



South Central College

POL 110 American Government

Common Course Outline

Course Information

Description American Government introduces students to the fundamentals of American National Government. The course includes an examination of basic American political principles and practices, the Constitution, major institutions, and civil liberties. The objective of this course is to acquaint students with the complexities of the American political system. (Prerequisites: Students must score 62 or higher on the Reading portion of the Accuplacer or must complete Reading 0080 with a grade of C or higher to register for this course.)

Total Credits 3

Total Hours 48

Types of Instruction

Instruction Type	Credits/Hours
Lecture	3/48

Pre/Corequisites

Students must score 62 or higher on the Reading portion of the Accuplacer or must complete Reading 0080 with a grade of C or higher to register for this course.

Institutional Core Competencies

Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility - Students will be able to demonstrate the ability to engage in the social responsibilities expected of a community member.

Critical and Creative Thinking - Students will be able to demonstrate purposeful thinking with the goal of using a creative process for developing and building upon ideas and/or the goal of using a critical process for the analyzing and evaluating of ideas.

Course Outcomes

1. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures (5b).

Learning Objectives

Describe the historical context significant to the development of our government.

Compare the ideas that drove our Founding Fathers to other countries/cultures of that period.

2. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories (5c).

Learning Objectives

Describe basic political theory.
Apply political theory to current issues.
Compare two or more political systems.

3. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues (5d).

Learning Objectives

Identify current political issues in the news.
Explain complexities of political issues.
Apply political science concepts to current issues.

4. Apply core concepts (e.g., politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues (9b).

Learning Objectives

Define key terms in politics and government.
Use terms to describe political process.
Analyze specific political issues.

5. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others (9d).

Learning Objectives

Identify role of power in politics.
Interpret differing view points.
Engage in political debate.

6. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship (9e).

Learning Objectives

Define citizen rights.
Explore citizen responsibilities.
Evaluate personal exercising of rights and responsibilities.
Participate active citizenship.

7. Identify the foundations of government.

Learning Objectives

Describe the basic ideology of our government.
Examine the United States constitution.
Explore tenets of Federalism.
Compare Civil Liberties with Civil Rights.

8. Examine the institutions of government/policy makers.

Learning Objectives

Describe the functions of Congress.
Identify the task of the Presidency.
Describe the Judiciary Branch.
Explain function of Bureaucracy.

9. Articulate the role people have in politics.

Learning Objectives

Describe function of public opinion.
Contrast the various political parties.
Describe the voting and election process.
Examine the campaign process.
Discuss the relationship politics has with the mass media.
Explain the role of interest groups in political process.

10. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues (9c).

