

SYLLABUS
PSC102: U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
FALL 2025

Intro	Student Learning Outcomes																																		
Prof. McGovern mcgovepj@buffalostate.edu MWF 9am–Trad/Lecture Lecture: BULG 422 Office Hours – Noon ET Office: CASS 222	SUNY GE23: US History& Civic Engagement 1. Knowledge of a basic narrative of American history: political, economic, social, and cultural, including knowledge of unity and diversity in American society 2. Knowledge of common institutions in American society and how they have affected different groups 3. Understanding of America's evolving relationship with the rest of the world.																																		
Invitation																																			
The instructor would like to encourage students with any questions or comments regarding this course, its requirements, or its subject matter to discuss these with the instructor. Feel free to contact me about the course, grade, assignments, etc ... If you are having trouble in the course, it is best to see me as soon as possible to keep as many options open as possible, especially given present health concerns.																																			
Graded Activities	Required Texts																																		
1. Literature Analyses [L/A] – 45% of grade 2. Research Paper [R/P] – 35% of grade 3. Engaged Attendance [E/A] – 20% t/o Sem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electronic material provided through BrightSpace [B/S] 																																		
Grading Notes	Writing Schedule																																		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>There are no opportunities</i> granted in this class for extra credit points outside of a student's <i>Engaged Attendance</i> (Please don't as at end of semester for E/C). <i>Discussing Grades</i> - Students must wait 48 hours following the return of students' work before their professor will discuss their grades. Students have 1 week following the 48-hour period to discuss the status of their grade for that assignment. Following this week, only discuss students' overall grade will be discussed. <i>Turn-It-In Anti-Plagiarism Software</i> will be used for Lit Analyses and Research Paper– these will be submitted to Turn-It-In DropBox posted on BlackBoard <p style="text-align: right;">Grade Scale:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>A</td><td>A-</td><td>B+</td><td>B</td><td>B-</td><td>C+</td><td>C</td><td>C-</td><td>D+</td><td>D</td><td>E</td> </tr> <tr> <td>>93</td><td>90</td><td>87</td><td>83</td><td>80</td><td>77</td><td>73</td><td>70</td><td>67</td><td>60</td><td><60</td> </tr> </table>	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	E	>93	90	87	83	80	77	73	70	67	60	<60	All assignments to be uploaded by Midnight ET, Friday night <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>L/A 1</td><td>Friday 16-Sep</td> </tr> <tr> <td>L/A 2</td><td>Friday 30-Sep</td> </tr> <tr> <td>L/A 3</td><td>Friday 14-Oct</td> </tr> <tr> <td>L/A 4</td><td>Friday 28-Oct</td> </tr> <tr> <td>L/A 5</td><td>Friday 04-Nov</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Research Paper</td><td>Wed 16-Nov</td> </tr> </table>	L/A 1	Friday 16-Sep	L/A 2	Friday 30-Sep	L/A 3	Friday 14-Oct	L/A 4	Friday 28-Oct	L/A 5	Friday 04-Nov	Research Paper	Wed 16-Nov
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> L/A outlines posted on BlackBoard – analyses must have at minimum the following elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intro Paragraph – thesis with argument Paragraph summarizing reading Paragraph connecting material to Packer & other readings material (@800 words single-spaced) Research Paper – questions, outline and grading criteria will be posted on B/S @ 2 weeks before due date (@3000 words/5-7 double-spaced pages) Writing graded on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cogency (50%) – how well argued Insight (30%) – how well connected to issues beyond text Technical Merit (20%) – how well written/proofread 																																		
Student Responsibilities and Rights																																			

See class **B/S** site for policies concerning:

COVID-19/Disability Services/Military Obligations/
Student Rights & Responsibilities/Academic
Misconduct/ Disruptive Behavior/Office
Hours & Discussions/**Engaged
Attendance**/eMails/
Late Work

- **E/A**: Weekly opportunity to connect readings with present-day politics & issues
 - ☐ Due weekly/Calculated bi-weekly – scores on **B/S**
 - ☐ Opportunities: In-Class Assignments/Discussions/eMails/Office Hours/Podcasts etc ... See **B/S** 'Additional Course Policies/Links'