



**High School Instructional Site
with High School Dual Credit Instructor**

Welcome to POL 101: American Government

Section: 1601-1602

Fall 2025

In-Person

Thursdays, 9.30 am-10.45 am (Section 1) & 11 am-12.15 pm (Section 2), BLC Lawrenceburg
Campus, Rm 160

Instructor's Information

Dr. Tasnia Symoom

About Me

I am a Political Science teacher and researcher. I have obtained my Ph.D in Political Science from the University of Kentucky, and my research focuses on Political Behavior and Institutions.

Instructor Contact Information

- **KCTCS email:** tsymoom0001@kctcs.edu

Instructor Communication

1. Blackboard Messages
2. Click the Messages tab at the top of your course page in Blackboard to send me a message directly through Blackboard.
3. **Email:** tsymoom0001@kctcs.edu
4. When emailing, please use the Course Number POL 101 in the Subject line, include your full name, and use proper grammar and punctuation so I can better understand your question. Remember, most general course questions are answered within the syllabus, so always start there. I will respond to all communications within 24 hours.

Division Contact Information

Area Coordinator Supervisor

Robert R. Hinkle, Professor, History

Robert.hinkle@kctcs.edu, BCTC Newton Classroom Building, (859)246-6333

Division Assistant Dean Supervisor

Lauren Campbell lauren.campbell@kctcs.edu

Newtown Campus, Classroom Building, Office 213E

Course Information

Course Description

This course introduces students to the principles, institutions, and practices of American government. We will explore the U.S. Constitution, federalism, civil rights and civil liberties, political participation, campaigns and elections, the media, political parties, interest groups, and the three branches of government. Special attention will be given to how citizens influence government and how government decisions affect society. By the end of the course, students will have a deeper understanding of how the American political system works and the challenges it faces today.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. **Explain** the foundations of American democracy, including constitutional principles and the role of federalism.
2. **Analyze** the functions of U.S. political institutions such as Congress, the presidency, the courts, and the bureaucracy.
3. **Evaluate** the role of citizens, elections, political parties, interest groups, and the media in shaping American politics.
4. **Apply** key concepts of political science to real-world political issues, policies, and events.
5. **Develop** critical thinking and analytical skills through discussion, application-based assignments, and written work.
6. **Demonstrate** informed civic knowledge by connecting course content to contemporary debates in American government.

Kentucky Essential Skills

This course aligns with the [Kentucky Graduate Profile](#) by integrating and supporting the development of the Kentucky Essential Skills identified by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, ensuring students graduate with the skills needed to succeed in today's dynamic workforce.

Why it Matters?

Understanding American government is essential for anyone living in or engaging with the United States. This course helps students answer questions like: *How do citizens influence government decisions? Why do elections matter? How do laws and policies get made, and who holds power in the process?* By exploring these issues, students will not only gain knowledge of political institutions but also learn how to think critically about current events, evaluate political arguments, and make informed choices as voters and community members. The skills developed here—critical analysis, problem-solving, and civic awareness—will serve students well in their personal lives, professional careers, and roles as engaged citizens.

Course Attendance/Participation

This course is a **standard on-campus course taking place on the high school campus**. We will have regular class meetings each week on Thursdays, 9:30-10:45 am (Section 1) & 11 am-12:15 pm (Section 2). Attendance is expected at all class meetings.

Learning Accommodations

BCTC strives to make learning experiences accessible to all participants and is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. High School Dual Credit Students whose course is taught at a High School should utilize their High School IEP or 504 Plan on file.

(NOTE: Dual Credit students taking BCTC classes on-campus or online will follow BCTC Student Accessibility Services outlined in those syllabi.)

Class Materials

Required Technology/Equipment

Please review the [Minimum Equipment](#) and [Software Requirements](#) for all BCTC courses. See [BCTC Technology Tools](#) for more resources. This course requires:

- A Laptop/Computer to access to the online quizzes and e-book.

Required Textbook/Materials

To succeed in this course, please obtain the following:

- Patterson, Thomas E. *We the People, 2025 Release*. McGraw-Hill Education, 2025.
ISBN-10: 1265998760 (e-book)
- Notebook or binder for class notes.
- Highlighters, sticky notes, or index cards for study aids

Course Details

Attendance Verification: No Show

All BCTC courses require that students complete an [Attendance Verification](#) assignment or activity that is essential for financial aid distribution. If the Attendance Verification is not completed, you will be counted as a “No Show” and will no longer be able to continue in this course. I will indicate what assignment you will need to complete by telling you that this is the No Show assignment.

Graded Class Components

Midterm Grades and Official Course Grades:

Midterm grades will be posted as indicated on the [BCTC Academic Calendar](#). Blackboard shows in-progress grades only. Official Midterm and Final Course Grades are accessed through your Student Self-Service account. See [instructions for accessing grades](#).

Final Course Grade:

Below is a breakdown of the approximate number of each component you should expect and what % of your grade each component represents.

Grading Component	Approx Number	Percent of Grade
Class Discussion	16	15%
Quiz	16	30%
Application-Based Assignment	2	10%
Critical Thinking Assignment	2	10%
Midterm	1	15%
Final Exam	1	20%

This course uses the standard 90%, 80%, 70%, and 60% grading scale for A, B, C, and D grades, respectively.

Graded Class Components

Class Discussion (15%)

Active participation in class discussions is expected. These discussions are designed to help you engage with the material, share your ideas, and learn from your peers.

Quizzes (30%)

Short quizzes will check your understanding of the readings, lectures, and class discussions. They are meant to keep you on track with the course content and prepare you for exams.

Application-Based Assignments (10%)

These assignments will present real-world scenarios where you can apply course concepts and problem-solving skills, moving from basic understanding to more complex applications.

Critical Thinking Assignments (10%)

These assignments will guide you through analyzing texts and ideas, helping you practice critical reading, evaluation, and developing your own perspective.

Midterm Exam (15%)

The midterm exam will cover material from the first half of the course and will be completed through McGraw Hill Connect. It is designed to test your comprehension and ability to apply course concepts.

Final Exam (20%)

The final exam will cover material from the entire course, with an emphasis on the second half. Like the midterm, it will be completed through McGraw Hill Connect.

Makeup Work/Late Work Policy

Make-up work is not accepted except:

- Extreme circumstances

- The student contacts me at least 24 hours before the assigned due date.

Withdrawal Procedures

The BCTC Withdrawal Policy statement and BCTC Withdrawal Procedures provide more information and instructions for how to drop or withdraw from the course. The Academic Calendar includes due dates for drop and withdrawals.

Student Resources

General Resources

Weblink	Description
<u>BCTC Website</u>	BCTC Home Website.
<u>KCTCS Blackboard</u>	Blackboard is our learning management system. All classes include a Blackboard course where you can find important class information.
<u>KCTCS MyPath</u>	Online portal to KCTCS email, Blackboard, and Student Self-Service.
<u>Early Alert and Starfish</u>	See notices from your instructors and “Raise Your Hand” in Starfish to ask questions or get assistance from across the college.
<u>Access BCTC Student Success</u>	One-Stop Access to BCTC Academic Services & Student Resources for success both inside and outside of class, including: IT assistance, Tutoring, Student Success Hub, Spotlight Instruction Series, Student Handbook, Personal Counseling, Community Resources, and more!

Intellectual Diversity Statement

BCTC is committed to providing a respectful and supportive environment for all students. We aim to uphold high standards of education and professionalism across the Bluegrass Region. In this class, we work together to create a positive learning atmosphere where everyone is encouraged to engage, participate, and succeed.

Academic Policies & Expectations

Academic Integrity Policy

This class follows the policies outlined in the KCTCS Code of Student Conduct. Please review the full BCTC Academic Integrity Policy as it outlines guidance for how to avoid plagiarism, academic dishonesty, and misuse of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

BCTC Closed Campus Contingency Policy

BCTC Dual Credit courses taught at a high school follow the high school closings announcements.

Course Schedule/Calendar

Class Schedule	Chapter	Quizzes/Exam
21-Aug-25	Chapter 1	
28-Aug-25	Chapter 2	Quiz on Chapter 2 (due 4 Sep)
4-Sep	Chapter 3	Quiz on Chapter 3 (Due 11 Sep)
11-Sep	Chapter 4	Quiz on Chapter 4 (Due 18 Sep)
18-Sep	Chapter 5	Quiz on Chapter 5 (Due 25 Sep)
25-Sep	Chapter 6	Quiz on Chapter 6 (Due 2 Oct)
2-Oct	Chapter 7	Quiz on Chapter 7, Application-Based Assignment (Due 9 Oct)
9-Oct	Chapter 8-9	Quiz on Chapter 8-9 (Due 16 Oct)
16-Oct	Midterm	Midterm on Chapter 2-9 (Due 23 Oct)
23-Oct	Chapter 10	Quiz on Chapter 10 (Due 30 Oct)
30-Oct	Chapter 11-12	Quiz on Chapter 11-12 (Due 6 Nov)
6-Nov	Chapter 13-14	Quiz on Chapter 13-14 (Due 13 Nov)
13-Nov	Chapter 15	Quiz on Chapter 15 (Due 20 Nov)
20-Nov	Chapter 16	Quiz on Chapter 16, Critical Thinking Assignment (Due 4 Dec)
27-Nov	No Class (Thanksgiving break)	
4-Dec	Chapter 17	Quiz on Chapter 17 (Due 10 Dec Dec)
11-Dec	Final	Final Exam on Chapter 10-17