

**School:** Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy B.A

## American government and politics

### Lecturer:

Dr. Amnon Cavari cavari@idc.ac.il

### Teaching Assistant:

Mr. Ron Morag ron.morag@post.idc.ac.il

Ms. Keren Guttman keren.guttman@post.idc.ac.il

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Course No.:	Course Type :	Weekly Hours :	Credit:
4787	Lecture	2	2

Course Requirements :	Group Code :	Language:
Exam	201478701	English

### Prerequisites

**Students who took one of the courses listed below will not be allowed to register to the course American government and politics (4787):**

4729 - American Politics

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## Course Description

This course introduces central features of American politics and government at the national level.

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## Course Goals

The objectives of this course are for students to understand the basic “building blocks” in the American political System. We will consider the challenges faced by public officials as they attempt to meet a broad array of demands from the public, and consider why Americans feel discomfort with their government. My hope is that as you build an analytical perspective on American government that is informed, critical, and realistic, you will not resort to simplistic and self-defeating cynicism, no matter how trendy they may seem.

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## Grading

You are expected to attend lectures. The syllabus indicates the topics that will be covered in class. I expect you to read in advance. I may adjust the reading list (add, remove or change the order) as the course progresses.

Although the lectures and readings reinforce each other, I do not summarize or discuss all the readings in class. *You are responsible for the readings.*

Final course grade will be based on the following assignments/exams:

- 2 assignments:
  - Policy position paper (individual) - 15% of final grade
  - Public Opinion paper (groups of up to 3):
    - executive summary - 5% of final grade
    - poster session - 10% of final grade

**\* Make sure you are present during the poster session, scheduled for last day of class: January 27, 2020. You should plan to be early to set up your poster. Every member of each poster-group needs to attend.**

- Final exam - 70% of final grade
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## Learning Outcomes

The course will cover the following topics:

- The constitutional system
  - Federalism
  - Congress
  - The presidency
  - Public opinion
  - Media
  - Elections
  - Political parties
  - Policy issues
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## Lecturer Office Hours

O127, Outside patio of the Lauder School, Thursdays, 16:00-17:00.

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## Additional Notes

Students must silence and stow all electronic devices (e.g., laptops, iPads, cell phones, etc.) before class begins.

Why don't I allow such devices for taking notes? This post from BuzzFeed says it all: "[11 Things You're Actually Doing on Your Laptop During a Lecture.](#)" A summary of research about this topic is available on the website.

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## Reading List

All reading material will be available online and listed by the topic of each class. Most of the readings are taken from:

- Canon, David, John Coleman and Kenneth Mayer. 2018. *The Enduring Debate* (8<sup>th</sup> edition). (ED)

\* The list of readings is posted on the course website.