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| **Title** | **Introduction to American Politics** |
| **Lecturer:**  **Contact email address:** | **William G. Mayer**  Professor of Political Science at Norteastern University (Boston, USA)  <https://cssh.northeastern.edu/faculty/william-mayer/>  [wgmayer@erols.com](mailto:wgmayer@erols.com) |
| **Brief description** | This class is designed to provide an introduction to the study of American government. My hope is give students a better understanding of current issues and controversies in American politics, as well as to provide a foundation for any future course work they may wish to undertake. |
| **Schedule** | **1,**  Introduction: The Constitution  **2.** Federalism  **3.** Public opinion  **4.** Interest groups  **5.** Political parties  **6.** Voting  **7.** Political participation  **8.** The mass media  **9.** Congress  **10.** The presidency  **11.** The judiciary  **12.** The bureaucracy |
| **Materials/Recommended readings** | I would recommend that students purchase two books:  James Q. Wilson and John DiIulio, *American Government: Institutions and Policies, Brief Version* (make sure you get the brief version as it’s a lot cheaper than the full version);  Richard J. Ellis and Michael Nelson, *Debating Reform*, 4th ed. |
| **Assessment/Exam** | Grades will be based on a midterm exam and a final exam. Students may also write an optional paper, though the topic must be approved in advance. |