

U.S. Government - Foundations, Democracy & Politics

Robert Browning | Josh Scacco | AmGov101x

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to American Government. It covers the founding principles of our government, the institutions that are created in the Constitution – the Congress, the Presidency, and the judiciary – the bridging institutions of the public opinion, elections, parties, interest groups, and the media, as well as the policies that result from the government.

Sponsoring Faculty: Robert Browning & Josh Scacco

Robert X. Browning (PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison) is a Professor of Communication and Political Science at Purdue University and currently teaches courses on the U.S. Congress and media and politics at Purdue University. He also serves as Director of the C-SPAN Archives, located in the Purdue Research Park. He continues to direct the campus research and educational access to the C-SPAN collection. His current research focuses on floor behavior in Congress and comparison of broadcast and cable coverage of public affairs. His most recent books include an edited collection on research, teaching, and engagement using the C-SPAN Archives and an electronic video text on the U.S. Congress. The C-SPAN Archives won a George Foster Peabody Award in 2010 for excellence in communication.

Joshua M. Scacco (PhD, The University of Texas at Austin) is an Assistant Professor of Media Theory & Politics in the Brian Lamb School of Communication at Purdue University. He is interested broadly in the communicative role elites and organizations, including political leaders, journalists, and news outlets, play in American political life. Josh teaches courses on political communication, media, and research method-related topics. Josh's research has been published in the *International Journal of Press/Politics*, *New Media & Society*, the *American Behavioral Scientist*, the *Journal of Electronic Media & Politics*, and the *Journal of Political Science Education* as well as presented at national and international conferences. Before coming to Purdue, Josh worked for a lobbying and public relations firm located in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, a member of legislative leadership in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and a U.S. senator

Target Audience:

This is an online MOOC designed to help students successfully pass the American Government Advanced Placement examination. The tests and discussion questions are designed to prepare students for the examination.

Course Objectives:

Students successfully completing this course will be able to:

- Describe and compare important facts, concepts, and theories pertaining to US government and politics
- Explain typical patterns of political processes and behavior and their consequences (including the components of political behavior, the principles used to explain or justify various government structures and procedures, and the political effects of these structures and procedures)
- Interpret basic data relevant to US government and politics (including data presented in charts, tables, and other formats)
- Critically analyse relevant theories and concepts, apply them appropriately, and develop their connections across the curriculum

| Course Resources:

- **Reading and Other Resources**

Course readings and other resources necessary to complete the course requirements and meet the course objectives will be provided through the course website and are detailed in the course outline.

- **AP US Government and Politics Exam**

Information on the exam is available at the following website:

http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/members/exam/exam_information/2086.html Lecture Slides

- **Using edX**

A short edX course that will teach you how to use the platform:

<https://www.edx.org/course/demox-edx-demox-1>

| Course Requirements:

- **Lectures, Videos, and other Course Features**

Each of the five course modules will be separated into sections covering each topic (for the full list of topics, refer to the course outline). For each section, lectures, supplementary videos, and other features (such as simulations) will be provided. Students should review all of these materials in order to learn about each of the topics covered in the course.

- **Review and Discussion Questions**

Within each module, review questions will be provided to help students recall important information from each section. Additionally, students may participate in discussions intended to serve as practice to answering and reviewing the free response questions. Completion of the review sections and participation in these discussions is encouraged to assist students with successful completion of both the course and AP examinations.

- **Examinations**

An overall score of 70% or greater is required to pass the class. Each module will be followed by an examination modeled after the AP US Government and Politics exam consisting of approximately 20 multiple choice question as well as a free response question. Free response questions will be peer-graded, and students will be provided with practice responding to and reviewing these questions in the form of the discussions as well as be provided with an example response. The final examination at the end of the fifth module will be comprehensive and will be followed by four free response questions covering material from the entire course. There will be a total of five exams in the course, which will account for 100% of your final score. All assessment is to be done individually, not as a collaborative effort. If you have selected to pay for the Verified Certificate you will need to pass the course in order for your certificate is issued.

| Learner Issues & Support:

If students experience issues during the course, they should contact the Purdue NExT team at purduenexteducation@purdue.edu. Students will receive a courtesy response within the first 24 hours of submitting an email.