

## Political Institutions of the United States of America | POU33041

Year	Junior Sophister
ECTS Credits	5
Contact Hours	20 hours of lectures and 5 hours of tutorials
Pre-requisite	Nil
Semester	1
Module Leader & Lecturer	Dr Emanuel Coman
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### Module Outline

#### Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this module students should be able to:

- Show strong knowledge of the American political institutions and the way in which they interact in the process of policy making
- Familiarise themselves with the history of the US political system
- Demonstrate strong understanding of the US electoral system
- Show a good understanding of the organisation and ideological underpinnings of the two main American parties

#### Module Learning Aims:

By the end of this module students should obtain a critical understanding and comprehensive knowledge of the government and politics in the US, as well as the processes through which policy making takes place. Through discussions of current and past events and a close following of the Congressional electoral campaign taking place during the term students should become familiarised with examples of how these institutions and processes interact.

#### Module Content:

The module will introduce the students to the main institutions of the American political system: Presidency, Congress, Judiciary. In the process we will learn about the way in which the members of these institutions are selected, the functions played by each of these institutions, and the way in which they interact under the checks and balances system of the United States. Special attention will be given to the historical development of these relationships.

Additionally the module will cover other important aspects of the institutional structure of the US, such as the Constitution, the federal system, and the party system.

## Assessment

One essay (25%)

One 90 minute examination (75%)

## Recommended Reading List

David McKay: *American Politics and Society*. John Wiley and Sons 2013, eighth edition.

Bowles, Nigel. And Robert K. McMahon. *Government and politics of the United States*.

Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.