Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.
GOVT 220 Course Syllabus
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The issues, interest and institutions of American politics, emphasizing the struggle between liberalism and conservatism.

RATIONALE

The primary purpose of this course is to train the student for effective citizenship. No one can be an effective citizen without an understanding of how his/her government operates. This is especially true today because the growth in size of government at all levels has increased its impact on our daily lives. No one can avoid involvement with government. As both Christians and citizens, the student needs to understand his/her duties to the government and how he/she can defend the heritage of liberty.

I. PREREQUISIT

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the Academic Course Catalog.

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
C. Microsoft Office
D. U.S. Constitution including the Bill of Rights
IV. **Measurable Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

A. Identify the main provisions of the U.S. Constitution.
B. Analyze the meaning of important constitutional provisions.
C. Identify characteristics of liberalism and conservatism.
D. Identify the constitutional powers granted to each branch of government.
E. Differentiate between formal and informal changes made to the Constitution.
F. Identify ways in which citizens can effectively participate in the political process.
G. Identify the extent of Christian influence on the underlying principles of the U.S. Constitution and the way recent Supreme Court rulings have limited this influence.

V. **Course Requirements and Assignments**

A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations
B. Course Requirements Checklist
   After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.
C. Discussion Board Forums (2)
   Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student will create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each forum will be divided into 2 parts.
   **Thread**
   The student will create a thread of at least 250 words that demonstrates course-related knowledge. The thread provides the opportunity to research relevant materials and share that research with classmates.
   **Replies**
   The student is required to reply to 2 other classmates’ threads with substantive and analytical points. Each reply must be 100–125 words.
D. Activities (4)
   After viewing the assigned presentation, the student will complete a corresponding activity. Answers to the questions must be well-organized and use proper grammar.
E. Research Paper

The student will write a paper of at least 6 pages (not including the title page or reference page) adhering to the format specified in the Course Style Guidelines document. The purpose of this paper is to provide practical application of Reading & Study materials by developing concepts discussed in the presentations. The paper must demonstrate mastery of material from the lectures as well as presentation of factual materials from peer-reviewed sources.

F. Tests (4)

Each test is open-book/open-notes, consists of 50 multiple-choice and true/false questions, and has a time limit of 1 hour and 30 minutes. Each module/week, the student will also have an opportunity to take an optional self-check quiz in preparation for the course tests; this will have no effect on the final grade.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

| Course Requirements Checklist | 10 |
| Discussion Board Forums | |
| Threads (2 at 100 pts ea) | 200 |
| Replies (2 at 50 pts ea) | 100 |
| Activities | |
| Activity 1 | 80 |
| Activity 2 | 50 |
| Activity 3 | 25 |
| Activity 4 | 25 |
| Research Paper | 200 |
| Test 1 (Modules 1–2) | 80 |
| Test 2 (Modules 3–4) | 80 |
| Test 3 (Modules 5–6) | 80 |
| Test 4 (Modules 7–8) | 80 |
| **Total** | **1010** |

B. Scale

A = 900–1010  B = 800–899  C = 700–799  D = 600–699  F = 0–599

C. Late Assignment Policy

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week of the due date will receive a 10% deduction.

2. Assignments submitted more than one week late will receive a 20% deduction.
3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the course will not be accepted.

4. Late Discussion Board threads or replies will not be accepted.

Special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, personal health issues) will be reviewed by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

D. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.
## COURSE SCHEDULE

**GOVT 220**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module/Week</th>
<th>Reading &amp; Study</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1           | Wilson et al.: ch. 1 3 presentations | Course Requirements Checklist  
Class Introductions  
Activity 1  
Self-Check Quiz 1 | 10  
0  
80  
* |
| 2           | Wilson et al.: chs. 2–3 2 presentations | Activity 2  
Self-Check Quiz 2  
Test 1 | 50  
*  
80 |
| 3           | Wilson et al.: chs. 4–5 2 presentations | DB Forum 1 – Thread  
Self-Check Quiz 3 | 100  
* |
| 4           | Wilson et al.: ch. 12 1 presentation | DB Forum 1 – Replies  
Self-Check Quiz 4  
Test 2 | 50  
*  
80 |
| 5           | Wilson et al.: ch. 9 1 presentation | Research Paper  
Self-Check Quiz 5 | 200  
* |
| 6           | Wilson et al.: chs. 10–11 | Activity 3  
Activity 4  
Self-Check Quiz 6  
Test 3 | 25  
25  
*  
80 |
| 7           | Wilson et al.: ch. 7 1 presentation | DB Forum 2 – Thread  
Self-Check Quiz 7 | 100  
* |
| 8           | Wilson et al.: ch. 8 1 presentation | DB Forum 2 – Replies  
Self-Check Quiz 8  
Test 4 | 50  
*  
80 |

**Total** 1010

* Self-check quizzes are optional and will not be graded.

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course module/week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.