

PS19003 – Special Topics: Workshop in State and Local Government

I. COURSE

College:	College of Arts and Humanities   
Program:	Political Science
Course Number:	PS19003
Section ID:	OL11
Course Title:	Special Topics: Workshop in American Government
Credit Hours:	3
Term:	Spring Semester 2027 – First 8-week
Term Start Date:	Monday, January 11, 2027
Term End Date:	Friday, March 7, 2025

Course Meeting Time and Location: This class is asynchronous online. There are no in-person class meetings. All assignments are due by Sunday at 11:59pm.

Canvas Access: You will have access to the Canvas shell 48 hours prior to the course start date, and two weeks after the course end date.

Welcome Statement

Hello and welcome to Workshop in American Government. I am Dr. Hosto-Marti, and I am excited that you are taking this course this semester. I look forward to working with you as we explore the institutions of the American governmental system and how institutions at the local, state, and national government work together to address the policy needs of our nation. My goal for this course is to deliver a thoughtfully planned learning experience. The course will deepen your understanding of Government and how it touches all our lives. Challenge you to develop your critical thinking ability and enhance your communication skills. Encourage you to use your enhanced understanding to work to make a difference in your communities. I will include you in all aspects of the course, support you as a student, and motivate you to explore the course topic in depth. Welcome to the course, and I am looking forward to working with you this semester!



😊 I look forward to learning with you over the next 8 weeks. I want you to reach out to me for further discussion of the course materials or to clarify any assignment or issue. 😊

Course Description

GE-Human Culture: US History/Government This course provides students with an introduction to American and Missouri government constitutions, institutions, politics, and governing processes. Students develop an understanding of the foundations and key governing concepts including the Constitution, Federalism, civil rights and civil liberties, voting, political parties, campaigns, and other forms of political participation. Analyze the interactions between the branches of government; the citizens and their government; State and National government; and how those interactions create domestic and foreign policy. Students will have the skills to actively participate in the civic life and contribute to the welfare of others. This course follows up on participation in the weeklong intensive Missouri Boy's State or Missouri Girl's State governmental simulation.

This course is only available to participants in Missouri Boy's State or Missouri Girl's State programs; administrative approval required.

Books and Materials (Required)

Krutz, *American Government 3e*, ISBN 978-1-951693-43-5

<https://assets.openstax.org/oscms-prodcms/media/documents/AmericanGovernment3e-WEB.pdf>

Declaration of Independence (open access)

US Constitution (open access)

Missouri Boys State Citizenship Manual or Missouri Girls State Manual (received through the Missouri Boys State and / or Missouri Girls State programs)

The Missouri Constitution (open access)

Handouts and/or manuals provided in the school of instructions.

File Formats

All written assignments uploaded in Canvas should be in a doc, docx, or pdf file. Canvas cannot accept other file formats, such as .pages, .gdoc, or .ocr.

II. INSTRUCTOR

Name Barbara Hosto-Marti

Student Consultation Hours:
By appointment on Teams.

Contact Information

Bhosto-marti@lindenwood.edu

1-636-949-4486

For further assistance, please contact Humanities@lindenwood.edu

Biography

Dr. Hosto-Marti received a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Missouri – St. Louis, an MPA from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, and a BA from Illinois College. She is interested in examining the interaction between civil society and public policy at both the national and global stage. This interest stems from her 20 plus years working as a nonprofit professional. Her current research explores how public perception of advocacy by nonprofits affects people's willingness to contribute to or volunteer for nonprofit organizations. In the classroom, she is committed to preparing students to be informed and engaged participants in the political process.

Throughout this course you will receive comments and feedback from me through Canvas discussion boards, comments on papers and other assignments.

Availability/Presence & Responsiveness

Contacting Me: My preferred communication method is by e-mail: bhosto-marti@lindenwood.edu. I will respond to e-mails promptly. **Please allow 12 to 24 hours on weekdays and 24-48 hours on the weekends for a response.** I will let you know in advance if I will be out of communication for several days because of a campus break or for a conference. You can also reach me through Canvas email.

Contacting You: I will communicate with you through campus (NOT PERSONAL) e-mail, Canvas announcements, and within Canvas course modules. **Check these sources several times a week.** I will make every effort not to post time sensitive information later than Sunday each week. It is your responsibility to make sure that your campus e-mail is operating properly – faulty campus e-mail will not be an excuse for missed communication. Since e-mail will be the primary means of communication. Include your name in all e-mail communications.

Throughout this course you will receive comments and feedback from me through Canvas discussion boards, comments on papers and other assignments.

III. [University Mission Statement](#)

IV. [College Mission Statement](#)

V. [Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Statement](#)

Lindenwood University—College of Arts and Humanities

► Preparing for Every Future ◀

Make Your Own Way. Tell Your Own Story.

VI. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Students will demonstrate knowledge of the foundations of the American political system by examining the principles of democracy focusing on the American Constitutional system and civil rights and civil liberties upon which state and national government is based.

Students will analyze the governmental institutions (legislative, executive, and judicial branches) and demonstrate knowledge of their design and function.

Students will describe and evaluate key concepts of civic engagement including voting, political parties, campaigns, media, special interest groups, and other forms of political participation.

Students will demonstrate an understanding of how the interactions between the branches of government and the public create public policy.

Students/Citizens will have a working knowledge of the functions of state and local government as well as a better understanding of how governmental authority effects the lives of citizens.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

PLO#1: Students can effectively develop pragmatic and relevant policy solutions for an ever-changing national and international political landscape. (Adaptive Problem solver)

PLO#2: Students can astutely defend a political stance relating to their roles in the community. And work collaboratively to advocate the social welfare of other on a national and global scale. (Responsible citizen)

PLO#3: Students can skillfully distinguish between political systems of diverse populations and compassionately consider the global impact these political institutions have on diverse governmental, social, economic and cultural outcomes. (Global advocate)

PLO#4: Students can skillfully examine the distinctive nature of policy prescriptions within and between political systems to produce databased assessments of complex societal situation. (Analytical thinker)

Graduate Attributes

Lindenwood University is committed to preparing its graduates for a world of increasing complexity, innovation, and change. Accordingly, developing and demonstrating the following Graduate Attributes is central to the educational spectrum at Lindenwood, including the general education curriculum, major programs of study, and co-curricular experiences.

General Education Category
US History and Government

Graduate Attribute
Responsible Citizens

Graduate Attribute Definition

Responsible citizens take responsibility for their actions and understand their roles in the community. They engage in their communities by working collaboratively in order to promote the welfare of others.

Graduate Attribute Rubric

<https://www.lindenwood.edu/files/resources/responsible-citizen-rubric.pdf>

Graduate Attribute Signature Assignment and Description

Letter to Elected Official – (*POWER SKILL – CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION*) You will take the knowledge gained from crafting the policy proposal and summarize it in a letter to a relevant elected official. The purpose of this assignment is to get you used to using your constitutional right to petition government for the redress of grievances. You are not required to send this letter to the official, but I hope you will want to.

VI. GRADING

Final Grades

Final grades will be determined according to the following scale:

Final Grades

Grade Grading Scale

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	59% and below

Grades are rounded to the nearest whole percentage.

Methods of Assessment

Methods of Assessment	Assignments
Policy Proposal	100 points (35%)
Discussion and Activities	125 points (45%)
Letter to Elected Official	50 points (20%)
Total Points	275 points

Assignments

Descriptions of Assignments, Quizzes, and Exams

In the College of Arts and Humanities (CAH), we are committed to helping you prepare for every future--and POWER SKILLS underpin all we do. We teach you what you are learning and why, how to communicate this information to others, as well as how to transfer these skills to any future. These POWER SKILLS, which include critical thinking, emotional awareness, creativity, empathy, and effective communication, are in-demand, durable, and transferrable--embracing all things that a robot cannot do. CAH courses help you develop the necessary POWER SKILLS to make good decisions, use

technology wisely, power the future, and thrive in an ever-changing world and job market.

Discussion Board – Power Skills: Critical Thinking and Effective Communication

Students will use these discussion boards to reflect on the connection between their simulation experience and the fundamental theories underlying the US and Missouri state systems of government. They will also engage and respond to varied ideological and functional perspectives.

Policy Proposal – Power Skills: Adaptive Problem Solving and Ethical Reasoning

By week 3 of the course students will identify a policy issue facing state or local government they wish to address. Students will research this policy issue and create a 3–5-page policy recommendation report. This report will address the following information.

Issue Summary

- Why is the Issue important?
- Who is affected by the Issue?
- What happens if this issue is not addressed?

Policy Analysis

- **Identify Propose two possible solutions?**
 - What are the strengths and weaknesses of each solution?
 - How much would it cost \$\$\$\$?
 - Political Agreement - How much do the political parties or American people agree with the solution (Public Opinion Polls)
 - Political Will – Is this issue a priority of most Americans?
 - Are they willing to make sacrifices to see it changed?

Policy Evaluation

Which of the two policies would have the best chance of success and why?

Advice to an Elected Official

- What advice would you offer an elected official working on this policy? (Preferred policy option)

Letter to Elected Official – Power Skills: Effective Communication and Civic Engagement

You will take the knowledge gained from crafting the policy proposal and summarize it in a letter to a relevant elected official. The purpose of this assignment is to get you used to using your constitutional right to petition government for the redress of grievances. You are not required to send this letter to the official, but I hope you will want to.

Late & Missing Work

Late work should be avoided. Any late work will be assessed a point deduction of 10% for every week that it is late. All assignments must be turned in by Friday, March 7, 2025.

Suggestions for Doing Well in this Course

“If all mankind minus one were of one opinion, and only one person was of the contrary opinion, mankind would be no more justified in silencing that one person, than he, if he had the power, would be justified in silencing mankind.”
-John Stuart Mill

Even in an online setting we will be creating a building a marketplace of ideas and a community of learners. As members of this community, students are expected engage with the instructor and fellow students in a manner that is constructive, relevant, and respectful. You are encouraged to keep an open mind and respectfully consider the opinions and viewpoints of your fellow students and the instructor. We will not agree, and we need not change others’ views, but we will gain a better understanding and appreciation of different perspective and maybe even our own opinions. We will be interacting in discussion and through peer-review activities.

Etiquette rules are applicable to all online communications. When conducted properly, online communications should be no less in terms of quality and consideration than that which is exchanged in face-to-face or printed communications.

If you put in the effort, I am confident that you will be successful in this course! Here are a few suggestions to help you have a positive and successful learning experience:

- Familiarize yourself with our Canvas shell and check it regularly.
- *Carefully* read all course communications (announcements, instructions, emails, etc.).
- **Let me know as soon as possible if you are having problems with anything!** I am happy to meet with you to help in any way I can. Just reach out to me and we will set up a time to meet.
- Do the readings
- Thoughtfully participate in the class discussions and activities. These are an excellent opportunity to get feedback from the instructor and your classmates.

VIII. POLICIES & REQUIREMENTS

Please note that the class policies and requirements are designed to help you be successful in this course and gain skills that will help you in your future endeavors.

For policies and procedures that apply to all courses at Lindenwood University, please refer to the Lindenwood folder in the Canvas Global Navigation Menu.

Academic Honesty, Recording, Electronic Content, and Student Authentication

This course is structured to promote and support academic honesty. All writing assignments must be submitted through TURN IT IN website to assess for correct

citations. Students are encouraged to review the TURN IT IN report and correct any citation issues and resubmit the document. Please reach out to your instructor or the Lindenwood University Writing Center for guidance on proper citation.

Online students are required to complete the student authentication assignment and submit a video for the first and last discussion boards.

[Attendance](#)

[Copyright Policy](#)

Student Interaction & Communication

Even in an online setting we will be creating a building a marketplace of ideas and a community of learners. As members of this community, students are expected engage with the instructor and fellow students in a manner that is constructive, relevant, and respectful. You are encouraged to keep an open mind and respectfully consider the opinions and viewpoints of your fellow students and the instructor. We will not agree, and we need not change others' views, but we will gain a better understanding and appreciation of different perspective and maybe even our own opinions. We will be interacting in discussion and through peer-review activities.

Etiquette rules are applicable to all online communications. When conducted properly, online communications should be no less in terms of quality and consideration than that which is exchanged in face-to-face or printed communications

Writing Style

File Formats

All written assignments uploaded in Canvas should be in doc, docx, or pdf file formats unless otherwise specified by the instructor.

Writing Style

Students may use MLA or APA style of writing, or other commonly accepted writing style with which they are familiar. Students should take care to ensure they are

internally consistent in using a particular style within a writing assignment (do not mix styles within an assignment).

Policies for This Course

Attendance

Attendance in an online course is based on submission of one or more academic activities, such as discussion board participation, quiz, exam, paper, or other graded assignment. First week attendance in online courses is based on submission of a graded assignment. Neither logging into a course in Canvas nor the submission of the required Introductory Video is counted as attendance.

Use of AI Writing tools

- Partial use: We may use AI Writing tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, Microsoft Copilot, etc.) at several points during the semester. You will be informed as to when, where, and how these tools are permitted to be used, along with guidance.

Any use AI in class writing assignments (with the exception of Gammerly or other similar proof-reading software must be cited or it constitutes a violation of Lindenwood's Academic Dishonesty guidelines.

IX. ACCESSIBILITY & STUDENT RESOURCES

Lindenwood University faculty and staff want to partner with you for success in this course and in your Lindenwood University experience. The experience of the past years with the pandemic and natural disasters, and their lingering effects, have added significant stress and trauma to our lives. Please work with your instructor, advisor, and other members of the Lindenwood community to be proactive in accessing and utilizing the support resources available to you. Remember to reach out if you need help!

[Accessibility Services](#)

[Information for Students with Accommodations](#)

[Student Support Services & Resources](#)

Academic

For writing assistance, contact the Writing Center at writingcenter@lindenwood.edu.

Library Services can help you find materials, navigate the research process, and answer any library related questions. To get started, contact Library Services located in the Library and Academic Resources Center (LARC) or you can reach us via email,

LibrarySTC@lindenwood.edu, phone (636) 949-4820, or via chat through the library website [Lindenwood Library | Lindenwood University](#).

For internet connectivity issues, new IDs, and computer issues, contact the [Help Desk](#) at helpdesk@lindenwood.edu or stop by the front desk of the LARC.

For Canvas support, please review the information in the Help folder on the left side of the Canvas menu in your Canvas shell, contact the [Help Desk](#), or contact Canvas directly at 1-855-691-2240.

Personal Support

For free confidential mental health assistance for you or for a fellow Lindenwood student, contact the [Student Counseling and Resource Center \(SCRC\)](#) at (636) 949-4522. Some services may not be available to non-residential students.

For advocacy and equity support, contact the [Center for Diversity and Inclusion \(CDI\)](#) at diversity@lindenwood.edu.

For spiritual support, contact our [university chaplain](#), Rev. Dr. Nichole Torbitzky at ntorbitzky@lindenwood.edu.

X. COURSE SCHEDULE

Notifications

The course syllabus is subject to change if the instructor deems it necessary to accomplish the course objectives. Students will be notified in writing of all substantive changes to the course syllabus.

COURSE CALENDAR AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1

American Government and You – The Constitution and Public Policy in Our Daily Lives

- Syllabus Review
- Constitutions and Government
- Federalism and the Making of America

READ:

Krutz Chapters 2 and 3
Declaration of Independence
US Constitution
Missouri Constitution

Getting to know you Survey 1/17/27
Ethics Agreement 1/17/27
Discussion Board – 1/17/27

Week 2

Civil Rights - When Should Government Protect Freedom and Fairness?

Civil Liberties and Tolerance - Whom Should Government Protect?

READ:

Krutz Chapters 4 and 5
Bill of Rights
Landmark Court Cases (posted in canvas)

Discussion Board 1/24/27
Policy Proposal Topic 1/24/27

COURSE CALENDAR AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week 3

Our Three Ring Circus - Executive, Legislative, and Judiciary

READ:

Krutz Chapters 11, 12, 13, 15

Discussion Boards 1/31/27

Week 4

Power Players - Interest Groups, Political Parties, the Media, and WE THE PEOPLE

READ: Krutz Chapters 6, 7, 8

Discussion Board 2/7/27

Policy Proposal Worksheet 2/7/27

Week 5

Who Decides? - Political Parties, Elections, and Campaigns

READ: Krutz Chapter 9

Policy Proposal Draft 2/14/27

Week 6

Who Pays? – Budgets, Choice, and Domestic Policy

READ: Krutz Chapter 16

Discussion Board 2/21/27

Week 7

February 24

Who Pays? – Budgets, Choice, and Foreign Policy

READ:

Krutz Chapter 17

Letter to Elected Official 2/28/27

Week 8

March 3

Policy proposal Consultation Meetings

Discussion Board 3/7/25

Final Policy Proposal 3/7/25