

Syllabus

POLS1000
American Government

2016

Committee Members:

Marty Keenan	Central Community College
No Representative	Little Priest Tribal College
No Representative	Metropolitan Community College
Doug Clouatre	Mid-Plains Community College
No Representative	Nebraska Indian Community College
Gary Timm	Northeast Community College
Janice Radil-Arnold	Southeast Community College
Royce Ammon	Western Nebraska Community College

Royce J. Ammon, Ph.D.

[Royce J. Ammon, Ph.D. \(Oct 26, 2016\)](#)

Facilitator: Royce Ammon, Western Nebraska Community College

Date Reviewed: January 29, 2016

The Institution Agrees to the contents in this syllabus including course prefix, number, course description and other contents of this syllabus.

Deborah Brennan

[Deborah Brennan \(Oct 26, 2016\)](#)

Adopt

Deb Brennan, Central Community College

Betty RedLeaf Collett

[Betty RedLeaf Collett \(Nov 17, 2016\)](#)

Adopt

Betty Redleaf, Little Priest Tribal College

Thomas J McDonnell

[Thomas J McDonnell \(Oct 26, 2016\)](#)

Decline

Tom McDonnell, Metropolitan Community College

Jody Tomanek

[Jody Tomanek \(Oct 26, 2016\)](#)

Adopt

Jody Tomanek, Mid-Plains Community College

Mary Johnson

[Mary Johnson \(Nov 16, 2016\)](#)

Decline

Mary Johnson, Nebraska Indian Community College

John Blaylock

[John Blaylock \(Oct 26, 2016\)](#)

Adopt

John Blaylock, Northeast Community College

Dennis Headrick

[Dennis Headrick \(Oct 27, 2016\)](#)

Adopt

Dennis Headrick, Southeast Community College

Kim Kuster Dale

[Kim Kuster Dale \(Oct 26, 2016\)](#)

Adopt

Kim Dale, Western Nebraska Community College

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

POLS1000

American Government

Prerequisite: None

A study of the functioning of the American political system through an analysis and application of its underlying theories.

4.5 quarter credit hours

3.0 semester credit hours

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES/COMPETENCIES

The Course will:

1. Acquaint the students with the key values and concepts including power, democracy, ideology and political change.
2. Develop student awareness of the origins and operations of the Constitution and federalism.
3. Develop student awareness of the three branches of the federal government and their interrelationships.
4. Develop student awareness of the role of civil rights and civil liberties in American politics.
5. Develop student awareness of the decision-making process, governmental operations, as well as the role of bureaucracy – including domestic and/or foreign policy.
6. Develop student awareness of various forms of political activity including: campaigns, elections, political parties and interest groups.
7. Have students analyze the sources and impact of public opinion, including the role of the media.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will:

For Objective 1

- (a) Distinguish the key values and concepts including power, democracy, ideology and political change.

For Objective 2

- (a) Describe the origins and operations of the Constitution and federalism.

For Objective 3

- (a) Analyze the three branches of the federal government and their interrelationships.

For Objective 4

- (a) Understand and differentiate the role of civil rights and civil liberties in American politics.

For Objective 5

- (a) Analyze the decision-making process, governmental operations, and the role of bureaucracy in domestic and foreign policy.

For Objective 6

- (a) Synthesize various forms of political activity including: campaigns, elections, political parties and interest groups.

For Objective 7

- (a) Examine the sources and impact of public opinion, including the role of the media.

IV. COURSE CONTENT/TOPICAL OUTLINE

- A. Foundations of American Government
- B. Institutions of American Government
- C. Public Policy Making
- B. Political Participation and the role of media

V. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Required Text(s) – Select one or more of the following:
 - 1. Democracy Under Pressure
Cummings/Wise (Harcourt Brace)
 - 2. The Challenge of Democracy
Janda/Berry/Goldman (Houghton-Mifflin)
 - 3. American Government & Politics Today
Bardes/Shelley/Schmidt (West)
 - 4. American Government
Gitelson/Dudley/Dubnick (Houghton-Mifflin)

5. American Government
O'Connor
6. American Government, Politics & Political Culture
Lyon/Scheb/Richardson/Lilliard
7. American Government
Wilson/DiIulio (Houghton/Mifflin)
8. Understanding American Government
Welch/Gruhl/Comer/Rigdon (Thomson Wadsworth)
9. Government in America
Edwards
10. The American Democracy
Thomas Patterson

VI. METHODS OF PRESENTATION/INSTRUCTION

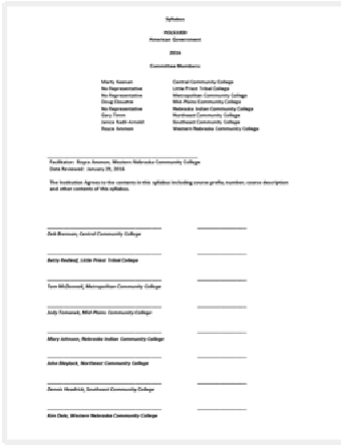
Instructors should make use of varied pedagogical techniques, including several of the following: lectures, small and large discussion groups, collaborative projects, research, essays, computer-assisted instruction, multi-media and field trips.

VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

Course grades, at the determination of the instructor, will be based on class and group presentation, daily work, exams, presentations, projects, papers, and/or a portfolio. Instructor will distribute and discuss evaluation and her/his grading policies with students at the beginning of each term.

VIII. INSTITUTIONAL DEFINED SECTION

- A. It is important for students to check requirements at the transfer institution they plan to attend.
- B. Other requirements as determined by instructor/college.




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