**POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Politics and Government in the United States (POLS 3410)**

**Fall 2019**

**Instructor:** Professor David B. MacDonald

**Lecture Times:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:00 – 5:20

**Class Location:** THRN1307

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The United States is a fascinating country, worthy of detailed study. This is especially so as we come into a presidential election year in 2020! Despite what seems to be a turn to more authoritarian times and the growing gap between rich and everyone else, the US has the world’s largest economy and military. It has the world’s oldest constitution and republican system, and is the western world’s most religious country. This course highlights both the strengths and weaknesses of the American model. Its foreign and domestic policies have a marked influence on Canada, from the price of housing and prescription drugs to our foreign policies. US politics and society also shape our own as a model and a cautionary warning. The first half of the course deals primarily with domestic politics and American identity. The second half covers foreign policy from the Cold War to the Trump era and the upcoming Congressional elections.

Course Assessment

* 3,500 word essay on a choice of provided topics (40 percent)
* Group presentation
* 1,800 word report (25 percent divided equally between the two assignments)
* Online final exam with three essay questions (35 percent).