SUGGESTED SYLLABI for

American Government and Politics in the Information Age v5.0

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First and foremost, this text is a comprehensive introduction to American government and politics, but it does not stop there. Each chapter explains the old and new media’s depictions of, interactions with, and effects on its subject (e.g. Congress). Every chapter contains Learning Objectives, key terms, Key Takeaways, Exercises, and “Civic Education,” “Comparing Content,” “Enduring Image,” and “Link” boxes.

The chapters are self-contained and can be taught in any sequence. One clear way is in the order they appear in the book. That is, under the general headings of communication, constitutional structures, the people, governmental institutions, and public policies:

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| **Week** | **Chapter #** | **Textbook Topic** |
| 1 | Chapter 1 | The Constitution & Structure of Government Power |
| 2 | Chapter 2 | Federalism |
| 3 | Chapter 3 | Communication in the Information Age |
| 4 | Chapter 4 | Civil Liberties |
| 5 | Chapter 5 | Civil Rights |
| 6 | Chapter 6 | Political Socialization and Culture |
| 7 | Chapter 7 | Public Opinion |
| 8 | Chapter 8 | Participation, Voting, and Social Movements |
| 9 | Chapter 9 | Interest Groups |
| 10 | Chapter 10 | Political Parties |
| 11 | Chapter 11 | Campaigns and Elections |
| 12 | Chapter 12 | Congress |
| 13 | Chapter 13 | The Presidency |
| 14 | Chapter 14 | The Bureaucracy |
| 15 | Chapter 15 | The Courts |
| 16 | Chapter 16 | Policymaking and Domestic Policies |
| 17 | Chapter 17 | Foreign and National Security Policies |

To reduce the course to sixteen weeks, combine the policy chapters 16 and 17.

To reduce the course to fifteen weeks, omit both chapters 16 and 17, domestic and foreign policy.

An alternative syllabus order could be communication, constitutional structures, governmental institutions, public policies, and the people (to include Civil Liberties & Rights):

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| **Week** | **Chapter #** | **Textbook Topic** |
| 1 | Chapter 1 | The Constitution & Structure of Government Power |
| 2 | Chapter 2 | Federalism |
| 3 | Chapter 3 | Communication in the Information Age |
| 4 | Chapter 12 | Congress |
| 5 | Chapter 13 | The Presidency |
| 6 | Chapter 14 | The Bureaucracy |
| 7 | Chapter 15 | The Courts |
| 8 | Chapter 16 | Policymaking and Domestic Policies |
| 9 | Chapter 17 | Foreign and National Security Policies |
| 10 | Chapter 6 | Political Socialization and Culture |
| 11 | Chapter 4 | Civil Liberties |
| 12 | Chapter 5 | Civil Rights |
| 13 | Chapter 7 | Public Opinion |
| 14 | Chapter 8 | Participation, Voting, and Social movements |
| 15 | Chapter 9 | Interest Groups |
| 16 | Chapter 10 | Political Parties |
| 17 | Chapter 11 | Campaigns and Elections |

To reduce the course to sixteen weeks, combine the policy chapters 16 and 17 of weeks 8 and 9.

To reduce the course to fifteen weeks, drop the policy chapters 16 and 17 of weeks 8 and 9.

A ten-week course could be laid out as follows:

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| **Week** | **Chapter #** | **Textbook Topic** |
| 1 | Chapter 1 | The Constitution & Structure of Government Power |
| 2 | Chapter 2 | Federalism |
| 3 | Chapter 3  Chapter 6 | Communication in the Information Age Political Socialization and Culture |
| 4 | Chapter 4  Chapter 5 | Civil Liberties  Civil Rights |
| 5 | Chapter 7  Chapter 8 | Public Opinion  Participation, Voting, and Social movements |
| 6 | Chapter 9  Chapter 10 | Interest Groups  Political Parties |
| 7 | Chapter 11  Chapter 12 | Campaigns and Elections  Congress |
| 8 | Chapter 13 | The Presidency |
| 9 | Chapter 14 | The Bureaucracy |
| 10 | Chapter 15 | The Courts |

Add policy chapters 16 and 17 by combining them in week 10 and combine chapters 14 and 15 in week 9.