

Please consult the introductory description of the course on myCourseLink.

Schedule and Topics:

Each week (typically by Tuesday), a new lecture will become available to you on myCourseLink under “Content”. In each PPT (or other format) you will be offered instruction about things to look for in the readings that week; this will include questions for further analysis and discussion. In addition, each lecture will direct you to particular readings (links made available in lectures in most cases) and in some cases viewing. You will also be introduced to questions for class discussion that will require your contributions by the end of each week (see requirements below regarding “class discussions”).

1. September 3rd: Introduction to course and some broad theses.
2. September 10th: Declaration of Independence; rule of the people.
3. September 17th: Majority faction and representation; federalism.
4. September 24th: Extent of national government; separation of powers; legislative branch.
5. October 1st: Executive branch; nature and extent of executive power.
6. October 8th: Judiciary and judicial review. Midterm **TEST**.
7. October 22nd: Introduction to Tocqueville; tyranny of the majority; maintenance of democracy.
8. October 29th: Influence of democracy on religion, ideas and sentiments.
9. November 5th: Influence of democracy on mores, family, ambition & war.
10. November 12th: Democracy and despotism; perpetuation of institutions.
11. November 19th: Lincoln and the challenge of slavery; its legacy today.
12. November 26th: Consideration of final questions; review; exam preparation.

Requirements:

1. **Class discussions:** each week, you will be asked to make an entry to a forum discussion of questions raised in lectures or readings. You will be required to make your own contribution to the discussion and whenever you can to comment upon others' contributions. Specific reference to course readings will be required. Of course, you must maintain an adequate level of politeness and civility in order that we can work together in friendship toward the answers to the questions posed.

This component is worth **25%** of your grade in the class (typically 2% per week).

2. **Term paper:** an approximately 2000 word essay (6-7 pages) in which you show significant familiarity with the text you choose to focus on and intelligently investigate a particular issue or problem raised in it. I will furnish a list of possible topics and offer further specifics regarding the format. **Due date:** November 12th.

This component is worth **30%** of your course grade.

3. **Midterm Test:** you will be asked to identify important ideas, events or people discussed in class and to offer a longer response to a larger issue arising from our readings and discussions. You will be given a limited time to complete the test once you have begun it.

This component is worth **15%** of your course grade.

4. **Final Exam:** you will be given a generous amount of time to complete your responses to significant questions raised in the course.

This component is worth **30%** of your final grade.