

Schedule is based somewhat on a Tuesday – Thursday college semester calendar

**INSTRUCTOR**

Mr. Daniel L. Mundahl. M.LTh./MPA

Office hours: By appointment

Office: 204 Old Main

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MA in Lutheran Theological Studies   MA in Public Administration   BS in Political Science

I was a City Administrator 10 years, worked for Rice County, ran for BEA School board and worked for Congress Vin Weber in 1987.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

To introduce the student to the American system of government, and to foster an understanding of and appreciation for the Constitution of the United States. Review how federal institutions function and the management thereof; the role and function of the State, regional, and local units of government; and the tools necessary to run a successful political campaign.

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

The course has been designed to help students understand the role each level of government plays and how they can affect the average citizen. Teaching and learning methods will include reading, lectures, writing assignments, unit tests and discussion topic posts.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES and GOALS**

Upon successful completion of PLSC 105, students will have been exposed to and understand the role and function of each level of government performs, how they relate to each other, influence of government in our lives; as well as a frame work to run a successful political campaign.

1. the Federal government – Executive, Legislative, Judicial and Administrative Agencies
2. the State government, regionalism – State branches and Regional Agencies
3. the Local units of government – City, County, Townships, School Districts and respective managers
4. Political campaign and elections – media, staffing, and finance

**LEARNING RESOURCES:**

Class Handouts, lecture notes, exams and writing projects

## **CHANGES TO SYLLABUS AND/OR SCHEDULE**

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus and/or schedule as he deems necessary.

## **POLICIES AND PROCESSES**

### **Academic Integrity**

In keeping with Bethany Lutheran College's Academic Honor Code (*Student Guidebook*, page 6), students are expected to do their own work, unless instructed otherwise. Submitting another person's work as one's own, including downloads and copy/paste from the Internet, constitutes plagiarism and is grounds for a "0" for the assignment, possible dismissal from class, and/or an "F" for a final grade.

### **Attendance**

As an online class, it's up to you to keep up with the lectures, to submit your written papers and topic discussions, and take and pass your essay exams by the dates listed on the calendar of activities.

### **Submission of work**

All assignments must be submitted by the deadlines assigned. Exceptions to this policy will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Failure to submit a paper on time will result in zero points earned.

### **Use of Technology:**

Although you will be using a computer to listen to the lectures, it will be helpful to have an additional computer to take notes with.

## **STUDENT EXPECTATIONS**

### **Responsibilities (expectations)**

1. Exhibit academic integrity in completing class assignments in accordance with Bethany Lutheran College's Academic Honor Code.
2. Be aware of reading and assignment due dates.
3. Be prepared to listen to and take good notes.
4. Submit completed assignments on the dates and at the times assigned.
5. Notify instructor via e-mail of planned absences, as well as absences due to illness or family emergency.
6. Monitor the e-mail system for messages from instructor.

## **PERFORMANCE EVALUATION**

**Exams:** An exam will be given after every 2 to 3 lectures presentations totaling 12 exams. Exams will be given by the appointed proctor on the appropriate date. No make-up exams will be permitted except in the case of an emergency or a scheduled absence, with prior notification to instructor. Each exam is worth 19 to 37 points and will be essay in nature. There are no comprehensive exams. **See calendar of**

**activities for test dates.** These dates are subject to change. In the essay exams, the student will need to demonstrate the correlation between the Federal and State governments; how cities, counties and school districts impact their daily lives; compare and contrast functions of government vs. the economic functions of government, as well as the impact an appointed official can have on your quality of life.

**Total points possible are 330.**

**Extra Credit:** There are no planned extra credit opportunities in this class.

**Written assignments:** Open all writing assignments (political party report, politician study report, and governmental meeting forum report) to see what is required. Also view the activities calendar to see when they are do. You have three writing assignments, from which, two of them you will produce two videos as required as part of the assignment. The other one requires you to attend a governmental meeting forum in person...not via video. See instructions for this assignment. **Total points possible are 90.**

**Lecture Discussions** Prior to listening to the lecture, you will complete each lecture discussion topic first. There are 22 lecture discussions that will require a posting from you. The total value of the assignment is worth four points assuming the post answered the question/topic and was well-thought out.

You are required to complete the posting the day the lecture was assigned. Fail to do so will result in zero points. Based on this requirement, you cannot go back and post later and expect to get credit for that post. **Total points possible are 88.**

**In Depth Discussion Topics** Over the course of the semester, we will have three "In Depth Discussion Topics" that will require you to answer the questions proposed, post them to a class forum discussion requiring corresponding reply posts to other student's comments. Each one is worth 30 points. In order to receive all the points possible, your original post, as well as your reply posts have to be well-thought out and supported by research. See handouts for further information on the topics. **Total points possible are 90.**

***Approximant Grade scale:***

556 - 598	A	520 - 537	B+
538 - 555	A-	502 - 519	B
		478 - 501	B-
460 - 477	C+	400 - 418	D+
443 - 459	C	383 - 399	D
419 - 442	C-	359 - 382	D-