

DATE ADOPTED:
DATE REVIEWED:
DATE REVISED: 1998, 2013



Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education

Representing Alabama's Public Two-Year College System

Jefferson State Community College

- I. **POL 211 American National Government - 3 Semester Hours**
Core Area IV, ASCI TSCI (Lec 3 hrs)
- II. **Course Description**
This course surveys the background, constitutional principles, organization, and operation of the American political system. Topics include the U. S. Constitution, federalism, civil liberties, civil rights, political parties, interest groups, political campaigns, voting behavior, elections, the presidency, bureaucracy, Congress, and the justice system. Upon completion, students should be able to identify and explain relationships among the basic elements of American government and function as more informed participants of the American political system.
- III. **Prerequisite**
As required by program
- IV. **Textbook**
Government³ by Edward Sidlow and Beth Henschen, 3rd Edition, Cengage Learning (2012).
ISBN: 13: 978-1-111-34247-0
- V. **Course Objectives**
This course will provide a survey of the institutions of American Government, and analysis of the Constitution, the civil rights of its citizens, and the role of political parties and interest groups in campaigns and elections.
- VI. **Course Outline of Topics**
 - A. American political values
 - B. The Constitution
 - C. Federalism
 - D. Civil Liberties
 - E. Civil Rights
 - F. Interest groups
 - G. Political parties
 - H. Campaigns and elections
 - I. Public opinion and the media
 - J. Congress (House of Representatives and the Senate)
 - K. The Presidency
 - L. The Bureaucracy
 - M. The Supreme Court and the Judiciary

VII. Evaluation and Assessment

Multiple choice exams and written assignments are required.

Grades will be given based upon A = 90 – 100%, B = 80 – 89%, C = 70 – 79%, D = 60 – 69%, and F = below 60%

VIII. General Course Competencies

- A. The student will acquire a knowledge of the Constitution
- B. The student will acquire a knowledge of the civil rights and liberties of American citizens
- C. The student will acquire a knowledge of interest groups, political parties, and campaigns and elections
- D. The student will acquire a knowledge of the House of Representatives and the Senate
- E. The student will acquire a knowledge of the Presidency
- F. The student will acquire a knowledge of the bureaucracy and the judiciary

IX. Assessment of Instructional Effectiveness

This section describes how student performance related to specific course objectives is used to assess instructional effectiveness in helping students meet Jefferson State's General Education Objectives. This section does not describe how course grades are determined.

The student will demonstrate knowledge of:

- A. The constitution and major institutions of American government
- B. The basic civil rights of its citizens
- C. The processes and problems of political campaigns and elections

General Education Objective

The student will read, understand, and evaluate materials written at a variety of levels and for a variety of purposes. Student comprehension of this task will be measured by:

- A. Direct assessments: Student essays will be evaluated at the end of a term. Also, the performance of each student on multiple-choice tests will reflect the student's general knowledge of the organization of the American National Government.
- B. Indirect assessments: The student's participation in class discussion will contribute to the final grade in the course.
- C. Student evaluation: the student will evaluate the instructor's effectiveness

Use of Findings

The instructor will modify his methodology based on student performance and evaluation and will discuss finding with colleagues as needed.

X. Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes for which they are registered. Students who are unable to attend class regularly, regardless of the reason or circumstance, should withdraw from that class before poor attendance interferes with the student's ability to achieve the objectives required in the course. Withdrawal from class can affect eligibility for federal financial aid.

XI. Statement on Discrimination/Harassment

The College and the Alabama State Board of Education are committed to providing both employment and educational environments free of harassment or discrimination related to an individual's race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, or disability. Such harassment is

a violation of State Board of Education policy. Any practice or behavior that constitutes harassment or discrimination will not be tolerated.

XII. Americans with Disabilities

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 state that qualified students with disabilities who meet the essential functions and academic requirements are entitled to reasonable accommodations. It is the student's responsibility to provide appropriate disability documentation to the College. The ADA Accommodations office is located in FSC 300 (205-856-7731).