



Northwestern
University

ECON 101-6-20 (16224): Government and You
FALL 2021

Professor: Jannet Chang

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Office hours: Thursday 11AM-12PM or by appointment

Class meetings Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30-10:50am @ University Library 4770

Textbook: There are no required textbooks for this course. Instead, the class will rely on a variety of sources, including standard textbooks, media, and academic articles. Most of the sources will be available online and via NU library search links.

Course description: Governments of all levels play an essential role in individual's day-to-day life, such as education, transportation, health and welfare. Some of the questions to be addressed in the course include but are not limited to the following: What are the roles of governments? How do government policies impact individual decision-making and vice versa? Under what situation is the government intervention desirable? What are the reasons for different levels of governments, such as federal, state, and local governments? The goal of this course is to acquaint students with various aspects of government sectors and give students the ability to critically evaluate current policy debates.

Course goals: The goal of this seminar is to help students hone the skills essential to thriving in a diverse and inclusive academic community. For the most part, we will use the topic of Government and You as the medium to achieve this goal. In addition, this seminar will foreground the differences between high school and college. I will share with you about skills, such as studying effectively and knowing when and how to ask for help, to help you thrive at Northwestern. Lastly, since writing is crucial in a variety of disciplines, we will also pay attention to the process of writing and revision.

Teaching Methodology: Teaching methodology is designed to achieve the following three goals—reading critically, thinking logically, and communicating effectively. Particularly, we will focus on *reading, discussion, and writing*. These three elements will intertwine and work hand in hand to assist you to achieve these goals.

Reading provides information for you to ponder as well as for us to discuss in class. Hence, it is crucial that you read the materials assigned to you. Delve into reading, search for passages that are particularly meaningful for you, lay your thoughts out by jotting down questions and thoughts along the way. Each of us will then bring our unique perspectives and experiences to class for discussion. Our discussions will be frequent and usually led by students. For this reason, I expect everyone to participate. As for writing, we will focus on the process of it. We will practice forming drafts, soliciting feedback from the professor or peer students, and revising to generate a polished final output.

When working on writing assignments for this class, I encourage you to visit the Writing Place, Northwestern's peer writing center. You will work with juniors and seniors who have been trained to provide you feedback and assistance on any type of writing at any stage in the writing process. They will not edit your work. Rather, they will work with you to brainstorm ideas,

organize or outline an essay, clarify your argument, document your sources correctly, or refine grammar and style. Find more information about The Writing Place at its website:

<https://www.writing.northwestern.edu/>

Evaluation: Course grades will be based on written assignments (55%), class discussion and in-class assignment (30%), and class presentation (15%). Written assignments include two short papers (3-4 pages each), two peer critiques (1 page each), and one final paper (5-6 pages). Detailed instruction for the short and long papers, as well as peer critique exercises, will be given in class and distributed via Canvas. Late papers will have their grades reduced by 50% per day.

Short paper #1 Draft	Friday, 10/1	5%
Peer review #1	Friday, 10/8	5%
Short paper #1	Friday, 10/15	10%
Short paper #2 Draft	Friday, 10/29	5%
Peer review #2	Friday, 11/5	5%
Short paper #2	Friday, 11/12	10%
Final paper	Monday, 12/6	15%
Presentation (discussion leader)	TBA on Canvas	15%
Class discussion and in-class assignment	Every class! Grades assigned for every week.	30%

Attendance: Attendance is expected. Much of the necessary material will be presented only during class. If you must miss class, it is your responsibility to track down any information you may have missed. Remember that much of the learning will take place in class and your grade largely depends on your class participation. In case you show symptoms of Covid, stay home. Follow the [NU Covid Procedures](#) and email me about your absence. I will discuss with you how to better make up for the work you miss.

Academic integrity: Northwestern takes academic integrity seriously. Suspension of academic integrity violations will be referred immediately to the Academic Dean's office; University rules prohibit subsequent discussion of the situation with the student. As an example, you should not turn in another person's work as your own, or copy or paraphrase from any source without adequate citation. Whether intentional or not, improper use of materials could be considered a violation of academic integrity.

Academic Accommodation: Any student requesting accommodations related to a disability or other condition is required to register with AccessibleNU (accessiblenu@northwestern.edu; 847-467-5530) and provide professors with an accommodation notification from AccessibleNU, preferably within the first two weeks of class. All information will remain confidential.

Covid-19 Code of conduct: Students, faculty, and staff must comply with University expectations regarding appropriate classroom behavior, including those outlined below and in the [COVID-19 Code of Conduct](#). With respect to classroom procedures, this includes:

- Policies regarding masking and social distancing evolve as the public health situation changes. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with current masking, testing, Symptom Tracking, and social distancing requirements.
- In some classes, masking and/or social distancing may be required as a result of an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodation for the instructor or a student in the class even when not generally required on campus. In such cases, the instructor will notify the class.
- No food is allowed inside classrooms. Drinks are permitted, but please keep your face covering on and use a straw.
- Faculty may assign seats in some classes to help facilitate contact tracing in the event that a student tests positive for COVID-19. Students must sit in their assigned seats.

If a student fails to comply with the [COVID-19 Code of Conduct](#) or other University expectations related to COVID-19, the instructor may ask the student to leave the class. The instructor is asked to report the incident to the Office of Community Standards for additional follow-up.

Class recording: Since our class is discussion-based, I do not plan to record class sessions. Students are prohibited from recording class sessions and are also prohibited from the distribution of class recordings. Unauthorized recording is unethical and may also be a violation of University policy and state law. Students requesting the use of assistive technology as an accommodation should contact [AccessibleNU](#). Unauthorized use of classroom recordings – including distributing or posting them – is also prohibited. Under the University's [Copyright Policy](#), faculty own the copyright to instructional materials – including those resources created specifically for the purposes of instruction, such as syllabi, lectures and lecture notes, and presentations. Students cannot copy, reproduce, display, or distribute these materials. Students who engage in unauthorized recording, unauthorized use of a recording, or unauthorized distribution of instructional materials will be referred to the appropriate University office for follow-up.

Support for wellness and mental health: Northwestern University is committed to supporting the wellness of our students. Student Affairs has multiple resources to support student wellness and mental health. If you are feeling distressed or overwhelmed, please reach out for help. Students can access confidential resources through the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), Religious and Spiritual Life (RSL) and the Center for Awareness, Response and Education (CARE). Additional information on all of the resources mentioned above can be found here:

<https://www.northwestern.edu/counseling/>

<https://www.northwestern.edu/religious-life/>

<https://www.northwestern.edu/care/>