

**POLI 110 - American Government and Politics**  
**Brigham Young University**  
**Summer 2015**

**Section 002: 280 SWKT on M W from 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm**

**Instructor Information**

**Name:** Lisa Argyle

**Office Location:** 774 SWKT

**Office Phone:** 801-422-2337

**Office Hours:** Monday and Thursday, 10:00am-11:30am

Or by appointment

**Email:** lisa\_argyle@byu.edu

**TA Information**

**Name:** Madeleine Read

**Office Location:** 110 SWKT (inside the computer lab)

**Office Hours:** Tuesday and Friday, 2:00pm – 3:30pm

Or by appointment

**Email:** mread24601@gmail.com

**Course Description**

This course covers the ideas, interests, and institutions that shape political processes and policy outcomes in the United States. We will place special emphasis on the different - and often contradictory - ideas that individual citizens (including you!) have about the role of government and how those ideas turn into policy changes. The course is designed to help students become effective citizens by understanding how political processes and individual participation are used to solve important problems. The class is not restricted to political science majors, and there are no prerequisites.

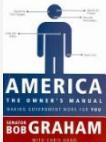
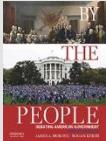
**Learning Outcomes**

The following are Learning Outcomes for this course:

- Analyze current events in American politics using Political Science concepts.
- Describe the most important constitutional provisions in American national government and how they have changed over time.
- Explain the role individuals play in American government and what factors influence their behavior.
- Assess the functions and interactions of American political institutions.
- Evaluate how you as an individual can effectively participate in the political process.
- Work effectively with other people.

POLI 110 is also a part of BYU's General Education requirements and the Political Science major. The learning outcomes for both of these programs can be found at <http://learningoutcomes.byu.edu>.

## Required Textbooks

Item	Bookstore (new)	Prices (used)
 AMERICA, THE OWNER'S MANUAL: MAKING GOVERNMENT WORK FOR YOU (2009) <i>Required</i> by GRAHAM, BOB and HAND, CHRIS ISBN: 978-1604264760	28.00	21.00
 BY THE PEOPLE: DEBATING AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, BRIEF 2 <sup>ND</sup> ED (2014) <i>Required</i> by MORONE, JAMES A. and KERSH, ROGAN ISBN: 978-0190216733 <i>*Note:</i> Be sure to purchase the correct edition; do not purchase the first edition or the full second edition for this class.	74.95	56.25

## Additional Resources

The main text for the course, *By the People* by Morone and Kersh, has a free companion website with resources for students:

<http://global.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780190216733/student/>

You do not need to purchase access the companion website; it is publically available. There are practice quizzes, video links, online flashcards, and application activities for each chapter. This is a valuable resource as you review material and study for the exams.

## Study Habits

According to the BYU Catalog, “An average student is expected to spend two to three hours of preparation time for every hour in class.” Because this is a three-credit class condensed into a summer term, you will be spending 5 hours per week in class, and should therefore expect to spend 10 - 15 hours per week outside of class. The difference between those who will succeed in this class and those who will not is a matter of **effort**, not ability.

Multi-tasking is not an effective study habit. Whether you are sitting in class or studying on your own, you are most likely to understand and retain the material if you turn off your wi-fi and put away your phone.

## Grading

Your grade in the course will be determined based on the following:

In-Class Participation	20%
Short Writing Assignments	30%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

## In-Class Participation

The most valuable resource we have in our classroom is the diverse perspectives, approaches, and opinions of you and your fellow students. The course will be most successful as each student actively participates and contributes to the learning environment.

Twenty percent of your final grade is based on in-class participation. There will be a graded participation activity during each class meeting. The nature and grading of the participation activity will vary based on the specific material we are covering, but each class session will be equally weighted in the final grade calculation. You must attend class to receive participation points; there will be no make-ups, except for university-excused absences. Your lowest score will be dropped. A second low score will be dropped if you complete the online course evaluation at the end of the term.

It should be noted that, in most cases, scoring well on the in-class participation activities will require a high degree of out-of-class preparation.

### **Short Writing Assignments**

There will be a short writing assignment due each week of the course (except for the week of the midterm), which should be submitted electronically through Learning Suite. Each writing assignment is worth 6% of your total grade. They are all required, and they will all be graded. Late assignments will be docked 10% of the points possible for every 24-hour period they are late. The prompts for each assignment will be distributed at least one week prior to the due date. Prior to beginning the writing process, you should expect to spend a significant amount of time completing homework tasks that will be the basis of your writing assignment.

Each assignment should be approximately 2 ½ pages in length (double-spaced, 12-pt font, 1 in. margins). Because these assignments are so brief, you will need to write clearly and concisely in order to address all required elements of each assignment. You do not necessarily need to adhere to a traditional essay structure; writing long introductory or concluding paragraphs may be detrimental to your overall grade, as there will not be sufficient space remaining to adequately address the prompt.

Even though these assignments are brief and may not always take an essay form, they are still formal writing assignments with a large impact on your final grade. You will be graded on three things: 1) fulfillment of all aspects of the assignment, 2) providing insightful analysis or connections to the course material that demonstrate your depth of thought about the topic, and 3) the overall quality of the writing.

Poor or informal writing will result in a lower grade. If you need additional help improving your writing, you are encouraged to take a draft of your assignment to the FHSS Writing Lab. Your TA will provide excellent help with clarification of the assignment or content development, but the Writing Lab will be much more valuable in improving the mechanics and style of your text.

### **FHSS Writing Lab:**

Location: 1049 JFSB

Website: [fhsswriting.byu.edu](http://fhsswriting.byu.edu)

Email: [fhss-writinglab@byu.edu](mailto:fhss-writinglab@byu.edu)

Phone: 801.422.4454

Hours: Monday through Friday, 9am-5pm (closed for devotionals and staff meetings)

Students can set up appointments online at the Writing Lab's website. Walk-ins are welcome if the advisors are not already scheduled. Students should come to the Writing Lab with the following prepared:

1. A copy of the assignment
2. A hard copy of their draft, whatever stage it is currently in
3. A list of questions and concerns students have about their papers

## **Exams**

There will be one midterm and one final exam. The final exam will be cumulative, with emphasis on the second half of the course. Each exam will consist of three parts:

- 1) multiple choice;
- 2) short answer (3-5 sentences); and
- 3) essay (3-5 paragraphs).

The exam questions will be drawn from the assigned readings and class lectures. Some material will only be covered in the reading and not reviewed in the classroom; other material will be introduced in lectures and not included in your reading assignments. In order to do well on the exams, you will need to complete all the reading and actively participate in each class meeting.

The midterm exam will be administered in the testing center, located in 103 JSB for the summer term, on Friday, July 17 and Saturday, July 18. The final exam will be administered in the classroom from 1:00pm to 2:50pm on Wednesday, August 12, as scheduled by the University. Under no circumstances will I give an exam early; please arrange your travel plans accordingly. Make-up exams will only be given in the case of extreme hardship (e.g. a death in the family) or university-excused absences. Please notify me as soon as possible if either of these situations arises.

## **Grading Scale**

Final grades for the course will be assigned based on the following scale:

<b>Grades</b>	<b>Percent</b>
A	93%
A-	90%
B+	87%
B	83%
B-	80%
C+	77%
C	73%
C-	70%
D+	67%
D	63%
D-	60%
E	0%

## **Deliberation Guidelines**

To facilitate productive and open discussions about sensitive topics about which there are differing opinions, you as a member of the BYU community should do the following:

- (1) Remember that we are each responsible for enabling a productive, respectful dialogue.
- (2) To enable time for everyone to speak, strive to be concise with your thoughts.
- (3) Respect all speakers by listening actively.
- (4) Treat others with the respect that you would like them to treat you with, regardless of your differences.
- (5) Do not interrupt others.
- (6) Always try to understand what is being said before you respond.
- (7) Ask for clarification instead of making assumptions.
- (8) When countering an idea, or making one initially, demonstrate that you are listening to what is being said by others. Try to validate, not attack other positions as you assert your own, which facilitates productive dialogue.

- (9) Under no circumstances should an argument continue out of the classroom when someone does not want it to. Extending these conversations beyond class can be productive, but we must agree to do so respectfully, ethically, and with attention to individuals' requests for confidentiality and discretion.
- (10) Remember that exposing yourself to different perspectives helps you to learn new information and evaluate your own beliefs more clearly.
- (11) Remember that just because you do not agree with a person's statements, it does not mean that you cannot get along with that person.
- (12) Speak with your professor privately if you feel that the classroom environment has become hostile, biased, or intimidating.

*Adapted from the Deliberation Guidelines published by The Center for Democratic Deliberation.  
(<http://cdd.la.psu.edu/education/The%20CDD%20Deliberation%20Guidelines.pdf>?searchterm=deliberation%20guidelines)*

## Schedule

The course will follow the schedule outlined below. You are expected to complete the reading for each class session **before** attending class. Any reading assignments that are not from the two required textbooks will be posted on Learning Suite. Additional reading may be included as the term progresses.

Date	Deadlines	Assigned Reading
M Jun 22 Monday		<b>Course Introduction</b> <i>Owner's Manual:</i> Prologue
W Jun 24 Wednesday		<b>Why Government?; Ideas That Shape American Politics</b> <i>BTP:</i> Ch. 1 <i>Owner's Manual:</i> Ch. 1
Sa Jun 27 Saturday	<b>Writing Assignment 1 Due</b>	
M Jun 29 Monday		<b>The American Founding; The Constitution</b> <i>BTP:</i> Ch. 2 Dallin H. Oaks, "The Divinely Inspired Constitution," <i>Ensign</i> , February 1992, pp. 68-74. Rex E. Lee, "The Constitution and the Restoration," Brigham Young University Devotional Address, January 15, 1991.
W Jul 01 Wednesday		<b>Federalism; Levels of Government</b> <i>BTP:</i> Ch. 3 <i>Owner's Manual:</i> Ch. 3
F Jul 03 Friday	<b>Independence Day Holiday</b>	
Sa Jul 04 Saturday	<b>Writing Assignment 2 Due</b>	
M Jul 06 Monday		<b>Civil Rights &amp; Civil Liberties</b> <i>BTP:</i> Ch. 4 & 5
W Jul 08 Wednesday		<b>Public Opinion; Political Participation</b> <i>BTP:</i> Ch. 6 <i>Owner's Manual:</i> Ch. 4
Sa Jul 11 Saturday	<b>Writing Assignment 3 Due</b>	

<b>M Jul 13</b>	<b>Interest Groups</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<i>BTP: pp. 285-298</i> <i>Owner's Manual: Ch. 2 &amp; 5</i>
<b>W Jul 15</b>	<b>Political Parties</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<i>BTP: pp. 299-322</i> <i>Owner's Manual: Ch. 7 &amp; 9</i>
<b>F Jul 17</b>	<b>Midterm Exam</b>
<b>Friday</b>	Testing Center (103 JSB) F: 8:30 am – 4:00 pm S: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
<b>M Jul 20</b>	<b>Media</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<i>BTP: Ch. 7</i> <i>Owner's Manual: Ch. 8</i>
<b>W Jul 22</b>	<b>Campaigns &amp; Elections</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<i>BTP: Ch. 8</i> <i>Owner's Manual: Introduction</i>
<b>F Jul 24</b>	<b>Pioneer Day Holiday</b>
<b>Friday</b>	
<b>Sa Jul 25</b>	<b>Writing Assignment 4 Due</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	
<b>M Jul 27</b>	<b>Legislative Branch</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<i>BTP: Ch. 10</i> <i>Owner's Manual: Ch. 6</i>
<b>W Jul 29</b>	<b>Executive Branch</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<i>BTP: Ch. 11 &amp; 12</i>
<b>Sa Aug 01</b>	<b>Writing Assignment 5 Due</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	
<b>M Aug 03</b>	<b>Judicial Branch</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<i>BTP: Ch. 13</i>
<b>W Aug 05</b>	<b>Domestic and Foreign Policy</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<i>BTP: Ch. 14</i> <i>Owner's Manual: Ch. 10</i>
<b>M Aug 10</b>	<b>Review</b>
<b>Monday</b>	
<b>T Aug 11</b>	<b>Exam Preparation Day</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	
<b>W Aug 12</b>	Final Exam: 280 SWKT 1:00pm - 2:50pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	