



North Central State College

MASTER SYLLABUS	2026-2027
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- A. Academic Division: Liberal Arts
- B. Discipline: Political Science
- C. Course Number and Title: POLT1010 American National Government
- D. Assistant Dean: Laura Irmer, MFA, MA
- 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 statuses 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>

Course Number: POLT-1010-922
Semester / Session: Summer 2026

Course Title: American National Government
Start / End Date: 05/26/2026-07/16/2026

Final Project (1)	1	225	22.5%
TOTAL	10	1,000	100%

1. **Topic description: See Section I**

III. Examination Policy:

1. There are no quizzes or examinations in this course

IV. Class Attendance and Homework Make-Up Policy:

1. Class attendance is necessary to acquire the knowledge required to
 - a. Online course asynchronous
2. Students are responsible for:
 - a. Adhering to the syllabus requirements
 - b. Online course asynchronous

V. Classroom Expectations:

Online course asynchronous

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 (7) days after the original deadline barring exigent circumstances, as determined by the instructor, with the exception of discussions and the final course project.

**Discussion Assignments are not accepted late, under any circumstances except for a clear emergency, solely at the discretion of the instructor. The Final course project is not accepted late, under any circumstances except for a clear emergency, solely at the discretion of the professor. **

Extra Credit

Extra Credit may be available during the term.

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. You may also contact me by text message: identify yourself, the school, and the course when sending a text message. 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. In addition to scheduled remote office hours, 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 every Monday at 12 AM.

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Academic Misconduct

Students are expected to uphold academic honesty and submit work that reflects their own efforts, with proper citation of sources when needed. Academic misconduct includes a range of behaviors such as plagiarism, cheating, fabrication of information, misuse of AI tools, unauthorized collaboration, and any actions that provide an unfair academic advantage. The College emphasizes integrity as a core part of the learning environment and expects all students to act responsibly and ethically in their academic work.

Any form of academic misconduct is taken seriously and may result in academic penalties in accordance with institutional procedures. The North Central State College link to the policies is provided below for your review, and all cases of misconduct will be handled and enforced in accordance with the policies and procedures of the institution.

<https://ncstatecollege.edu/documents/President/PoliciesProcedures/PolicyManual/Final%20PDFs/14-65.pdf>

Academic dishonesty at North Central State College is addressed through a structured process with clear consequences. A first occurrence results in a 0% on the assignment and formal documentation. A second occurrence results in a failing grade for the course and removal, while a third occurrence may lead to a judicial hearing and possible dismissal. These standards reinforce the expectation that all work submitted reflects a student's own efforts.

Faculty members are responsible for identifying and documenting suspected misconduct and initiating the review process. Students are given the opportunity to respond, and cases are reviewed through appropriate academic channels, including administrative oversight and the option to appeal. The North Central State College link to the policies is provided below for your review, and all cases of misconduct will be enforced in accordance with institutional procedures.

<https://ncstatecollege.edu/documents/President/PoliciesProcedures/PolicyManual/Final%20PDFs/14-651.pdf>

▼ Assignments



Week 1: Class Introduction (Graded) - COMPLETE THIS IMMEDIATELY TO SECURE YOUR COURSE ATTENDANCE

Week 1: The Constitution, Federalism, & the Foundations of American Government | May 26-31 Module | Due May 30 at 11:59pm | 10 pts



Week 1 Analytical Journal: Federalists, Anti-Federalists, and the Founding Debates

Week 1: The Constitution, Federalism, & the Foundations of American Government | May 26-31 Module | Available until Jun 7 at 11:59pm | Due May 31 at 11:59pm | 75 pts



Week 2 Discussion: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties in American Democracy

Week 2: Civil Rights & Civil Liberties | June 1-7 Module | Available until Jun 7 at 11:59pm | Due Jun 7 at 11:59pm | 75 pts



Week 2 Video Analysis Assignment: Civil Liberties Comparative Analysis: The United States and Iran

Week 2: Civil Rights & Civil Liberties | June 1-7 Module | Available until Jun 14 at 11:59pm | Due Jun 7 at 11:59pm | 100 pts



Week 3 Applied Analysis Paper: Public Opinion, Media, and Factions

Week 3: Public Opinion, Media, & Interest Groups | June 8-14 Module | Available until Jun 21 at 11:59pm | Due Jun 14 at 11:59pm | 100 pts



Week 4 Discussion: Two Party Dominance and the Electoral College in the American Political System

Week 4: Political Parties, Elections, & Voting | June 15-21 Module | Available until Jun 21 at 11:59pm | Due Jun 21 at 11:59pm | 75 pts



Week 5 Midterm: Strategic Assessment Report (Paper or Video) - Presidential Power, Foreign Policy, and the Threat of Transnational Criminal Organizations

Week 5: The President (Executive Branch) & Foreign Policy | June 22-28 Module | Available until Jul 5 at 11:59pm | Due Jun 28 at 11:59pm | 150 pts



Week 6 Discussion: Congress and the Legislative Process

Week 6: Congress - The Legislative Branch & State Government | June 29-July 5 Module | Available until Jul 5 at 11:59pm | Due Jul 5 at 11:59pm | 75 pts



Week 6 Assignment: Analytical Mini-Research Paper - State and Local Government Analysis

Week 6: Congress - The Legislative Branch & State Government | June 29-July 5 Module | Available until Jul 12 at 11:59pm | Due Jul 5 at 11:59pm | 40 pts



Week 7 Analytical Journal: The United States Judicial Branch

Week 7: The Judicial Branch - The Courts | July 6-12 Module | Available until Jul 16 at 11:59pm | Due Jul 12 at 11:59pm | 75 pts



Week 8 Final Project: Constitutional Assessment – Does the System Still Work?

Week 8 Final: The American Constitutional Republic | July 13-16 Module | Available until Jul 16 at 11:59pm | Due Jul 16 at 11:59pm | 225 pts