



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
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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:	Dr. Haynes		
Course Number:	POLT1010 – CN3	Course Title:	POLT1010 – American National Government
Semester / Session:	Fall 2025	Start / End Date:	08/11/2025 – 12/12/2025

Instructor Information

Name:	Charity Ingersoll MPS	Phone Number:	567-203-8346
		E-Mail Address:	cingersoll@ncstatecollege.edu
Office Location:	n/a	Student Hours:	

I. Topical Timeline (Subject to Change):

Week	Subjects
1.	Critical Thinking The circumstances behind and the motivations involved in the founding of the U.S. Government, a Constitutional Republic The Federalist/Anti-Federalists. The Constitutional principles of separation of powers and checks and balances. Philosophers that have influenced the United States economic and governmental principals. Adam Smith and Capitalism Martin Luther King's Letter from Birmingham jail.
2.	Federalism The structure, function, and the leaders of each of the branches of the federal government [legislative, executive, and judicial] within a Republic. The Constitution Articles and Clauses, Interpretations, and where are they found within the Constitution. The Gettysburg Address
3.	History and evolution of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. Discrimination and process of identifying true discrimination. Elections and Public Opinions The Emancipation Proclamation Virtual Field Trip to the Federal Capital Building
4.	Media Political Parties The Federalist/Anti-Federalists. The United States Constitutional Republic and other major political systems of the world. Whistleblowers
5.	The Congress The Presidency President Presentation Mock Congress w/House, Senate, and President creating, passing legislation.
6.	The Judiciary State and local governments

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	Review of the Ohio State Government Test
7.	The American bureaucracy, departments and relationships with the legislative, executive, and judiciary branches of the United States government. Presidential foreign policy approaches UBI (Universal Basic Income Debate)
8.	Domestic policy goals, approaches and challenges Foreign Policy goals Federal and domestic spending Congressional and Presidential roles in Public Law Creating a policy

II. Course Assignments:

1. Discussion forums or in-class group discussion of short essay responses – x16 weeks = 200 points
2. Mid-term exam / Final - 200 points
3. Video or in-class presentation on presidents - 200 points
4. Virtual Site visit - 200 points
5. Presidential Foreign Policy Approaches - 200 points
6. Martin Luther King’s Letter from Birmingham jail - 200 points
7. Homework/discussions assigned weekly - 600 points

Total Points for Course = 1800 points

This is subject to change at the instructor’s discretion

III. Grading and Testing Guidelines:

All grading and testing are based on the percentage chart. The assignments will be handed out detailing the requirements for the specific assignment. Always use APA format for all assignments.

IV. Examination Policy:

1. A student who misses an examination for any reason is responsible for making arrangements with the instructor within 7 days to schedule a makeup date.
2. There is no make up for work after the last day of the course (see 2025 Academic Calendar)

V. Class Attendance and Homework Make-Up Policy:

1. Class attendance is recorded daily. It is the student’s responsibility to report to the instructor in the event of an absence. The grade in this class is weighed heavily on attendance. There is no make up for discussions. Excessive absences or failure to participate in discussions will result in a very low grade. This class is interaction based. 2/3rds of the grade are participation activities.
2. Students are responsible for completing and turning in assignments on time. All late assignments will be penalized 15% regardless of how many days the assignment is late. Discussions cannot be made up.

VI. Classroom Expectations:

- a. Classroom Atmosphere & Etiquette
- b. The responsibility to learn is on the student. While the instructor shares course information and answers questions, college students need to strive to be “active”.

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- Remember, college has much more “outside” work than the regular high school class. Students should plan on working at least 9 hours pr week to maintain the level of learning for this course.
2. Promptness
 - a. Students should always try to post as early in the week as possible so that a discussion can develop.
 3. Classroom environment
 - a. Ask questions and add your ideas!
 - b. Be active: take notes, listen, ask questions, and respect other viewpoints.
 - c. Use appropriate language and be respectful to others.