

To: POSC 110 Students

From: Jessica Boscarino (Jessica.Boscarino@marist.edu)

Welcome to POSC 110, *American National Government*! I look forward to a rewarding summer session. For those whom I haven't met yet, allow me to introduce myself! I'm Dr. Jessica Boscarino, Associate Professor and Chair of Political Science. I teach classes in American politics, public policy, and the environment. Over these eight weeks, we'll be thinking deeply and critically about the American political system. This class balances understanding the history of politics and government in the U.S. with an attention to how it matters *for today*. As someone living and/or studying in the U.S., you are affected by American government everyday – you should know how it works! We'll be thinking about *values* (like democracy, liberty and equality) that formed the basis for our government, and whether we live up to them today; *institutions* (like Congress, the presidency and the courts); and *actors* (like the media, political parties and interest groups) that all affect our politics.

This class is organized week-by-week. A new week will begin on Sunday morning at 8 am and end the following Saturday at 11:59 pm. Each week is then divided into two parts. For each part, you will have material and tasks to complete. The first part of the week should be completed by Tuesday at 11:59 pm; the second part by Saturday at 11:59 pm. Typically, you will have reading to do (usually a chapter in our textbook, sometimes accompanied by a supplementary article), one or two “mini-lectures” to watch, and an assignment to be completed (e.g., an online quiz, discussion post, or other activity). In addition, you will have a short paper, video presentation, and a final exam. By the end of the course, you should feel confident developing and articulating your own opinions about American politics.

There is one required book for the class:

- *We the People: an Introduction to American Politics*, by Benjamin Ginsberg, Theodore J. Lowi, Margaret Weir, Caroline Tolbert, Andrea L. Campbell, and Robert J. Spitzer (13th edition, “Essentials” e-book version), W.W. Norton. ISBN: ISBN: 978-0-393-53887-8.

All other supplementary readings and materials will be linked through our Brightspace course site. I encourage you to have a look around the Brightspace site, and I look forward to meeting you next week! In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to send me an email at Jessica.Boscarino@marist.edu.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessica Boscarino". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned at the bottom of the email body.