

# POL-101H: HONORS AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

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## Cuyahoga Community College

**Viewing: POL-101H : Honors American National Government**

**Board of Trustees:**

2015-05-28

**Academic Term:**

Fall 2021

**Subject Code**

POL - Political Science

**Course Number:**

101H

**Title:**

Honors American National Government

**Catalog Description:**

Nature, purpose, and function of government of the United States at the national level. Relationships between structure, function and process. Dynamics of political change, including role and significance of U.S. Constitution. Current issues of American public policy with a focus on the analysis and interpretation of primary source materials.

**Credit Hour(s):**

3

**Lecture Hour(s):**

3

## Requisites

**Prerequisite and Corequisite**

ENG-1010 College Composition I or eligibility for ENG-101H College Composition I; 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. 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.

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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. Analyze the role, effectiveness, and influence of public opinion and political ideology on the political process.
  2. Analyze the role, effectiveness, and influence of the interest group system on the political process.
  3. Analyze the role, effectiveness, and influence of the two-party system on the political process.
  4. Analyze the role, effectiveness, and influence of the mass media on the political process.
  5. Define the primary responsibilities of Congress, the Presidency and Executive branch, and the Federal Court system.
  6. Discuss the policy process and the development of social, economic, foreign and defense policy.
  7. Recognize the basic steps of the Congressional bill-making and federal budget process.
  8. Demonstrate the ability to critique the overall effectiveness of the U.S. 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. Define the primary responsibilities of Congress, the Presidency and Executive branch, and the Federal Court system.
  2. Describe the development and purpose of American federalism.
  3. Assess the nature of state-federal relations.
  4. Compare and contrast powers of the federal legislative, executive, and judicial branches.
  5. Explain the various "checks and balances" and other limitations that are in place among the three branches of government to prevent abuse of power.
  6. Discuss and explain the fragmentation that exists within Congress such as bicameralism, committee structure, and majority/minority leadership.
  7. Cultivate the ability to 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. 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.
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**Methods of Evaluation:**

- A. Research paper or project
- B. Essay exams
- C. Objective exams
- D. Quizzes
- E. Participation in class discussions
- F. Projects
- G. Book reviews
- H. Oral reports
- I. Experiential learning
- J. Final project

**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

Barber, James David. *The Presidential Character: Predicting Performance in the White House*. 4th. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1992.

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Baum, Lawrence. *The Supreme Court*. 9th. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly Press, 2006.

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

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Beard, Charles. *An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution*. Mineola, NY: Dover Publications, 2004.

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

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Cigler, Allan and Burdett A. Loomis, eds. *Interest Group Politics*. 8th. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly Press, 2001.

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Dahl, Robert A. *On Democracy*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2000.

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Edelman, Murray J. *The Symbolic Uses of Politics*. Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1985.

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Erickson, Robert S. and Kent L. Tedin. *American Public Opinion: Its Origins, Content, and Impact*. 8th. New York: Pearson Press, 2010.

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

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Lasswell, Harold D. *Politics: Who Gets What, When, How*. Whitefish, MT: Literary Licensing, LLC, 2001.

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Neustadt, Richard E. *Presidential Power*. 13th. New York: Longman, 1999.

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O'Brien, David. M. *Storm Center: The Supreme Court in American Politics*. 9th. New York: W. W. Norton and Company, 2011.

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Olson, Mancur. *The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1975.

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Kingdon, John W. *Agendas, Alternatives and Public Policies*. 2nd. New York: Pearson, 2010.

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

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Pateman, Carole. *Participation and Democratic Theory*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1999.

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

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Sabato, Larry J. *Feeding Frenzy: Attack Journalism and American Politics*. New York: New Lanahan Editions in Political Science, 1991.

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Schattschneider, E. E. *The Semisovereign People: A Realist's View of Democracy in America*. Stamford, CT: Cengage, 1975.

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Serow, Ann G. and Everett C. Ladd, eds. *The Lanahan Readings in the American Polity*. 5th. Baltimore, MD: Lanahan Publishers, 2006.

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Tocqueville, Alexander. *Democracy in America*. New York: Signet Classics, 2010.

---

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*. New York: Signet Classics, 2003.

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Peters, Guy. *Institutional Theory in Political Science*. 2nd. New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2005.

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

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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.

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Barbour, Christine and Gerald C. Wright. *Keeping the Republic*. 5th (brief). Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly Press, 2013.

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

---

Barber, James David. *The Presidential Character: Predicting Performance in the White House*. 4th. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1992.

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### **Resources Other**

Primary and historical supplemental resources for classroom and research use.  
As recommended by instructor.

### **Instructional Services**

#### **OAN Number:**

Ohio Transfer 36 TMSBS and Transfer Assurance Guide OSS011

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