POL-1010: AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Cuyahoga Community College

Viewing: POL-1010: American National Government

Board of Trustees:
March 2019

Academic Term:
Fall 2019

Subject Code
POL - Political Science

Course Number:
1010

Title:
American National Government

Catalog Description:

Credit Hour(s):
3

Lecture Hour(s):
3

Lab Hour(s):
0

Other Hour(s):
0

Requisites

Prerequisite and Corequisite
ENG-0990 Language Fundamentals II or appropriate score on English Placement Test; or instructor approval.

I. ACADEMIC CREDIT

Academic Credit According to the Ohio Department of Higher Education, one (1) semester hour of college credit will be awarded for each lecture hour. Students will be expected to work on out-of-class assignments on a regular basis which, over the length of the course, would normally average two hours of out-of-class study for each hour of formal class activity. For laboratory hours, one (1) credit shall be awarded for a minimum of three laboratory hours in a standard week for which little or no out-of-class study is required since three hours will be in the lab (i.e. Laboratory 03 hours). Whereas, one (1) credit shall be awarded for a minimum of two laboratory hours in a standard week, if supplemented by out-of-class assignments which would normally average one hour of out-of-class study preparing for or following up the laboratory experience (i.e. Laboratory 02 hours). Credit is also awarded for other hours such as directed practice, practicum, cooperative work experience, and field experience. The number of hours required to receive credit is listed under Other Hours on the syllabus. The number of credit hours for lecture, lab and other hours are listed at the beginning of the syllabus. Make sure you can prioritize your time accordingly. Proper planning, prioritization and dedication will enhance your success in this course.

The standard expectation for an online course is that you will spend 3 hours per week for each credit hour.

II. ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

If you need any special course adaptations or accommodations because of a documented disability, please notify your instructor within a reasonable length of time, preferably the first week of the term with formal notice of that need (i.e. an official letter from the Student Accessibility Services (SAS) office). Accommodations will not be made retroactively.
Constitution.

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

Course Outcome(s):

Outcomes

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. Distinguish among the major political ideologies found 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. Analyze 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.

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. Analyze the role, effectiveness, and influence of the mass media on the political process.
2. Define the primary responsibilities of Congress, the Presidency and Executive branch, 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. Demonstrate the ability to critique the overall effectiveness of the U.S. political process.
6. Analyze the role, effectiveness, and influence of public opinion and political ideology on the political process.
7. Analyze the role, effectiveness, and influence of the interest group system on the political process.
8. Analyze the role, effectiveness, and influence of the two-party system on the political process.

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. Describe 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. Explain 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. Cultivate the ability to critique the overall efficiency of the U.S. political system.

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. Explain the role of the primary/caucus system in electing the President and Congress.
3. Summarize the role the Electoral College plays in electing the President.
4. Discuss various laws and court rulings that impact the campaign process.
5. Explain 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.
Methods of Evaluation:
1. Research paper
2. Essay exams
3. Objective exams
4. Quizzes
5. Participation in class discussions
6. Projects
7. Book reviews
8. Oral reports

Course Content Outline:
1. The Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation and the U.S. Constitution.
   a. Philosophical origins and democratic ideals of the Declaration of Independence
   b. Confederation – a league of states
   c. Principles of the U.S. Constitution
2. Federalism
   a. Principles of federalism
   b. Structure of federalism
   c. Exclusion and concurrent powers
3. Public opinion and the media
   a. Political socialization and how it occurs
   b. Roles and impact of the media
   c. Liberal vs. conservative media
4. Political parties and interest groups
   a. Types of political parties
   b. Two-party system
   c. Third parties and independent candidates
   d. Formation and functions of interest groups
   e. Types of lobbying
5. Campaigns, elections and the electoral college
   a. How the campaign process works
   b. Campaign formation and regulation
   c. Congressional and presidential elections
   d. Purpose and function of the Electoral College vs. popular vote
   e. Voter turnout and behavior
6. Congress
   a. Article I, Constitution
   b. Function
   c. Structure and powers
   d. Impeachment process
   e. Oversight
   f. Women and minority representation
7. The president
   a. Article II, Constitution
   b. Role as Chief Executive
   c. Powers
   d. Limitations and abuse of powers
   e. Oversight
   f. Rating the Presidents
8. The Supreme Court
   a. Article III, Constitution
   b. Structure
   c. Jurisdiction and powers
   d. Judicial philosophy
   e. Oversight
9. The federal bureaucracy
   a. Organization
   b. Purpose
c. Function and powers
  
d. Congressional and Presidential oversight

10. Federal budget
  a. Revenue and expenditures
  b. Presidential proposal
  c. Congressional approval
  d. Fiscal policies

11. Civil liberties
  a. Bill of Rights
  b. Fourteenth amendment
  c. Criminal defendants’ rights
  d. Civil liberties vs. national security

12. Civil rights
  a. Background
  b. Fundamental rights
  c. Federal guarantees
  d. Federal remedies

13. Public policy formation and implementation
  a. Policy making
  b. Type of policies
  c. Decision-making process
  d. Implementation

14. Foreign policy formation and implementation
  a. Background
  b. Foreign policy theories
  c. Foreign policy development and implementation
  d. Foreign policy today and human rights, war on terrorism and unilateral vs. multilateral approach

Resources


**Resources Other**

As recommended by the Instructor.

**Instructional Services**

**OAN Number:**

TMSBS and OSS011

Top of page
Key: 3692