

**American Government and Politics**  
**Widener University**  
**POLS 101**

**Location and Time:** Rm. 222A, Kapelski Learning Center, Tuesday & Thursday- 12:30-1:45 PM

**Credit Hours:** 3 hours

**Instructor:** Dr. Jeremy R. Backstrom

**E-Mail:** [jbackstrom@widener.edu](mailto:jbackstrom@widener.edu)

**Office Hours:** T TR 2:00-3:00 PM, Rm. 337, Kapelski Learning Center

**Class Web:** Campus Cruiser

**Required Course Materials:**

***Textbooks/reading materials:***

- Barbour, Christine and Gerald C. Wright. 2017. *Keeping the Republic: Power and Citizenship in American Politics*. 8<sup>th</sup> edition. **(Ensure that you purchase “The Essentials” edition)**

***Technology Requirements:***

- Internet access (free access available in campus computer labs)
- Basic use of a personal computer (word processing and internet browsing).
- Access to the Widener University Campus Cruiser

***Software Requirements:***

- Microsoft Office or Open Office (Free alternative to MS Office)

**Course Catalog Description:**

“An introduction to basic concepts, functions, and processes of politics and government, using the American system as a model. The course includes topics such as political socialization, constitutional government, legislative process, presidential leadership and bureaucracy, the role of the judiciary, elections, political parties, interest groups, and problems of civil rights.”

**Course Description:**

The purpose of this course is to help you to obtain an understanding of the organization, principles, and various functions of the United States government at the national level. Together, we will analyze the history, structure, processes, and continued evolution of our government. The larger effort in this course is to understand how and why the United States has created a vast, dynamic, and complex governmental system. In the first section, we analyze the foundations of the American government namely the history leading up to the adoption of the U.S. Constitution as well as the Constitution itself, federalism, and civil liberties. We will then focus on the various elements of the U.S. government- Congress, the Presidency, the bureaucracy, and the court system. Finally, we then analyze the various elements of American politics and its influence particularly equal rights, political parties, elections, and interest groups. Upon completion of this course, you will have the analytical skills and the knowledge necessary to better understand politics in modern America and why it works in its current manner. In addition, the course is intended to improve your capacity to think clearly and dispassionately about government and politics as well as to make

rational and informed judgments concerning political questions within the context of the values of American democratic tradition.

### **Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- ❖ Understand the foundations of government as well as the history of the creation of American government and politics.
- ❖ Comprehend the importance of government and politics, how it influences the daily lives of individual citizens, and why participation in a democratic government is important.
- ❖ Describe the various components of American national government and appreciate their importance to modern American government and politics.
- ❖ Analyze and question the principle conceptual issues in American government and politics.
- ❖ Examine ethical issues which may influence American government and politics.
- ❖ Demonstrate reading, writing, and oral communication skills within the conceptual framework of American government and politics.

### **Newspaper Headlines:**

As this is a course in political science, I encourage you as students to become more cognizant of the world and daily events that arise concerning American politics and government in general as well as the various issues we cover in class. Therefore, I want you to read the newspaper headlines (New York Times, Washington Post, BBC, Philadelphia Inquirer, etc.), watch the news on television, or read online news (local news or national news such as CNN, MSNBC, FoxNews, BBC, CSPAN). If you gain your information regarding politics and government from headlines for social media newsfeed/trending headlines, please ensure to follow up this headline in a major news resource. If time permits, we will devote time in each class to discussions concerning current events regarding these topics.

### **Communication and Email:**

As indicated above, you can contact me via email at [jrbackstrom@widener.edu](mailto:jrbackstrom@widener.edu). Please ensure that you address the email with the course number (POLS 101) and your last name in the “subject line” (Example: Backstrom- POLS 101). I request that you use proper English in your emails so I can understand your question/issue and offer you an answer or resolution to the issue. Proper English does not include the abbreviated version of words as those you would use in a text message/instant message/tweet. I will respond to your email in a timely manner, typically within 24 hours on the weekdays and 48 hours on the weekends. Please be aware that while this is my general and intended practice for responding to your e-mails, it is subject to the changes and interruptions of life. If you do not hear from me within 48 hours do not assume I got your message and please follow up. Finally, please note I do not discuss grades electronically. If you wish to discuss your grades, you will need to come to my office during my office hours or by appointment.

Additionally, I will be available during my office hours on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM; 12:30-1:30 PM or Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00-3:00 PM. If this does not meet your needs, if you need to meet with me at a different time, or if you need to meet with me for a longer period of time, please email me and schedule an appointment to meet with me

### **Attendance Policy:**

Regardless of course format, Widener University considers regular attendance, participation, and interaction with the instructor and other students to be essential components of successful learning in a Widener class. Courses are conducted for the benefit of students, and it is important that students attend regularly and participate in class activities, however attendance and participation are defined by the course instructor. The academic program takes priority over other obligations, whether sponsored by the college or not. The student is responsible for attending class and for work missed due to absence, and the faculty are not required to make special arrangement for student absences. The presence of a qualifying disability accommodation may allow some flexibility on attendance and due dates, but the essential academic integrity of course goals and student learning will be preserved. Good communication from the students to the faculty about any problems related to attendance and deadlines is crucial. See the Undergraduate Catalog for the full policy statement.

As adults, you are expected to attend every class. **Attendance is required and roll will be taken at every class.** In addition, you are expected to be in the classroom on time. If you continue to have a problem with being on time. If you continue to have a problem with being on time, you will be listed as absent for the day. Excessive absences or tardiness will count against you for your final grade. Each late arrival (1-10 minutes) will count as a tardy. If you are tardy twice, this will count as an absence. If you arrive late by 10 minutes or more, you will be marked as absent. If you depart early, you will also be marked as absent unless you discuss the necessity for an early departure with me before we begin class.

You have a total of three absences that you may use at your discretion. **At the fourth absence and each subsequent absence, your overall grade for the course will be reduced by one letter grade.** Additionally, it is *your responsibility* to obtain the notes for the missed class from one of your fellow students.

Finally, as a student in this course, you are expected to come into each class having read the required readings and be prepared to participate in the discussion. My lectures complement the readings and it will benefit you to take notes from my lectures in addition to reading the required chapters.

### **Additional Policies:**

Personal laptops or I-Pads may be used to take notes during the class; however, this is not an invitation to check your email, chat online, check the internet for topics outside of the classroom discussion; or any other activity that would disturb your attention and those around you from your class work. If caught engaging in one of these infractions, I will warn you only once. After this warning, you will not be allowed to use your laptop in the class.

Cell phones, I-Pods, or any other electronic communication device must be shut off or silenced during class. Similar to the policy regarding laptops, I will warn you only once. After this event, I will not tolerate any violation of this policy. You will be asked to leave the classroom for that day and be listed as absent for the class.

This is a course on American government and politics and each of us has our own personal thoughts and opinions on the matter. As your instructor, I strongly encourage scholarly debate and discussion in the classroom. However, you must be respectful of your fellow students and their opinions. I will not tolerate any outbursts or demeaning (hateful, racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, obscene, and/or etc.) attacks/comments against your fellow students regarding their opinions or observations. If this does occur, I will consider it as a disturbance to the learning experience of the classroom, instruct you to leave for that day, and you will be listed as absent. At the instructor's discretion, a student that violates these guidelines may be removed from the course and possibly the campus.

### **Assignments and Grading:**

#### **Classroom Participation: (This section is worth 10% of your total grade)**

The course is designed to provide you with an introduction to American government and politics. While much of the course is lecture-based, there will be daily opportunities for seminar-based discussion in which the instructor and the students will interact and discuss the readings, current events regarding American government and politics, and topics of interest. Remember you are a scholar, not a student.

You are expected to complete the assigned readings prior to the designated date in accordance to the course calendar. Please note that if I observe that the discussion continues to linger without participation, if I am solely leading the discussion, or if there are only a few students participating, I will devise a weekly quiz that will allow me to determine whether you completed the assigned readings and if you understand the theories presented. If this situation arises, you will not be permitted to use the assigned readings or your notes from the readings to take the quizzes. Finally, if you miss the weekly quiz, there are no quiz make-ups.

#### **Papers: (2 assignments worth 25% each. This section is worth 50% of your total grade)**

You have two research papers during the semester that you must complete to pass the course. You need to consult the "Controversial Debate Topics and Big Issues" website at <http://www.debate.org/big-issues/>. For the first assignment, select one of the issues listed (Border Fence, Free Trade, Globalization, etc) and read the short write-up on the issue. Moreover, you must do more research and investigation on the issue from professional and preferably academic resources. After discovering more information about the issue, you will write a research paper on the issue, describing both sides of the issue- pro and con. Finally, you need to take a stand on the issue (pro or con) and provide an explanation of your stance on the issue.

The second assignment will be similar to the first; however, you need to select a different issue from the first assignment. **The 1<sup>st</sup> Research Paper is due on October 10, 2017 at the beginning of class. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Research Paper is due on December 5, 2017 at the beginning of class. If you do not complete the research paper assignment, you will receive 0 points for the assignment, which is worth 25% of your final grade. If you do not complete both research paper assignments, you will receive 0 points for both assignments, which is worth 50% of your final grade.**

All research papers will be in essay format (pro/con argument) and must adhere to the following formatting requirements:

- 5-7 pages in length not including your bibliography and cover page (I will not accept less than 5 pages.)
- Must be typed/word processed
- Double spaced
- Times New Roman Script
- 1 inch margins
- MLA or APA citation for your sources
- Limited grammatical errors
- A cover page with your name, course/section number, and essay topic (The cover page does not count toward the 5 pages in length).

Your grade for the homework assignment will be determined by your ability to answer the questions, your aptitude for critical thinking, and your writing skills. As a college student, you are expected to meet college level writing requirements. **Therefore, I highly encourage you to take your time in completing your homework assignments and to proofread your paper before you hand it in. Proofreading your paper does not mean to merely run a spelling and grammar check as they often overlook multiple errors. Furthermore, a spelling and grammar check does not aid you in conveying an argument for or against an issue; thus, you need to proofread your papers.**

Moreover, at this level of your academic career, you should ensure to use citation for thoughts and ideas that are not your own. If you fail to provide citation for ideas that are not your own, this is plagiarism and you will be penalized heavily. You can find the guidelines at the following website: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>. Finally, I will not accept references such as Wikipedia, dictionaries, encyclopedias or other such sources. They are not college-level sources. The use of these references will result in a ten-point deduction.

There is no right or wrong answer. I merely want you to think about the issue, explore your thoughts and opinions regarding it, and write up a 5-7 page research paper.

### **Weekly Thought Papers: 10% of your grade**

At the beginning of each class week (Tuesday), you are expected to write a very brief thought paper/statement regarding a particular topic you found interesting, highly significant, or controversial. Typically, I have students write a 1½-2 page thought paper for each week; however, we are going to try a novel experiment. President Donald Trump has utilized social media specifically Twitter to expound and describe his feelings and thoughts regarding issues and topics related to American government and politics, public policy, foreign policy, etc. I would like you to do something similar except regarding this course, our readings, my approach to teaching, a discussion in class, current events in American government and politics, etc. With a class of this magnitude and a course topic as controversial as politics and government, we may not have the opportunity to address everyone's thoughts and opinions. Therefore, this is a method to continue our classroom discussion outside of the class and the students can engage in dialogue with me regarding your thoughts on the course, topics we concentrate on, or current events.

I personally do not use Twitter so the tweet/short blurb must be typed out on paper and handed in hard copy form. You may use 140 characters per thought, similar to a tweet but you can use 2-3 additional tweets if you need to convey additional messages regarding the week's thoughts. We will try this for the first half of the semester. If this is successful, we will continue the practice or

if this is burdensome and unsuccessful, we will switch back to the typical thought papers I assign my students. A description of the typical thought paper is found below:

At the beginning of each class week (Tuesday), you are expected to write a thought paper regarding the assigned readings for the week or a particular discussion we had in the classroom during the week prior **ON THE WEEKS YOU DO NOT HAVE AN EXAM OR PAPER DUE DATE.** You can offer your thoughts, feelings, opinions, etc. regarding a particular topic that you found interesting, highly significant, or controversial. With a class this size and highly divisive topics such as politics and government, and other topics, we may not have the opportunity to address all viewpoints, opinions, or arguments. Therefore, this allows you to express your feelings, thoughts, opinions, and arguments with me specifically and I can engage in dialogue with you concerning this. This is a method of continuing our classroom discussions outside of the actual classroom. The thought papers are not intended to be conducted in an academic research format and you do not need to include formal citations but rather reference the article(s) or book chapter if you discuss it. Moreover, please do not merely regurgitate the information provided in a lecture or reading. I know what the articles and book chapter argue... I want your criticism, praise, thoughts, feelings, and opinions regarding the readings or a discussion in class. You will receive full credit if you abide by the following formatting guidelines:

- 1 ½-2 pages in length
- Only your name at the top of the paper
- Must be typed/word processed
- Double spaced
- Times New Roman Script
- 1 inch margins
- No grammatical errors
- The thought paper must explicitly address either: 1) an aspect/article of this week's reading or 2) a discussion we had in class.
- Handed in on time (Tuesday at the beginning of class)
- Hard copy (paper)

**Exams: (3 exams worth 10% each. This section is worth 30% of your grade.)**

There are three exams given during this course, covering the textbook readings and lecture materials for the specific unit. Furthermore, the exams are not cumulative and will only cover the information for the specific unit of the course. The exams will be closed book, closed notes multiple choice and short answer exams. **Students must provide their own materials for the exams.** I will not bring in extra materials so you must have your own or borrow them from another student.

Finally, I do not give make up exams unless there are extraordinary circumstances, which must be documented. You must contact me in advance of the exam if you need to miss an exam for an emergency. However, you must provide medical or legal documentation to justify your request to miss a scheduled exam and take a make up exam. If you do not contact me within 12 hours of the exam, you will not be permitted to take a makeup exam. If you do not take a makeup exam, you will receive a "0" for the exam.

### **Extra Credit:**

You will have three opportunities for extra credit throughout the course. Each extra credit assignment is worth 5 points and will be applied to the proceeding test exam. **You do not have to do the extra credit assignments if you do not wish to; however, these three extra credit assignments will be the only opportunity for extra credit.**

### **Methods of Evaluation:**

- **Exams:** 3 exams- 10% each. 30% total
- **Participation-** 10% total
- **Papers-** 2 papers- 25% each. 50% total.
- **Thought Papers-** 10% total

### **Grading Rubric:**

**A:** 94-100%

**A-:** 91-93%

**B+:** 88-90%

**B:** 85-87%

**B-:** 81-84%

**C+:** 78-80%

**C:** 75-77%

**C-:** 71-74%

**D+:** 68-70%

**D:** 60-67%

**F:** 59% and below

### **Late Work Policy**

All assignments for this course are expected on or before the deadline as indicated on the assignment. As a reasonable person, I understand that uncontrollable personal circumstances may arise. Thus, I am willing to work with you through such issues should they arise and you must submit a late assignment. **If you need to submit a late assignment, you must contact me in advance of the deadline for my approval and for arrangements to be made concerning the assignment.** Written documentation will be required in order to confirm your request to submit a late assignment.

**Late homework assignments will be heavily penalized unless there are extenuating circumstances. There is a 10 point penalty per day for late homework assignments. This includes weekends and holidays.** If the assignment has not been submitted within 5 days, you will receive a "0" for the homework assignment.

### **Tentative Reading and Course Outline:**

\*\*\*Barbour & Wright textbook= (BW)

\*\*\*NOTE: Due dates for thought papers and assignments are listed in **Bold** while important dates for Widener University related academic issues are listed in *Italics*.

**Week 1:**

**Aug. 29:** Introduction to the course and discussion of the syllabus

**Aug. 31:** Politics: Who Gets What, and How?: Chap. 1- (**BW**)

**Week 2:**

**Sept. 5:** Politics of the American Founding: Chap. 3- (**BW**)

**Sept. 5: Tweet/Thought Paper Due**

**Sept. 5:** *Last day for dropping and/or adding classes*

**Sept. 7:** Politics of the American Founding: Chap. 3- (**BW**)

**Week 3:**

**Sept. 12:** Federalism and the U.S. Constitution: Chap. 4- (**BW**)

**Sept. 12: Tweet/Thought Paper Due**

**Sept. 14:** Federalism and the U.S. Constitution: Chap. 4- (**BW**)

**Week 4:**

**Sept. 19:** Fundamental American Liberties: Chap. 5- (**BW**)

**Sept. 19: Tweet/Thought Paper Due**

**Sept. 21:** Fundamental American Liberties: Chap. 5- (**BW**)

**Week 5:**

**Sept. 26:** Wrap up Section 1 and Review for Exam #1

**Sept. 26: Tweet/Thought Paper Due**

**Sept. 28:** Exam #1

**Week 6:**

**Oct. 3:** Congress: Chap. 7- (**BW**)

**Oct. 3: Tweet/Thought Paper Due**

**Oct. 5:** Congress: Chap. 7- (**BW**)

**Week 7:**

**Oct. 10:** The Presidency: Chap. 8- (**BW**)

**Oct. 10: 1<sup>st</sup> Research Paper Due**

**Oct. 12:** The Presidency: Chap. 8- (**BW**)



**Week 8:**

**Oct. 17:** The Bureaucracy: Chap. 9- (BW)

**Oct. 17: Tweet/Thought Paper Due**

**Oct. 19:** The Bureaucracy: Chap. 9- (BW)

**Week 9:**

**Oct. 24:** *No Class- Fall Break*

**Oct. 26:** The American Legal System and the Courts: Chap. 10- (BW)

**Week 10:**

**Oct. 31:** The American Legal System and the Courts: Chap. 10- (BW)

**Oct. 31: Tweet/Thought Paper Due**

**Nov. 2:** Wrap up Section 2 and Review for Exam #2

**Week 11:**

**Nov. 7:** Exam #2

**Nov. 7: No Thought Paper Due**

**Nov. 7:** *Last day for class withdrawal without academic penalty*

**Nov. 9:** The Struggle for Equal Rights: Chap. 6- (BW)

**Week 12:**

**Nov. 14:** The Struggle for Equal Rights: Chap. 6- (BW)

**Nov. 13: Tweet/Thought Paper Due**

**Nov. 16:** Political Parties: Chap. 12- (BW)

**Week 13:**

**Nov. 21:** Political Parties: Chap. 12- (BW)

**Nov. 21: Tweet/Thought Paper Due**

**Nov. 23:** *No Class- Thanksgiving Break*

**Week 14:**

**Nov. 28:** Interest Groups: Chap. 13- (BW)

**Nov. 27: No Tweet/Thought Paper Due: Work on your second Research Paper.**

**Nov. 30:** Interest Groups: Chap. 13- (BW)

**Week 15:**

**Dec. 5:** Voting, Campaigns, and Elections: Chap. 14- (BW)

**Dec. 5: 2<sup>nd</sup> Research Paper Due**

**Dec. 7:** Voting, Campaigns, and Elections: Chap. 14- (BW)

**Dec. 7:** Wrap up for section 3/Exam #3 review/Course Wrap up

**Week 16:**

**Dec. 11-15:** *Final Exams* (Final Exam date and time TBD)

**Dec. 15:** *End of Fall semester*

**Outline of Course:**

**Exam 1: Foundations**

Chapter 1: Politics: Who Gets What and How?

Chapter 3: Politics of the American Founding

Chapter 4: Federalism and the U.S. Constitution

Chapter 5: Fundamental American Liberties

**Exam 2: Institutions**

Chapter 7: Congress

Chapter 8: The Presidency

Chapter 9: The Bureaucracy

Chapter 10: The American Legal System and the Courts

**Exam 3: Politics**

Chapter 6: The Struggle for Equal Rights

Chapter 12: Political Parties

Chapter 13: Interest Groups

Chapter 14: Voting Campaigns and Elections

***\*\*\*The instructor reserves the right to modify any course requirements and calendar due dates as necessary to manage and conduct this course online.***

**Institutional Policies:**

**\*Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**

FERPA is a federal law that protects your privacy by limiting access to your educational and personal records. Educational and personal information cannot be distributed or discussed with your parents or legal guardians or anyone else without a legitimate education interest without your written permission. Educational and personal information includes your social security number or institutional identification number, citizenship, gender, grades, GPA, or class schedule. Additional

information and FERPA waivers (waiver of release of information forms) are available from the registrar or the Office of Student Affairs.

Finally, please note I do not discuss grades electronically. If you wish to discuss your grades, you will need to come to my office during my office hours or by appointment.

**\*Overall Statement on Academic Support for Traditional Undergraduates:**

Students have academic support resources available to them at no charge. The Academic Support offers course-specific tutoring services, academic coaching services, writing services, and disabilities services. The Writing Center offers tutoring to assist with writing and reading support for any class. The Disability Services office provides impairment-related accommodations consistent with the ADA and its amendments. Academic Coaching offers services where students are paired with an Academic Coach, who can assist the student in various ways. For help or further information, contact the Writing Center at (610) 499-4332; the Disabilities Services at (610) 499-1266; and the Academic Coaching at (610) 499-1193.

**\*Academic Coaching Statement:**

Academic Coaching offers various resources to assist Widener students with their academic success that is tailored to the student's needs. Students have academic support resources available to them at no charge. Academic Coaching offers assistance on study skills, time management, test taking, academic planning, textbook reading, and note taking. Further information can be found at: <http://www.widener.edu/academics/support/coaching.aspx>. Academic Coaching can be reached at (610) 499-1193 or through Tim Cairy at [tjcairy@widener.edu](mailto:tjcairy@widener.edu).

**\*Tutoring Services Statement:**

Tutoring Services offers tutoring for students by trained Widener University students for introductory and upper level courses. Moreover, these services are offered to Widener students at no additional charge outside of your tuition. Further information can be found at: <http://www.widener.edu/academics/support/tutoring/>. Tutoring Services is located at 522 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street in Pineapple House (9:00 AM- 5:00 PM Monday through Friday) or via email at: [tutoringservices@widener.edu](mailto:tutoringservices@widener.edu).

**\*Writing Center Statement for Regular/Day Courses:**

You are encouraged to visit the Writing Center early and often throughout the semester to help build a strong foundation for writing in this course and in all of your courses. The center's peer tutors and director will work with you at any stage of the writing process, from developing and organizing ideas to revising and editing drafts. Tutors are also available to discuss and practice approaches to managing the college reading workload and reading more effectively. The center is located on the first floor of the Old Main Annex and can be reached at (610) 499-4332. Appointments are strongly recommended to ensure availability particularly during midterms or the end of the semester.

**\*ADAA Statement on Services for Students with Disabilities:**

Consistent with the ADAA and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Widener University welcomes students with disabilities into the college's educational programs. If you need impairment-related academic adjustments in this course, please contact Anna Bachus, Director of

Disability Services, by email at [apbachus@widener.edu](mailto:apbachus@widener.edu), by phone at (610) 499-1266, or at the office of Disability Services at 520 East 14<sup>th</sup> Street. It is important to make this request as soon as possible so that we will have time to make any necessary arrangements.

**\*Withdrawal:**

During the drop/add period as established by the registrar, students can drop or add classes at any time online. If a student cannot add a course online, the student will need to bring a Registration form signed by his or her advisor to Enrollment Services in Lipka Hall.

After the first six days, any student desiring to withdraw from a course must submit to the Enrollment Services a Registration form signed by his or her advisor and the instructor of the course. Any student who withdraws from the course after the first six days but before the last four weeks of the semester will be given a grade of “W” (Withdrawal). A “W” will not affect the student’s cumulative average.

If a student drops a course during the last four weeks of the semester without the signed approval of the associate provost or stops attending a class at any time without officially withdrawing from the class through Enrollment Services, the student will receive a grade of “F” for the course.

**\*Harassment Policy:**

It is the policy of Widener University not to discriminate on the basis of sex, gender, pregnancy status, age, race, national origin or ethnicity, religion, disability, status of veteran of the Vietnam era or other covered veteran, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, or genetic information in its educational programs, admissions policies, employment practices, financial aid, or other school-administered programs or activities. This policy is enforced under various federal and state laws including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended by the Civil Rights Act of 1991, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (“Title IX”) prohibits discrimination based on sex and gender in educational programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. Title IX also protects students and employees from unlawful sexual harassment (including sexual violence) in university programs and activities. In compliance with Title IX, the university prohibits discrimination and harassment based on sex in employment as well as in all programs and activities.

The university’s Title IX coordinator monitors compliance with Title IX and its accompanying regulations. Individuals with questions or concerns about Title IX and/or those who wish to file a complaint of noncompliance may contact the Title IX coordinator or deputy coordinators: The university’s Title IX coordinator is Assistant Director for Employee Relations Grace Karmioli, One University Place, Chester, PA 19013; telephone: (610) 499-1301; email: [gckarmioli@widener.edu](mailto:gckarmioli@widener.edu).

**\*Academic Integrity Policy:**

Cheating, plagiarism, and other attempts to engage in academic fraud will not be tolerated in this class. A full definition of these concepts is available in the Standards for Academic Integrity in the Widener University *Undergraduate Catalog*.

Plagiarism is a particularly prevalent method of academic fraud. The *Undergraduate Catalog* states that “(p)lagiarism- submitting the work of others as one’s own- is a serious offense.

In the academic world, plagiarism is theft. Information from sources- whether quoted, paraphrased, or summarized- must be given credit through specific citations. When a student paraphrases a work, it is still necessary to cite the original source. Merely rearranging a sentence or changing a few words is not sufficient.”

“Plagiarism can be intentional or unintentional. However, since each student is responsible for knowing what constitutes plagiarism, unintentional plagiarism is as unacceptable as intentional plagiarism and commission of it will bring the same penalties.”

Also, “(s)tudents are required to obtain permission prior to submitting work, any part of which was previously or will be submitted in another course. The instructor has the option of accepting, rejecting, or requiring modification of the content of previously or simultaneously submitted work.”

For more information on Academic Integrity, see pages 22 and 23 of the *Undergraduate Catalog*.

Plagiarism/cheating in this course will result in an instant failure for the semester. This applies to any work submitted for the course, including, but not limited to, take home tests, tests, quizzes, and papers. Ignorance is not an acceptable excuse. If you have any questions on plagiarism, please contact me. You may also wish to consult the OWL Purdue Online Writing Lab website on plagiarism: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>.

**\*General Statement:**

The instructor reserves the right to modify any course requirements and calendar due dates as necessary to manage and conduct this course. Students are responsible for contacting the instructor and seeking clarification of any requirement that is not understood.