

# **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**

Foner, Eric, Kathleen DuVal and Lisa McGirr. *Give Me Liberty! An American History*. Vols 1 and 2. 7th edition. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2022.

Foner, Eric, Kathleen DuVal and Lisa McGirr. *Voices of Freedom: a Documentary History*. Vols 1 and 2. 7th edition. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2022.

## **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**