



North Central State College

MASTER SYLLABUS

2025-2026

- A. Academic Division: Liberal Arts
- B. Discipline: Political Science
- C. Course Number and Title: POLT1010 American National Government
- D. Assistant Dean: Laura Irmer
- E. Credit Hours: 3
- F. Prerequisites: None
- G. Last Course/Curriculum Revision Date: Fall 2023 Origin date: 10/19/2010
- H. Textbook(s) Title:
Open Education Resources (available for download or view)
American Government
- Authors: OpenStax College
 - Copyright Year: 2023
 - Edition:
 - ISBN: Web version
 - OER Link: <https://openstax.org/details/books/american-government-3e>
- I. Workbook(s) and/or Lab Manual: None
- J. Course Description: This course involves an examination of the people, values, institutions, processes, and policies associated with American government. Special emphasis is given to the way in which all of the variables interact to form the dynamic that is American politics. This course meets the requirements for OTM in Social and Behavioral Science TMSBS.
- K. College-Wide Learning Outcomes:

College-Wide Learning Outcomes	Assessments - - How it is met & When it is met
Communication – Written	
Communication – Speech	
Intercultural Knowledge and Competence	
Critical Thinking	
Information Literacy	
Quantitative Literacy	

L. Course Outcomes and Assessment Methods:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student shall:

Outcomes	Assessments – How it is met & When it is met
1. Explain the philosophical underpinnings and values associated with the foundation of American government, specifically that of its three main branches.	Discussion forums or in-class group discussions that require students to use and relate key terms from the text and other credible and/or scholarly sources selected by the student throughout the term. Students should generate unique conclusions on the structures, values, and relationships between the three branches of government. Additionally, students are required to conduct an interview with questions on diversity, ultimately producing conclusions on diversity from the interview transcript.
2. Explain the nature and functions of American bureaucratic institutions, independently, and as they relate to three main branches of government.	Discussion forums as described in Outcome 1, site visit to local government report, middle and end of the term.. Students should generate unique conclusions on the role of bureaucrats and bureaucratic institutions and offices in civil and political society.
3. Explain the nature and functions of the four political intermediaries that exist in the American political system: news media, public opinion, political parties, and elections; examine the political efficacy associated with each.	Discussion forums as described in Outcome 1, middle and end of the term. Students should decipher and predict the changing compositions and roles of these political intermediaries in civil society.
4. Explain the complex relationships among multiple aspects of American government reviewed thus far, including its values, branches, bureaucracies, and political intermediaries.	Mid-term essay/video project exam. In response to an assigned paper question, craft a unique thesis on the material covered in weeks early in the term. Show knowledge integration by developing a meta-narrative of previously generated conclusions from weeks early in the term.
5. Explain the fundamental principles of the Constitutional Bill of Rights and the relationship of those principles to issues of civil liberties and social justice.	Discussion forums, middle and late in the term. Generate conclusions on the status of social justice issues and relate those statues to existing policies and observable political activity. Generate conclusions on the status of civil liberties and the relationship between civil liberties and civil rights.
6. Explain the history, strategies, and role of American foreign policy and political efficacy in the policy formulation and policy execution processes.	Discussion forums late in the term. Draw conclusions on policy priorities in a policy environment of scarce resources.
7. Explain the role, strategies, and history of domestic policy, including but not limited to, welfare, healthcare, and religion /race policies and the political efficacy in the policy formulation and policy execution processes.	Discussion forums. Final group projects on policy analysis (phase 1 –description of policy, phase 2 – analysis and presentation of policy conclusions) late in the term. Engage in group discussion, exercise conflict resolution, and generate group-based conclusions detailing multiple perspectives on one policy process and outcome.

M. Recommended Grading Scale:

NUMERIC	GRADE	POINTS	DEFINITION
93–100	A	4.00	Superior
90–92	A-	3.67	Superior

87–89	B+	3.33	Above Average
83–86	B	3.00	Above Average
80–82	B-	2.67	Above Average
77–79	C+	2.33	Average
73–76	C	2.00	Average
70–72	C-	1.67	Below Average
67–69	D+	1.33	Below Average
63–66	D	1.00	Below Average
60–62	D-	0.67	Poor
00–59	F	0.00	Failure

N. College Procedures/Policies:

North Central State College believes that every student is a valued and equal member of the community.* Every student brings different experiences to the College, and all are important in enriching academic life and developing greater understanding and appreciation of one another. Therefore, NC State College creates an inclusive culture in which students feel comfortable sharing their experiences. Discrimination and prejudice have no place on the campus, and the College takes any complaint in this regard seriously. Students encountering aspects of the instruction that result in barriers to their sense of being included and respected should contact the instructor, assistant dean, or dean without fear of reprisal.

* *Inclusive of race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, national origin (ancestry), military status (past, present or future), disability, age (40 years or older), status as a parent during pregnancy and immediately after the birth of a child, status as a parent of a young child, status as a foster parent, genetic information, or sexual orientation*

Important information regarding College Procedures and Policies can be found on the syllabus supplement located at

<https://ncstatecollege.edu/documents/President/PoliciesProcedures/PolicyManual/Final%20PDFs/14-081b.pdf>



North Central State College
SYLLABUS ADDENDUM

Academic Division: Arts and Humanities Discipline: Political Science
Course Coordinator: _____
Course Number: POLT 1010-920 Course Title: American National Government
Semester / Session: Fall 2025 Start / End Date: 8/11/2025- 10/03/2025

Instructor Information

Name: Nisha Nemmara Phone Number: 4708612664
E-Mail Address: NNemmara@ncstatecollege.edu
Office Location: Remote Student Hours: By appointment – 24 hours notice please

I. Topical Timeline (Subject to Change):

Weeks	Topics
1	Introduction to Politics
2	Constitution
3	Congress
4	Presidency/Political Parties and Elections
5	Midterm
6	Mass Media
7	Civil Rights and Liberties/American Foreign Policy
8	Final

II. Course Assignments:

1. Interview
2. Source Research
3. Peer Responses
4. Discussion Postings
5. Short Papers
6. Infographic assignments

III. Grading and Testing Guidelines:

1. The first few assignments will be measured via the rubric listed on the assignment. Subsequent grading will include thorough comments from the instructor on posting strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for improvement.
 - a. Completion
 - b. Presentation
 - c. Analysis
2. Students have been given additional guidelines and examples of discussion postings
 - a. Consult Canvas orientation page
 - b. Contact instructor with any questions
3. Infographic assignments include their own rubric as posted.

IV. Examination Policy: There are no tests in this course. Papers have been assigned at the midterm and final points.

1. The reasons for which a student will be allowed a late paper submission:

Course Number: _____
Semester / Session: _____

Course Title: _____
Start / End Date: _____

- a. Hospitalization (with documented verification)
 - b. Death in the immediate family (with documented verification)
 - c. Personal illness or illness in immediate family - (doctor's excuse required).
2. A student who does not submit a midterm or final paper will receive a zero in that grade category. The paper will only be accepted within one week of the due date (with points off for late submission).
 3. The aforesaid policy also applies to discussion postings and any other grades in the course.

V. Class Attendance and Homework Make-Up Policy:

1. This is an asynchronous course; therefore, attendance is measured in the regularity with which the student submits assignments. It is not necessary for the student to log in a required number of times per week. Any assignment submitted over one week after the due date will be heavily penalized unless the student is in an emergency that has been discussed with the instructor ahead of time. See section IV above for details on what constitutes an emergency situation. Penalties for this type of work often result in very few points being assigned.

VI. Classroom Expectations:

1. Adopt a scholarly approach to classroom discussions and interactions online. This includes reading each other's opinions and reacting in controlled and responsible ways so that each student engages on the topic assigned and refrains from attacking, reprimanding, or patronizing fellow students. "Responsible" interactions include but are not limited to addressing the material and developing informed opinions, respectfully disagreeing with each other if necessary, and supporting each other when analytically justified.