

August 16, 2021
U.S. Government; U.S. Government / AP

Lecture One – Understanding American Politics

Instructions for Weeks of August 16 through 27

Welcome Everyone!

So today we'll get started on the various tasks you'll be asked to do week by week. We are going to be using 2 internet platforms this semester. The first is my own website (found in red at the top of the syllabus), and the second will be Google Classroom where you will turn in the written assignments and discussion board responses.

I am going to divide the course into 15 lectures and each lecture will usually have 5 separate tasks to accomplish for that lecture. Most of the lectures will be approximately one week long.

In addition to the week-to-week assignments you will be writing a college-level research paper, the details of which you can find on the website, and we'll be talking about it extensively in the Zoom meetings, so no worries.

For this first lecture we will be looking at some basic things about how to approach the study of politics and government. In later weeks we will look at some specific aspects of government, such as the branches of government, the media, and government policies.

Each lecture will begin with instructions like the ones you're reading here and then a series of tasks for you to accomplish for the week. The Zoom classes will be primarily to answer any questions you might have, comments, concerns, or to just talk about politics if you want. Each lecture will begin with you going to the website and then going through the tasks which will be designed in the following way:

Task 1: Click "Text Reading and Text Assignments" to see the text work for this lecture. After finishing the text assignment, you can upload your work to our Google Classroom page.

Task 2: Click "Lecture Presentation" to watch the lecture *asynchronously* (meaning you can watch it when you want to, not at any specific time). If you have any specific questions about the lecture, you can ask during our Zoom meetings.

Task 3: Click "Article Reading for Journal Response." Each lecture will be accompanied by an article which will correspond to that lecture's theme. After reading the article, you will write a one-page, double-spaced response which you

will upload onto Google Classroom. The response should be an *analysis* of the article, *not a summary*. In other words, tell me what you *think* about the article, do not tell me what the article is about (I've already read it). Analysis can include agreements or disagreements with the author, bias in the writing, questions or comments about the subject or facts presented, or other thoughts you might want to add.

Task 4: Click "Video Presentation for Lecture One" and watch the documentary on the Youtube link. The videos are approximately one to two hours for each lecture. They can be watched at your convenience but do try to absorb the entire film.

Task 5: Click "Google Classroom Discussion Board Response." Once there, I would like you to write a short, one to two-paragraph comment about the film. After that, please respond to two other student's responses. Please keep your responses to other students respectful – we don't need to agree, but let's be polite and mature in how we talk with each other.

So people that is pretty much the way the class will play out this semester. I know this is a tough situation, unprecedented actually. But if we all pull together and help each other out, we'll get through the fall. Hopeful things will go back to normal in next fall as you begin college, but I think we need to be ready for anything. Again, I'm here to help everyone so don't be shy about asking! I'm pretty weak in the area of tech so I'll be bugging you guys with questions too.

Welcome again to US Government and US Government / AP! Here we go.....!

Peace out,
Kropf

