



# The US Political System (GOVT 1200-20)

We will study the American Political System: its historical development from the early 1600s to the present, with an emphasis on understanding how it operates today.



[Schedule](#)



[Learning Goals](#)



[Requirements](#)



[Grades](#)



[Guidelines](#)



[University Policies and Resources](#)

Cover Image "Wright's First Flight" (1903) via Notion.



# Learning Goals

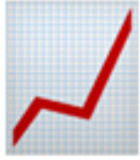
By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Describe major features of the U.S. political system today.
2. Describe the historical processes that gave rise to the American political system as we know it today.
3. Analyze dominant narratives about American politics.



# Requirements

1. **Complete** all materials due for in-class discussion.
2. **Present** on the readings.
3. **Participate** actively during class discussions. On communication with peers.
4. **Write** five in-class essays responding to prompts that I will provide. Each essay should construct an argument that integrates insights from both the readings and class discussions. I will provide guidelines in class. The purpose of this exercise is to help you develop your own viewpoint.



# Grades

15% Reflection Essay 1

15% Reflection Essay 2

15% Reflection Essay 3

15% Reflection Essay 4

15% Reflection Essay 5

25% In-Class Participation

# Essay Rubric

1. **Answer**: To what extent does the essay answer the question?
2. **Structure and Organization**: To what extent is the essay structured and organized with a clear introduction, body, and conclusion?
3. **Argumentation**: How well does the essay use logic, evidence, and examples to support its argument?
4. **Use of Sources**: How effectively does the essay incorporate sources into its argument?
5. **Counter-Arguments**: How well does the essay identify counter-arguments?
6. **Response to Counter-Arguments**: To what extent does the essay respond to the counter-arguments?
7. **Originality**: To what extent does the essay demonstrate original thought and critical thinking, rather than merely summarizing existing perspectives?
8. **Clarity**: How clear is the essay's writing?



# Schedule

All List +

≡ ⬇ ⬆ ⚡ 🔍 ... New ▾

▼ Era	▼ Focus	Aa Topic
1. Emergence of New Institutions	Readings	<a href="#">Introduction</a>
1. Emergence of New Institutions	Readings	<a href="#">Richardson (2020)</a>
1. Emergence of New Institutions	Readings	<a href="#">Holton (2021)</a>
1. Emergence of New Institutions	Essay	<a href="#">In-Class: Reflection Essay 1</a>
2. The Constitution	Readings	<a href="#">Bullen (2021)</a>
2. The Constitution	Readings	<a href="#">Morgan (1972)</a>
2. The Constitution	Readings	<a href="#">Roosevelt III (2020)</a>
2. The Constitution	Essay	<a href="#">In-Class: Reflection Essay 2</a>
3. The Civil War & Jim Crow Order	Readings	<a href="#">Dew (2016)</a>
3. The Civil War & Jim Crow Order	Readings	<a href="#">Mickey (2015)</a>
3. The Civil War & Jim Crow Order	Readings	<a href="#">Blight (1993)</a>
3. The Civil War & Jim Crow Order	Essay	<a href="#">In-Class: Reflection Essay 3</a>
The New Deal	Readings	<a href="#">Bateman et al 2018 pp. 1-30</a>
The New Deal	Readings	<a href="#">Bateman et al (2018) pp. 30-60</a>
The New Deal	Readings	<a href="#">King and Smith (2014)</a>
The New Deal	Essay	<a href="#">In-Class: Reflection Essay 4</a>
5. Rise of Populism	Readings	<a href="#">Yazdiha (2023)</a>
5. Rise of Populism	Readings	<a href="#">MacLean (2023)</a>
5. Rise of Populism	Readings	<a href="#">Downs (2024)</a>
5. Rise of Populism	Essay	<a href="#">In-Class: Reflection Essay 5</a>

+ New page