



## Syllabus

### POL 100 American Government

#### General Information

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**Date** March 11th, 2024  
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**Department** Social Science  
**Course Prefix** POL  
**Course Number** 100  
**Course Title** American Government

#### Course Information

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**Catalog Description** This course explores the nature and dynamics of the American political system, including the basic structure, functions, and processes of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government, the roles of political parties and special interest groups, the mechanics of political campaigns and elections, the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and prominent issues in U.S. domestic and foreign policy.

**Credit Hours** 3  
**Lecture Contact Hours** 3  
**Lab Contact Hours** 0  
**Other Contact Hours** 0  
**Grading Scheme** Letter

#### Prerequisites

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None

#### Co-requisites

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None

#### First Year Experience/Capstone Designation

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**This course DOES NOT satisfy the outcomes applicable for status as a FYE or Capstone.**

# SUNY General Education

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**This course is designated as satisfying a requirement in the following SUNY Gen Ed categories**

Social Sciences and US History and Civic Engagement

## FLCC Values

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### **Institutional Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course**

Vitality, Inquiry, and Interconnectedness

## Course Learning Outcomes

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### **Course Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will explain how the major concepts and models of American government function (including the basic structure, functions, and processes of the three branches of government, the roles of political parties, the mechanics of elections, and the major features of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights).
2. Students will identify the major issues in American foreign and domestic policies and how the federal government creates and enforces policies.
3. Students will evaluate sources for political news, data, and opinions to understand the methods and types of evidence that political scientists use to study political institutions and behaviors in order to comprehend important theories and concepts within the discipline.

## Outline of Topics Covered

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1. The role of the political scientist: approaches, techniques
2. The U.S. Constitution and Federalism
3. Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
4. Public Knowledge, Public Opinion, and Political Socialization
5. Special Interest Groups and Lobbying
6. Political Parties
7. Voting, Campaigns, Elections, & Participation in Government
8. The Legislative Branch: Congress
9. The Executive Branch: The Presidency and the Bureaucracy
10. The Judicial Branch: The Federal Court System
11. The Media
12. Social, Economic, and Other Domestic Policy
13. Foreign and Military Policy