Introduction to the U.S. Political System, GOVT-1200-020

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July 8 - Aug 8, 2024

Course Description

We will study the American political system, focusing on its historical development from the early 1600s to the present.

Learning Goals

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Describe the historical processes that led to the current American political system.
2. Analyze dominant narratives about American institutions.
3. Frame questions regarding how the American political economy has (and continues to) shape its political institutions and vice versa.

Requirements

1. Read all of the required materials. I have uploaded them and linked them to the syllabus for your convenience.
2. Pose a question related to the lecture or readings during the reflection period in each class.
3. Participate actively during class discussions.
4. Take three in-class exams (two over the course of the semester and one for the final exam).
5. Use the *Inclusive Language Guide* by the American Psychological Association (APA, 2023), which aims to assist you in using bias-free language.

**Grades**

33.3% In-Class Participation

33.3% Midterm

33.3% Final

**Texts**


Course Schedule

July 8: Introduction

July 9: Thirteen Colonies

July 10: The American Revolution

July 11: The Constitution

July 15: The Antebellum North

July 16: The Antebellum South

July 17: Westward Expansion

July 18: The Civil War

July 22: Reconstruction

July 23: Jim Crow

July 24: Midterm
July 25: Capital vs. Labor

July 29: Imperial Expansion

July 30: Great Depression

July 31: New Deal

Aug 5: The 1950s

Aug 6: Civil Rights

Aug 7: Populism

Aug 8: Final