

# POL-1010: AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

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## Cuyahoga Community College

**Viewing: POL-1010 : American National Government**

**Board of Trustees:**

January 2023

**Academic Term:**

Fall 2023

**Subject Code**

POL - Political Science

**Course Number:**

1010

**Title:**

American National Government

**Catalog Description:**

Nature, purpose, theories, and evolution of the government of the United States. Relationships between structure, function, and process. Dynamics of political change, including historical development and significance of the Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the subsequent amendments. Specific emphasis on the federal system, significant Supreme Court decisions, and the role of citizens within the construct.

**Credit Hour(s):**

3

**Lecture Hour(s):**

3

**Lab Hour(s):**

0

**Other Hour(s):**

0

## Requisites

**Prerequisite and Corequisite**

ENG-0995 Applied College Literacies, or appropriate score on English Placement Test; or departmental approval.

## Outcomes

**Course Outcome(s):**

Interpret and explain the democratic principles embodied by the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, and the Constitution.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Civic Responsibility: Analyze the results of actions and inactions with the likely effects on the larger local and/or global communities.

**Objective(s):**

1. Discuss theoretical and historical roots of U.S. democracy.
  2. Compare and contrast the Articles of Confederation with the Constitution.
  3. Discuss the importance of the interest group system.
  4. Determine differences between the major political ideologies within the U.S. and how those ideologies relate to political party membership.
  5. Discuss the nature of judicial philosophy and the impact varying philosophies may have on the nature of democracy.
  6. Assess the development of the fundamental civil liberties and rights of American citizens and discuss the relationship that exists between recent events and civil rights and liberties.
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**Course Outcome(s):**

Critique, interpret and understand the U.S. political process as defined by the Constitution.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Civic Responsibility: Analyze the results of actions and inactions with the likely effects on the larger local and/or global communities.

**Objective(s):**

1. Assess the role, effectiveness, and influence of the mass media on the political process.
2. Examine the primary responsibilities of Congress, the Presidency, and the Federal Court system.
3. Discuss the policy process and the development of social, economic, foreign and defense policy.
4. Recognize the basic steps of the Congressional bill-making and federal budget process.
5. Critique the overall effectiveness of the U.S. political process.
6. Assess the role, effectiveness, and influence of public opinion and political ideology on the political process.
7. Assess the role, effectiveness, and influence of the interest group system on the political process.
8. Assess the role, effectiveness, and influence of the two-party system on the political process.

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**Course Outcome(s):**

Evaluate the fragmentation that is inherent in the U.S. political system.

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Civic Responsibility: Analyze the results of actions and inactions with the likely effects on the larger local and/or global communities.

**Objective(s):**

1. Discuss the development and purpose of American federalism.
2. Assess the nature of state-federal relations.
3. Compare and contrast powers of the federal legislative, executive, and judicial branches.
4. Evaluate the various "checks and balances" and other limitations that are in place among the three branches of government to prevent abuse of power.
5. Discuss and explain the fragmentation that exists within Congress such as bicameralism, committee structure, and majority/minority leadership.
6. Critique the overall efficiency of the U.S. political system.

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**Course Outcome(s):**

Critique, interpret and understand the U.S. campaign process (at the national level).

**Essential Learning Outcome Mapping:**

Civic Responsibility: Analyze the results of actions and inactions with the likely effects on the larger local and/or global communities.

**Objective(s):**

1. Recognize political campaigns as a critical component of the U.S. political process.
2. Evaluate the role of the primary/caucus system in electing the President and Congress.
3. Interpret the role the Electoral College plays in electing the President.
4. Discuss various laws and court rulings that impact the campaign process.
5. Evaluate the significance and impact of scientific polling on the campaign process.
6. Assess the effectiveness of the U.S. campaign process and its effect on voter turnout and participation.

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**Methods of Evaluation:**

- a. Comprehensive exams
- b. Chapter quizzes
- c. Participation in class discussions
- d. Book reviews
- e. Group projects
- f. Research papers
- g. Oral presentations
- h. Assignments deemed appropriate by the course instructor

**Course Content Outline:**

- a. The Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, and the U.S. Constitution.
  - i. Philosophical origins and democratic ideals of the Declaration of Independence
  - ii. American struggle for independence
  - iii. Confederation – a league of autonomous states
  - iv. Federalist, Anti-Federalist concern and compromise
  - v. Principles of the U.S. Constitution and the following amendments
- b. Federalism
  - i. Principles of federalism
  - ii. Structure of federalism, strengths and limitations
  - iii. Exclusion and concurrent powers
- c. Public opinion and the media
  - i. Political socialization and how it occurs
  - ii. Roles and impact of the media
  - iii. Liberal vs. conservative media
- d. Political parties and interest groups
  - i. Types of political parties
  - ii. Two-party system, including its historical development
  - iii. Third parties and independent candidates
  - iv. Formation and functions of interest groups
  - v. Significance of factions
  - vi. Types of lobbying
- e. Campaigns, elections and the electoral college
  - i. How the campaign process works: funding, etc.
  - ii. Campaign formation and regulation
  - iii. Congressional and presidential elections
  - iv. Purpose and function of the Electoral College vs. popular vote
  - v. Voter turnout, behavior, and election integrity
- f. Congress
  - i. Article I, Constitution
  - ii. Function: include responsibilities as a coequal branch of government
  - iii. Structure and powers
  - iv. Impeachment process
  - v. Oversight
  - vi. Women and minority representation
- g. The President
  - i. Article II, Constitution
  - ii. Role as Chief Executive
  - iii. Powers
  - iv. Limitations and abuse of powers
  - v. Oversight
  - vi. Rating the presidents
  - vii. Party leader and national executive
- h. The Supreme Court
  - i. Article III, Constitution
  - ii. Structure
  - iii. Jurisdiction and powers
  - iv. Judicial philosophy
  - v. Oversight
  - vi. History of the Supreme Court: emphasis on significant cases
- i. The federal bureaucracy
  - i. Organization
  - ii. Purpose: governing body and service provider
  - iii. Function: powers and overreach
  - iv. Congressional and presidential oversight
- j. Federal budget

- i. Revenue and expenditures
- ii. Presidential proposal
- iii. Congressional approval
- iv. Fiscal policies
- k. Civil liberties
  - i. Bill of Rights
  - ii. Fourteenth Amendment
  - iii. Criminal defendants' rights
  - iv. Civil liberties vs. national security
- l. Civil rights
  - i. Background: history of the struggle
  - ii. Fundamental rights
  - iii. Federal guarantees
  - iv. Federal remedies
- m. Public policy formation and implementation
  - i. Policy making
  - ii. Type of policies
  - iii. Decision-making process
  - iv. Implementation
- n. Foreign policy formation and implementation
  - i. Background
  - ii. Foreign policy theories
  - iii. Foreign policy development and implementation
  - iv. Foreign policy today and human rights, war on terrorism and unilateral vs. multilateral approach

## Resources

Barber, James David. *The Presidential Character: Predicting Performance in the White House*. 4th ed. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2009.

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Baum, Lawrence. *The Supreme Court*. 13th ed. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly Press, 2019.

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Baumgartner, Frank R. and Bryan D. Jones. *Agendas and Instability in American Politics*. 2nd. Chicago: University Press, 2009.

---

Beard, Charles. *An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution*. Mineola, NY: Dover Publications, 2016.

---

Fortier, John. *After the People Vote: A Guide to the Electoral College*. 3rd ed. Washington, DC: AEI Press, 2004.

---

Cigler, Allan and Burdett A. Loomis, eds. *Interest Group Politics*. 9th ed. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly Press, 2016.

---

Dahl, Robert A and Ian Shapiro. *On Democracy*. 2nd ed. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2015.

---

Erickson, Robert S. and Kent L. Tedin. *American Public Opinion: Its Origins, Content, and Impact*. 9th ed. New York: Pearson Press, 2015.

---

Greenberg, Edward and Benjamin Page. *The Struggle for Democracy*. 11th. New York: Pearson, 2012.

---

O'Brien, David. M. *Storm Center: The Supreme Court in American Politics*. 11th ed. New York: W. W. Norton and Company, 2017.

---

Kingdon, John W. *Agendas, Alternatives and Public Policies*. Update edition. New York: Pearson, 2013.

---

Osborne, David and Ted Gaebler. *Reinventing Government: How the Entrepreneurial Spirit is Transforming the Public Sector*. New York: Plume Publishers, 1993.

---

Peters, Guy. *American Public Policy and Performance*. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly Press, 2006.

---

Sabato, Larry J. *Feeding Frenzy: Attack Journalism and American Politics*. New York: New Lanahan Editions in Political Science, 2000.

---

Serow, Ann G. and Everett C. Ladd, eds. *The Lanahan Readings in the American Polity*. 6th ed. Baltimore, MD: Lanahan Publishers, 2016.

---

Tocqueville, Alexander. *Democracy in America*. New York: Signet Classics, 2016.

---

Wilson, James Q. *Bureaucracy: What Government Agencies Do and Why They Do It*. New York: Basic Books, 1991.

---

Hamilton, Alexander, John Jay, James Madison. *The Federalist Papers*. Dover Thrift Editions. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 2014.

---

Peters, Guy. *Institutional Theory in Political Science*. 3rd ed. New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2011.

---

Jones, Bryan D. *Politics and the Architecture of Choice: Bounded Rationality and Governance*. Chicago: University Press, 2001.

---

Baumgartner, Frank R. and Bryan D. Jones. *Agendas and Instability in American Politics*. 2nd. Chicago: University Press, 2009.

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Lowi, Theodore J. *The End of Liberalism: The Second Republic of the United States*. 2nd. New York: W. W. Norton Co Inc., 1979.

---

Barbour, Christine and Gerald C. Wright. *Keeping the Republic*. 7th (brief). Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly Press, 2016.

---

Grover, William F. and Joseph J. Peschek. *Voices of Dissent: Critical Readings in American Politics*. 9th. New York: Pearson Press, 2012.

---

Ketcham, Ralph. *The Anti-Federalist Papers and the Constitutional Convention Debates*. New York, NY: Penguin Putnam Inc., 2003.

---

Tucker, David. *Documents and Debates in American History and Government*. Vol. 2, 1865- 2009. Ashland, OH: Ashbrook Press, 2018.

---

Morgan- Smith, Sarah A. *Women's Voices: Religion in American History and Politics*. Ashland, OH: Ashbrook Press, 2019.

---

Fornieri, Joseph R. *Free Speech: Core Court Cases*. Ashland, OH: Ashbrook Press, 2020.

---

The Ashbrook Center, Ashland University. *The American Idea*. Ashland, OH: Ashbrook Press, 2019.

---

Harrison, Brigid and Harris, Jean and Deardorff, Michelle. *American Democracy Now*. Sixth. New York City, 2019.

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Patterson, Thomas E. . *We the People*. Fourteenth. New York City, 2022.

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### Resources Other

Relevant titles as deemed appropriate by the course instructor.

- a. United States House of Representatives. [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) (<http://catalog.tri-c.edu/www.house.gov>)
  - i. Directory of representatives
  - ii. Leadership
  - iii. Committees
- b. United States Senate. [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) (<http://catalog.tri-c.edu/www.senate.gov>).
  - i. Senate leadership
  - ii. Committee assignments
  - iii. Rulings and proceedings
- c. The White House. [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov) (<http://catalog.tri-c.edu/www.whitehouse.gov>)
  - i. Contact information
  - ii. Executive offices
  - iii. Administration priorities
- d. Supreme Court. [www.supremecourt.gov](http://www.supremecourt.gov) (<http://catalog.tri-c.edu/www.supremecourt.gov>)
  - i. An overview of the High Court, including frequently asked questions
  - ii. Oral arguments: transcripts and audio
  - iii. Opinions of the Court, along with online sources

### Instructional Services

#### OAN Number:

Ohio Transfer 36 TMSBS and Transfer Assurance Guide OSS011

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