SAGE Course Outcomes

# SAGE Course Outcomes for American Government for *The Logic of American Politics, Ninth Edition*

Crafted with specific course outcomes in mind, **SAGE course outcomes** are mapped to chapter learning objectives and vetted by advisors in the field. They are designed to help you track and measure student success by clearly defining and benchmarking the knowledge and skills students are expected to achieve upon completion of your course.

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| Course Outcomes | Chapter Title | Chapter Objectives |
| Outcome 1: ARTICULATE the foundations of American government, including its history, critical concepts, and important documents and achievements. | Chapter 1: The Logic of American Politics | 1.1 Summarize the importance of institutional design in governance.  1.2 Discuss the role of a constitution in establishing the rules and procedures that government institutions must follow for collective agreement.  1.3 Identify different types of collective action problems.  1.4 Explain the costs of collective action.  1.5 Relate the different ways that representative government works.  1.6 Discuss the similarities and differences between private, public, and collective goods.  1.7 Explain what motivated the Founders to try to solve collective action problems. |
| Chapter 2: The Constitution | 2.1 Describe how the colonies’ experience in self-government contributed to their willingness to revolt.  2.2 Explain how the challenges of collective action under the Articles of Confederation undermined early American independence.  2.3 Identify the issues the Founders considered when drafting the Constitution.  2.4 Discuss the debates over ratification of the Constitution.  2.5 Summarize the influences of Federalist Nos. 10 and 51 on the underlying theory of the Constitution.  2.6 Define the five design principles that contribute to the framework and functions of our government.  2.7 Discuss how the Constitution put mechanisms in place that allowed subsequent U.S. political development to lead to the nationalization of American politics. |
| Chapter 3: Federalism | 3.1 Describe federalism and the way it evolved in the United States.  3.2 Identify the kinds of constitutional protections that guard against an overly powerful national government.  3.3 Discuss the factors contributing to a shift toward nationalized public policy.  3.4 Explain the ways in which the national government dominates the modern federal system.  3.5 Assess to what extent collective action dilemmas influenced modern federalism. |
| Chapter 4: Civil Rights | 4.1 Define civil rights.  4.2 Identify two obstacles in the way of civil rights for African Americans historically.  4.3 Discuss the political efforts to seek civil rights for African Americans from the nineteenth century to the present.  4.4 Explain the legacy of the civil rights movement for groups such as women, Hispanics, and members of the LGBT community.  4.5 Assess the role of collective action efforts in the civil rights movement. |
| Chapter 5: Civil Liberties | 5.1 Describe what factors contributed to the nationalization of civil liberties in the United States.  5.2 Identify the steps that provided civil liberties protections under the Constitution.  5.3 Explain the protections and limitations of freedom of speech.  5.4 Discuss the role of freedom of the press in U.S. society.  5.5 Summarize common issues raised regarding freedom of religion.  5.6 Describe the different positions in the debate over gun rights.  5.7 Identify the four constitutional provisions for criminal rights.  5.8 Relate how the Supreme Court came to recognize a right to privacy.  5.9 Discuss the historical evolution of civil liberties and contemporary debates related to them. |
| Outcome 2: EXPLAIN the main institutions of American government, including their roles and interrelationships | Chapter 6: Congress | 6.1 Describe the requirements and powers of Congress and how the congressional electoral system works.  6.2 Identify the factors that create advantages and disadvantages in congressional electoral politics.  6.3 Discuss the racial and ethnic makeup of Congress.  6.4 Explain six basic problems of legislative organization.  6.5 Relate the institutional structures in the House and Senate that help members overcome barriers to collective action.  6.6 Describe what influences public opinion about Congress and its performance. |
| Chapter 7: The Presidency | 7.1 Understand the historical role of the presidency.  7.2 Be able to discuss the modern presidency’s roles, powers, and challenges.  7.3 Explain the historical transformation of the president from the “chief clerk” of the government (Abraham Lincoln’s description) to the nation’s most important government official.  7.4 Understand how highly partisan divided government in Washington has led presidents to try to make national policy unilaterally. When is this likely to succeed and to fail? |
| Chapter 8: The Bureaucracy | 8.1 Describe the development of the federal bureaucracy over time.  8.2 Relate when the federal government grows most quickly, and why.  8.3 Explain the bureaucracy’s culture and the challenges it faces.  8.4 Identify the tools that Congress and the president use to control bureaucracies.  8.5 Discuss why red tape is often an important check on the operation of massive bureaucracies. |
| Chapter 9: The Federal Judiciary | 9.1 Explain how the Supreme Court’s power of judicial review was established.  9.2 Identify characteristics of the three eras of judicial review exercised by the Court.  9.3 Describe the structure of the federal judiciary.  9.4 Relate the judicial decision-making process.  9.5 Discuss the Supreme Court’s place in the separation of powers and the role of principal–agent theory.  9.6 Assess to what extent the Supreme Court’s judicial review is checked by other branches of the government. |
| Outcome 3: DESCRIBE the roles and relative importance of major entities and influences in American political life. | Chapter 10: Public Opinion | 10.1 Define public opinion.  10.2 Describe the ways that public opinion can be measured.  10.3 Explain six elements that contribute to the forming of opinion.  10.4 Discuss to what extent public opinion is meaningful.  10.5 Summarize the role of consensus in politics and policy issues.  10.6 Relate the role that group differences such as gender and race can have on public opinion.  10.7 Discuss the influences and limitations of public opinion in American politics. |
| Chapter 11: Voting, Campaigns, and Elections | 11.1 Explain the logic of elections in a democracy.  11.2 Describe how different segments of American society obtained the right to vote.  11.3 Discuss the factors that affect how people vote.  11.4 Summarize the role of campaigns in elections.  11.5 Relate the principal–agent theory as it applies to elections.. |
| Chapter 12: Political Parties | 12.1 Describe the origins of political parties and their basic features.  12.2 Summarize the development and evolution of the party systems.  12.3 Discuss the revival of partisanship over the past two decades and how modern parties are structured.  12.4 Assess modern parties’ influence and effectiveness as a vehicle for politicians and voters to act collectively within the established institutional framework. |
| Chapter 13: Interest Groups | 13.1 Define lobbying and its role in the political process.  13.2 Summarize the historical development of organized lobbying in the United States.  13.3 Explain why contemporary interest groups have proliferated.  13.4 Distinguish among different types of interest group activities.  13.5 Debate the role of interest groups in American politics. |
| Chapter 14: Media | 14.1 Summarize the development of media as a business and the role technology has played over time.  14.2 Discuss the ways in which the news is a consumer product and how that influences legacy news organizations, digital-only sites, and social media outlets.  14.3 Explain the demand for news and how news affects people.  14.4 Describe the relationship between politicians and reporters. |
| Outcome 4: ANALYZE the development and impact of important governmental policies. | Chapter 15: Is There a Logic to American Policy? | 15.1 Describe how free riding influences U.S. health care reform efforts.  15.2 Explain how the tragedy of the commons complicates nations’ attempts to address climate change.  15.3 Identify the political costs and benefits of teetering on a fiscal cliff.  15.4 Relate the ways that entitlement programs such as Medicare and Social Security are subject to the prisoner’s dilemma.  15.5 Discuss the collective action challenges to achieving meaningful tax reform. |