

University of Illinois at Chicago
Political Science 101
American Government

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Robert Bruhl
BSB 1108c, (312) 413-3775

This course will provide students the opportunity to explore the structure, function, and origins of the institutions comprising the Government of the United States of America. This exploration will be facilitated through a number of small observational research projects which will comprise **60%** of each student's grade. The remaining **40%** will be determined by activities associated with the weekly discussion sessions.

The texts for the course are *American Government* (7th Edition), by Gitelson, Dudley and Dubnick; and *American Economic History* (6th Edition) by Hughes and Cain. A list of topics and reading assignments will be distributed separately. A tentative list of the observational research projects includes the following:

1. Interview a Member of the U.S. Congress and report the results.
2. Interview a senior member of the Executive Branch of the Federal Government and report the results.
3. Interview a senior member of the Judicial Branch of the Federal Government and report the results.
4. Observe two consecutive sessions of a local government and report on the proceedings.
5. Report on the content and voting history of a Public Law (which will be assigned to you) enacted by Congress.
6. **Describe the organizational structure of the local branch of each of the two major political parties and the local organizational structure of one public interest group.**

Any student with special instructional needs should consult with me at the beginning of the course.