This course surveys the primary public and non-governmental institutions in American politics that link citizens to government. Among the topics we will explore are American Political Culture, Political Participation, Political Parties, Interest Groups, Social Movements, and Domestic and Foreign Policy. This introductory course is designed to provide you with a broad background in the political institutions and concepts that are important in American politics. By the end of the course, you should be able to make sense of the ways in which citizens are connected to government in the United States as well as make sense of a myriad of public policy questions using the concepts from the course.