



## 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: Liberal Arts Discipline: Political Science  
Course Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_  
Course Number: POLT 1010 - 923 Course Title: American National Government  
Semester / Session: Fall 2025 Start / End Date: 08/11/2025-12/12/2025

**Instructor Information**

Name: Joseph LeGer Phone Number: (480) 352-9720  
E-Mail Address: jleger@ncstatecollege.edu  
Office Location: Remote/Online Office Hours: Tues/Weds 6PM-9PM

**I. Topical Timeline (Subject to Change):**

Weeks	Topics
1	The American Government
2	The US Constitution and its Origins
3	American Federalism
4	Civil Liberties
5	Civil Rights
6	Public Opinion and Politics
7	The News, Mass Media, and Social Media
8	Interest Groups, Lobbying, and Domestic Policy
9	Political Parties
10	Voting and Elections
11	The Legislative Branch - Congress
12	The Presidency and the Executive Branch
13	Foreign Policy
14	The Judicial Branch
15	Final Project Prep Week
16	Final Project Week: The American Constitutional Republic

**II. Course Assignments:**

1. Week 1 -Discussion: Foundations of American Government
2. Week 2 -Assignment: Short Comparison Paper or PowerPoint: Federalists v. Anti-Federalists
3. Week 3 -Discussion: Federalism – Immigration Enforcement and the Balance of Power
4. Week 4 -Research Paper: Surveillance and Civil Liberties in the Age of Transnational Crime
5. Week 5 –Discussion: The Fourteenth Amendment and Civil Rights
6. Week 6 – Journal Entry: What Shapes Political Views?
7. Week 7 – Discussion: First Amendment Freedoms - The Role and Responsibility of the Press
8. Week 8 – Journal Entry: Interest Groups (Factions) and Domestic Policy
9. Week 9 – Case Study Reflection: 2024 Presidential Debate – Parties, Rhetoric, and Polarization
10. Week 10- Discussion: The Electoral College and Presidential Elections
11. Week 11 – Journal Entry: Congress and Constitutional Design
12. Week 12 – Mini-Research Paper: Exploring Presidential Power and Influence
13. Week 13 - Journal Entry: Position Paper Analysis on Transnational Criminal Organizations
14. Week 14: Discussion- Judicial Overreach and the Legacy of Dred Scott
15. Week 15: Finals Prep and Thanksgiving Break – Extra Credit (Optional)

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16. Week 16: Week 16 -Final Project (Formal Paper or PowerPoint): Balancing Power – Federalism & the US Constitutional Structure

### III. Grading and Testing Guidelines:

Final Grade Calculation

Activity	Qty	Points	Percentage
Discussions	7	310	31%
Short Comparison Paper or PowerPoint	1	100	10%
Research Papers	2	145	14.5%
Case Study - Reflection Paper or Reflection Video	1	95	9.5%
Journal Entries	4	200	20%
Final Project – Research Paper or PowerPoint	1	150	15%
Total	16	1,000	100%

### IV. Examination Policy:

There are no exams or quizzes in this course

### V. Late/Missed Assignment Policy

If students are unable to complete an assignment on time, it is their responsibility to contact the course instructor **in advance of the due date**. Late assignments submitted without prior communication *and* an approved extension will be penalized **5% per calendar** day, beginning at 12:00 AM (midnight) following the due date. Late work will not be accepted more than seven days after the original deadline unless there are exigent circumstances, as determined by the instructor. The "Finals assignment or project" must be submitted **on time** and will not be accepted late under any circumstances except for a clear emergency, solely at the discretion of the instructor.

### Extra Credit

Extra Credit may be available during the term. This is solely up to the instructor.

### Grading Timeframes

Assignments will be graded within six (6) calendar days of the due date barring unforeseen circumstances.

### Faculty Response Time

I will be available for students by Canvas email and will respond within 24 hours, usually sooner, barring exigent circumstances. Contact me as often as you need to. We can also schedule virtual meetings or phone calls.

### Regular and Substantive Interaction

Throughout this course, I will maintain regular and substantive interaction through multiple forms of communication and instructional engagement. I actively participate in discussion forums to guide conversation and deepen student understanding. All major assignments receive detailed, individualized feedback within a clearly stated grading window. I monitor student participation and academic progress throughout the course and will proactively reach out to any student who appears disengaged or at risk of falling behind. Students can expect prompt communication: I typically respond to messages within 24–48 hours. In addition to scheduled office hours (listed under Faculty Contact Information), I am available for questions or support anytime through the Canvas Inbox, Outlook email, or by phone. My goal is to ensure meaningful engagement and timely support throughout the learning process. Weekly announcements are posted on Monday at 12 AM.

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






### **Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

The World Economic Forum defines generative AI as tools that create new content—such as text, images, or audio, based on the data they’ve been trained on. Examples include (but are not limited to) ChatGPT, Google Bard, Microsoft Copilot, GrammarlyGo, Adobe Firefly, and Stable Diffusion.

In this class, you may use AI tools **only** for limited support or as a study aid for tasks like locating sources, formatting in APA, or checking grammar. You may not use AI to write, summarize, paraphrase, or generate any part of your assignment **content**. Doing so may result in a zero and be considered academic misconduct. When in doubt, ask your instructor before using any tool.

# Assignment Due Dates POLT-1010-923.FA2025 16-Week Online

## Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Wed Aug 13, 2025	 COMPLETE THIS FIRST - ASAP: Class Introduction (graded assignment)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Aug 14, 2025	 Week 1 Discussion: Foundations of American Government	due by 11:59pm
Sun Aug 24, 2025	 Week 2 Assignment: Short Comparison Paper or PowerPoint: Federalists v. Anti-Federalists	due by 11:59pm
Thu Aug 28, 2025	 Week 3 Discussion: Federalism - Immigration Enforcement and the Balance of Power	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 7, 2025	 Week 4 Research Paper: Surveillance and Civil Liberties in the Age of Transnational Crime	due by 11:59pm
Thu Sep 11, 2025	 Week 5 Discussion: The Fourteenth Amendment and Civil Rights	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 21, 2025	 Week 6 Journal Entry Assignment: What Shapes Political Views?	due by 11:59pm
Thu Sep 25, 2025	 Week 7 Discussion: First Amendment Freedoms -The Role and Responsibility of the Press	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 5, 2025	 Week 8 Journal Entry Assignment: Interest Groups (Factions) and Domestic Policy	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 19, 2025	 Week 9 Case Study Reflection Assignment: 2024 Presidential Debate – Parties, Rhetoric, and Polarization	due by 11:59pm
Thu Oct 23, 2025	 Week 10 Discussion: The Electoral College and Presidential Elections	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 2, 2025	 Week 11 Journal Entry Assignment: Congress and Constitutional Design	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 9, 2025	 Week 12 Mini-Research Paper: Exploring Presidential Power and Influence	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 16, 2025	 Week 13 Journal Entry Assignment: Position Paper Analysis on Transnational Criminal Organizations	due by 11:59pm
Thu Nov 20, 2025	 Week 14 Discussion: Judicial Overreach and the Legacy of Dred Scott	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 30, 2025	 Week 15 Extra Credit 20 Points (Optional) Journal Entry Assignment - Is America the Greatest Nation?	due by 11:59pm
Mon Dec 8, 2025	 Week 16: Final Project (Formal Paper or PowerPoint): Balancing Power - Federalism and the U.S. Constitutional Structure	due by 11:59pm
	 Course Evaluation	