



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: _____
Course Number: POLT 1010 - 920 Course Title: American National Government
Semester / Session: Spring 2026 / Session A Start / End Date: 01/12/2026-03/06/2026

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-8PM ET

I. Topical Timeline (Subject to Change):

Weeks	Topics
1	The Constitution, Federalism, & the Foundations of American Government
2	Civil Rights & Civil Liberties
3	Public Opinion, Media, & Interest Groups
4	Political Parties, Elections, & Voting
5	The President (Executive Branch) & Foreign Policy
6	The Legislative Branch
7	The Judicial Branch – The Court System
8	The American Constitutional Republic

II. Course Assignments:

1. Week 1 -Analytical Journal Foundational Debate Analysis: Federalists, Anti-Federalists, and the Founding Debates; Class Intro/Attendance Verification
2. Week 2 -Discussion: Civil Rights; Video Analysis Assignment: Civil Liberties & The Bill of Rights
3. Week 3 -Applied Analysis Paper: Polling, Public Opinion, and Factions
4. Week 4 -Discussion: Two Party Dominance and the Electoral College in the American Political System
5. Week 5 - Strategic Assessment Report: Presidential Power, Foreign Policy, and the Threat of Transnational Criminal Organizations
6. Week 6 – Discussion: The Role of Legislatures
7. Week 7 – Analytical Journal: The United States Judicial Branch
8. Week 8 – Final Project: PowerPoint: Balancing Power in the U.S. Constitution System

III. Grading and Testing Guidelines:

Final Grade Calculation

Activity	Qty	Points	Percentage
Class Introduction/Attendance Validation	1	10	1%
Analytical Journal Entries	2	200	20%
Discussions	3	250	30%
Video Analysis	1	50	5%
Applied Analysis Paper	1	150	15%
Strategic Assessment Report	1	150	15%
Final Project – PowerPoint	1	190	19%

Course Number: POLT-1010 -920
Semester / Session: Spring- A

Course Title: American National Government
Start / End Date: 01/12/2026-03/06/2026

Total	9	1,000	100%
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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.

Discussion Assignments are not accepted late, under any circumstances except for a clear emergency, solely at the discretion of 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 five (5) 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

I will spend time with you in the discussions and provide substantive feedback on your assignments. Every **Monday at 12:00 AM**, the **Weekly Module Announcement** will be posted. Other important announcements will be posted as necessary. These announcements contain crucial information, so ensure you read them thoroughly.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Generative artificial intelligence tools may be used **as a writing support tool**, not as a substitute for your own work. You may use AI to help edit, revise, or improve clarity in writing that **you have already written**, such as checking grammar, improving sentence flow, or formatting citations in APA style.

However, AI tools **may not be used to generate original assignment content, ideas, arguments, summaries, paraphrases, sources, or quotations**. All analysis, interpretation, and written work must originate from you. Using AI to create the substance of an assignment is considered academic misconduct.

When used ethically, AI functions like a digital writing assistant, not an author. If you are unsure whether a particular use is appropriate, ask before submitting your work.

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