







Syllabus
POLS 1000
American Government
2025

Committee Members:

Linda Wilke-Heil, Central Community College
Tulani Grundy-Meadows, Metropolitan Community College
Dr. Doug Cloutre, Mid-Plains Community College
Dr. Michael Taylor, Northeast Community College
Nikki Isemann, Southeast Community College
Royce Ammon, Western Nebraska Community College
Joe Dvorkin, Little Priest Tribal College
James Hulstein & Zeke Brummels, Nebraska Indian Community College

Facilitator: Dr. Doug Cloutre

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

 Chief Academic Officer, Central Community College	11/26/2024	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Little Priest Tribal College	11/14/2024	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Metropolitan Community College	11/14/2024	Decline
 Chief Academic Officer, Mid-Plains Community College	11/14/2024	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Nebraska Indian Community College	11/26/2024	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Northeast Community College	11/14/2024	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Southeast Community College	11/14/2024	Adopt
 Chief Academic Officer, Western Nebraska Community College	11/14/2024	Adopt



I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

POLS1000

American Government

Prerequisite: None

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

4.5 quarter credit hours

3.0 semester credit hours

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES/COMPETENCIES

Course will:

1. Acquaint the students with the key values and concepts including power, democracy, ideology and political change.
2. Heighten student awareness of the origins and operations of the Constitution and federalism.
3. Enhance student understanding of the three branches of the federal government and their interrelationships.
4. Develop student appreciation of the role of civil rights and civil liberties in American politics.
5. Introduce the decision-making process, governmental operations, as well as the role of bureaucracy – including domestic and/or foreign policy.
6. Develop student knowledge 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 be able to:

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
- D. Political Participation and the role of media

V. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Required Text(s) – Select one or more of the following:
 1. We The People
Patterson (McGraw Hill)
 2. American Government
O'Connor
 3. OpenStax American Government
Free online publication

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. Other requirements as determined by instructor/college.