

# Day 1: Introductions

Daniel J. Mallinson

School of Public Affairs  
Penn State Harrisburg  
mallinson@psu.edu

PLSC 1

# Road map

- Introductions
- Syllabus

# Introductions — Me

# Introductions – Me



# Introductions — Me



# Introductions — Me



# Introductions — Me



# Introductions — Me





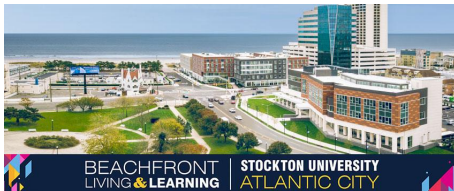
# Introductions — Me



# Introductions – Me



# Introductions – Me



# Introductions – Me



# Introductions — Your Turn

HELLO  
my name is



# Purpose of the Course

To develop a basic understanding of political behavior and institutions in the United States and to develop greater civic agency.

# Basics

- MWF 9:05 – 9:55 am
- Olmsted E-338
- Prerequisites: None
- Course Website
- #pubpl304 (@djmallinson)
- Canvas

# Contact Me

- [mallinson@psu.edu](mailto:mallinson@psu.edu)
- Office: W-160K
- Office Hours: MW 10-11 am; Th 4-6 pm
- By Appointment



# Learning Objectives

## **Goal 1: Students will gain a basic understanding of American political institutions and behavior**

- Objective 1a: Students will be able to identify the basic structure and purpose of Congress, the Presidency, and the Supreme Court
- Objective 1b: Students will understand American federalism
- Objective 1c: Students will understand the role of political parties and interest groups in American politics

# Learning Objectives

## Goal 2: Students will develop greater civic agency

- Objective 2a: Students will learn how to contact their elected officials
- Objective 2b: Students will learn how to vote
- Objective 2c: Students will learn how to write an op-ed

# Learning Objectives

## Goal 3: Students will develop critical thinking skills

- Objective 3a: Students will reason through how gerrymander affects political representation
- Objective 3b: Students will be able to identify how political institutions shape political behavior

# Nearpod



<https://nearpod.com>

# Expectations

- Attend class
- Read and prepare
- Do not suffer in silence
- Be flexible
- Current events
- E-mail policy

# Required Book



Open Textbook  
Library

GO

[Browse Subjects](#) [Our Textbooks](#) [About Us](#)



## American Government 2e

(26 reviews)



Glen Krutz, University of Oklahoma

Sylvie Waskiewicz

Contributing Authors

Pub Date: 2019

ISBN 13: 9781938168178

Publisher: OpenStax CNX

Screenshot  
English

## Table of Contents

### Students and the System

- Chapter 1: American Government and Civic Engagement
- Chapter 2: The Constitution and Its Origins
- Chapter 3: American Federalism

### Individual Agency and Action

- Chapter 4: Civil Liberties
- Chapter 5: Civil Rights
- Chapter 6: The Politics of Public Opinion
- Chapter 7: Voting and Elections

https:

[//openstax.org/details/books/american-government-2e](https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-2e)

# Methods of Evaluation

- Syllabus Quiz (Aug 30)
- Content Quizzes
- Voting Assignment
- Official Contact Assignment
- Op-Ed Assignment
- Gerrymandering Assignment
- Participation
- Make-Up Grades
- Extra Credit

# Course Schedule

## Major Topics

- Introduction
- The Constitution
- Federalism
- Civil Liberties
- Civil Rights
- Public Opinion
- Voting and Elections
- The Media
- Political Parties
- Interest Groups and Lobbying
- Congress, POTUS, SCOTUS
- State and Local Government
- You Choose!



# Government...

... according to Ron Swanson <https://vimeo.com/57723506>