

University of Kentucky
Department of Political Science
PS101: American Government
Fall 2017, Section 007

Teaching Assistant: Mr. Travis N. Taylor, MPS

Office Location: 1606 Patterson Office Tower

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Meeting Day & Time: Friday 1:00 – 1:50 p.m.

Meeting Location: White Hall Classroom Building, Room 338

Office Hours: Friday 10:00 – 10:50 a.m. and 12-12:50 p.m., or by appointment. (See below.)

University Course Description

A survey of national government and the political process in the United States, with emphasis on the Constitution, the President, Congress, and the judicial system.

Course Prerequisites

This course has no prerequisite or co-requisite obligations.

Section Structure & Methods

This Section will meet one time per week in the assigned classroom unless otherwise directed by the TA. Students will be responsible for checking the Canvas page, the online learning platform for UK, on a frequent basis; checking the site daily is highly encouraged.

Communication Policy

Communication with the TA will be primarily through e-mail from your UK e-mail account. Per University policy, the TA is not permitted to respond to inquiries related to a student's grade, performance or other private details unless the e-mail comes from the student's University e-mail address. The TA will also be available after class each meeting, unless otherwise notified, to answer *brief* questions. Office hours listed at the head of this document will be honored; however, during that time period students will be served on a first-come, first-served basis an appointment during those times is *not* necessary. If these options do not work for you, e-mail the TA to set up an appointment for an alternative time. The TA will make every effort to honor reasonable appointment requests.

Section Purpose

The purpose of this section is to reinforce material presented by Professor Voss and the TAs during lecture.

General Section Policies & Expectations

- Be attentive and studious during lecture; come to Section prepared to discuss and apply what you learned and to ask questions about material you did not understand.
- Read and/or watch all assigned material before coming to Section.
- Attendance in Section is required, documented, and graded. If you must be absent from Section, please let the TA know in advance. For days you are absent, this Section follows the University policy on excused absences (found [here](#)) and appropriate documentation is required either in advance or on you first day back in Section. When you miss a Section, you will be expected to attend another TA's section to ensure you get the material you missed. Keep in mind, however, that other sections are structured differently than this one.

- Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated and could lead to any number of consequences. Please refer to the university academic integrity policy located [here](#).
- While differences of opinion are inevitable and the expression of a diversity of opinions is strongly encouraged, intolerance, derogatory remarks, and personal attacks are strictly forbidden. Remember, politics, like college, is about relationships; make them, develop them, nourish them, and cherish them.
- Technology use related to coursework will be permitted. Cell phones, tablets, and laptop computers may be used during class time unless otherwise directed by the TA.
- Read and/or watch the news on a regular (preferably daily) basis.
- Learn, grow, and have fun!

Accommodation Policy

Prof. Voss administers University policy with regard to students with disabilities. Students with accommodation letters from UK's Disability Resource Center should work first with him (see the DRC's Web site [here](#) for more information). However, I will work with students to the fullest extent possible should accommodations extend to our section meeting. I view accommodating your needs as a collaborative process, and having a discussion about your needs and how I can best accommodate them is the best way to begin that collaborative process. I strongly encourage you to abide by these DRC recommendations.

Beyond the University's disability accommodation policy, it is my policy to support and accommodate pregnant and parenting students who continue to pursue their education while bearing or rearing children. This accommodation will be student-specific, so please let me know as early as possible that you need to take advantage of this accommodation, preferably within the first week of the semester, if you are already pregnant or parenting, or as soon as you learn you are pregnant, if the pregnancy begins during the semester. It is my goal to work with you to ensure that both your responsibilities as a student and your responsibilities as a parent are met without any additional, undue burden.

Participation Grading and Evaluation:

Your participation grade for the course will come from your active involvement in Section. This is where the course gets fun and likely deviates from what you are accustomed to in previous classrooms. This section makes use of an in-class collaboration environment called Team-Based Learning. Below is a general guideline for how TBL will work. More specifics will be discussed in the first meeting of the Section and throughout the semester.

- First, you will be divided randomly by the TA into teams of approximately 5-7 students. This will be your team for the entire semester, so you will be given a chance to get to know one another and bond.
- During the semester, your team will work collaboratively to learn the course material, apply it to specific problems, and demonstrate your knowledge to the TA and to rest of the Section. This will be accomplished with a variety of instruments that may include brief individual and team quizzes, group presentations, team versus team debates, or any other fun (or not-so-fun) activity the TA reads about in some obscure article on effective teaching.
- Your participation will be evaluated both individually and as teams through the various assessment techniques discussed above. These grades will combine to form your overall participation grade for the course.