3: MAINTAINING CONTACT. Simply put you will not pass the class if you do not maintain contact outside of the classroom through email and Blackboard.

Email. It is your responsibility to check your UM Flint email regularly as I reserve the right to make changes to assignments and readings via email/Blackboard. If you don't like the UM Flint email, have it forwarded.



Blackboard. All of your papers in this course will be submitted through Blackboard's SafeAssign feature. You are responsible for ensuring that your assignment is properly submitted. I recommend saving the submission page. Failure to submit your assignment on time—regardless of reason—will subject you to penalties.

Twitter. You should follow me on Twitter (@profmcmaway) but **NOT for individual assignment** issues or coursework issues. Twitter is to update you on general announcements (closings, cancellations, changes) as well as to discuss course material and current events and is used in addition to, not in lieu of, email. Questions about individual assignments will not be answered via Twitter.

YOUR EXPECTATIONS OF ME

- Come to class prepared to discuss the material as well as current events
- Make time for you outside of course in a reasonable manner upon request either in person or by email (*allow 24-48 hours for a reply, more over breaks and weekends*)
- Return assignments as soon as possible so you know where you stand in this course.
- Try my best to make this course interesting, relevant and worth your time.
- Attempt to find an answer for your questions, even if that means getting back to you later.

CAMPUS RESOURCES

While college can be a fun and exciting time in life, it can also have its fair share of ups and downs that make it more difficult. There are a variety of campus resources that may be able to help you if you're having a rough time. Please utilize these resources if you need them. That's what they're there for.

Resource	Concern	Contact
Disability and Accessibility Support Services	For help with accommodations or help determining if you need accommodations related to a disability.	264 University Center dassflint@umich.edu 810-762-3456
Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)	Free and confidential counseling, and therapy for students as well as workshops on topics such as stress management, time management, and healthy relationships.	264 University Center 810-762-3456
Center for Gender and Sexuality	The Center for Gender and Sexuality (CGS) focuses on supporting all students, faculty, and staff to deepen and enrich awareness on all issues related to gender and sexuality.	213 University Center CGS.umflint@umich.edu 810-237-6648
Intercultural Center	Advancing social justice and intercultural understanding at the University of Michigan-Flint by promoting belonging, advocacy, and co-curricular education.	115 University Center UMFlintICCStaff@umich.edu 810-762-3045
Student Veterans Resource Center.	Provides academic support to the veteran community, including assistance with use of veteran's benefits for education and other resources.	131 University Pavilion dept.svrc@umflint.edu 810-424-5589
International Center	A dedicated resource for students, scholars, faculty, and visiting academics who come to our campus from around the world.	219 University Center ic@umflint.edu (810) 762-0867
Dean of Students Office	The Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards promotes and supports a civil, healthy, and safe campus community through the standards outlined in the Code of Student Conduct. Report an incident of hazing, sexual assault, bias, or other issue/concern.	375 University Center (810) 762-5728

If you think of a resource I should list here in future semesters, please let me know.

Winter 2020 POL 120 Schedule

Week	Date	Topic/Readings	Assignments
1	1/6/20	Introduction to course and expectations	
	1/8/20	Political culture and ideology - Evans, "One Choice Can Transform You" (BB)	Wednesday Quiz 1
2	1/13/20	Political culture and ideology - Barbour, pp. 3-18 - Locke (BB)	iCitizen 1 assigned
	1/15/20	The Founding and the Constitution, Pt. 1 - Barbour, pp. 38-46 - Declaration of Independence (BB)	Wednesday Quiz 2
3	1/20/20	NO CLASS—MLK Day	
	1/22/20	The Founding and the Constitution, Pt. 2 - Barbour, pp. 47-54 - Federalist 51 (Wooton)	iCitizen 1 due @ 11:59 pm via BB Wednesday Quiz 3
4	1/27/20	Federalism and the Constitution - Barbour, pp. 54-66 - Federalist 51 (Wooton) - Brutus 6 (Wooton)	iCitizen 2 assigned
	1/29/20	Citizenship - Barbour, pp. 27-30 - Applebaum "Americans Aren't Practicing Democracy Anymore" (BB) - Brown & Maloyed, "Service Guarantees Citizenship" (BB)	iCitizen 3 assigned Wednesday Quiz 4
5	2/3/20	Rights and Liberties - Barbour, pp. 72-78 and 90-94 - Federalist 84 (Wooton) - Brutus I (Wooton) - Rawls, <i>A Theory of Justice</i> (BB)	
	2/5/20	Review/catch up	Wednesday Quiz 5
6	2/10/20	Congress, pt. 1 - Barbour, pp. 112-128 - Federalist 39 (Wooton) - Federalist 57 (Wooton) - Pivotal Politics	iCitizen 4 assigned

	2/12/20	Congress, pt 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barbour, pp. 129-141 - Mayhew, <i>The Electoral Connection</i> (BB) - Fenno, <i>Homestyle</i> (BB) 	iCitizen 3 due @ 11:59 pm via BB Wednesday Quiz 6
7	2/17/20	Presidency, pt 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barbour, pp. 150-161 - Federalist 70 (Wooton) - Cato 4 (Wooton) 	
	2/19/20	Presidency, pt. 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barber, <i>The Compromised Republic</i> (BB) 	Wednesday Quiz 7
8	2/24/20	Simulation Day 1 —Bill Writing	<u>iCitizen 4 due @ BEGINNING OF CLASS hard copy and via BB</u>
	2/26/20	Simulation Day 2 —Lawmaking	iCitizen 5 assigned NO WEDNESDAY QUIZ
9	3/2-3/4/20	Spring Break—NO CLASS	
10	3/9/20	Judiciary, pt. 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barbour, pp. 182-188 and 196-204 	
	3/11/20	Judiciary, pt. 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barbour, pp. 204-211 	iCitizen 5 due @ 11:59 pm via BB Wednesday Quiz 8
11	3/16/20	Parties and Interest Groups, pt. 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barbour, pp. 214-233 - APSA, <i>Toward a More Responsible Two Party System</i> (BB) 	
	3/18/20	Parties and Interest Groups, pt. 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barbour, pp. 233-244 	iCitizen 3 due @ 11:59 pm via BB Wednesday Quiz 9
12	3/23/20	Voting and Turnout, pt. 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barbour, pp. 262-266 - Ayed, “Make Debate Great Again” (BB) 	
	3/25/20	Voting and Turnout, pt. 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gutting, <i>Should Everybody Vote?</i> (BB) 	Wednesday Quiz 10

13	3/30/20	NO CLASS—Review Day	
	4/1/20	Electoral Results and Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barbour, pp. 270-280 - Parks, “Abolishing the Electoral College Would Be More Complicated Than It May Seem” (BB) 	NO WEDNESDAY QUIZ
14	4/6/20	Electoral Results and Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Federalist 14 (Wooton) - Wasserman, “Hating Gerrymandering is Easy” (BB) 	
	4/8/20	Politics and Media, pt. 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barbour, pp. 300-303 and 23-26 - Sunstein, “Republic 2.0” (BB) 	Wednesday Quiz 11
15	4/13/20	Politics and Media, pt. 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mutz, “Hearing the Other Side” (BB) 	iCitizen 6 assigned
	4/15/20	Review/Catch up	Wednesday Quiz 12
	4/22/20	NO CLASS	iCitizen 6 due @ 11:59 pm via BB

Grades due to SIS on April 29, 2020