

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

CREATED 10/12/07
UPDATED 8/16/11

COURSE NUMBER: PSC 201

PREREQUISITE(S): ENG 032, RDG 032

CO-REQUISITE(S): None

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

This course is a study of national governmental institutions with emphasis on the Constitution, the functions of the executive, legislative and judicial branches, civil liberties and the role of the electorate.

TEXTBOOK(S): O'Connor, Karen, Larry J. Sabato. Essentials of American Government: Roots and Reform 2011. 10TH edition. New York: Pearson Longman, 2011.

REFERENCE(S):

OTHER REQUIRED MATERIALS, TOOLS, AND EQUIPMENT:

Computer with Internet access, Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher or other current browser, word processing software (must be able to open and save in Word format).

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:

This is an online course using textbook reading assignments, related videos, interactive simulations, quizzes, discussions, and study tools.

GRADING SYSTEM:

90 - 100 = A
80 - 89 = B
70 - 79 = C
60 - 69 = D
00 - 59 = F

GRADE CALCULATION METHOD:

Final exam	=	500 pts	35%
Chapter tests / quizzes	=	500 pts	35%
Activities (ex: video, simulation, news review) and related quizzes	=	220 pts	15%
Participation in online class discussions	=	220 pts	15%
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= 1440 pts

Points shown above are approximations because some assignments may be modified during the course of the semester. However, the points will be adjusted to match the percentages as listed above during the grade calculation process by the instructor.

CONFIDENTIALITY:

All students' e-mail addresses may be available to other students in the class. Although some assignments in an online course may encourage or require peer communication, the instructor will make every effort to protect the confidentiality of any personal communication (for example, grades). However, you should recognize that e-mail and other electronic media are not secure; there is no guarantee of the privacy of your e-mail or other personal information.

**APPROPRIATE
ONLINE BEHAVIOR:**

The use of Spartanburg Community College's website, e-mail service or course management software for creation and/or distribution of material not pertaining to course participation is prohibited and is grounds for dismissal according to College policy under "disruptive behavior." Such actions, include, but are not limited to:

- Inappropriate use of email and discussion boards for:
 - ✓ Harassment
 - ✓ Unlawful solicitation
 - ✓ "Spamming"
 - ✓ "Flaming"
- Use of online editing tools within the course management software to:
 - ✓ Create offensive material
 - ✓ Link to inappropriate materials

**ATTENDANCE /
ASSIGNMENT
POLICY:**

An electronic e-mail is required from each student to the Instructor by August 22, 2011. If no email contact is received, the Instructor will drop the student from the course.

Attendance Policy: Instructors maintain attendance records. However, it is the student's responsibility to withdraw from a course. A student who stops attending the online class and fails to initiate a withdrawal will remain on the class roster. *With this in mind, for every assignment, test or exam not completed while still enrolled in the course the student will receive a grade of zero and the final course grade will be calculated accordingly.*

Withdrawal Policy: During the first 75% of the course, a student may initiate withdrawal and receive a grade of W. A student cannot initiate a withdrawal during the last 25% of the course.

Extenuating circumstances require documentation and approval by the appropriate department Chair and Academic Dean.

Assignment Deadline Policy: Assignments must be submitted by the deadline specified on the Assignment Schedule document. Late assignments will not be accepted and will result in a grade of zero on the assignment.

Final Exam Policy: Students will be required to take a cumulative final exam in the SCC Testing Center located in Room E-3 of the East Building.

If a student is registered for a course via Tech On-Line onsite testing arrangements must be made with the closest technical college or other authorized testing center one week prior to the first day the final exam is made available.

**ACADEMIC
CONDUCT:**

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: Students are expected to uphold the integrity of the College's standard of conduct, specifically in regards to academic honesty. All forms of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on assignments/tests, plagiarism, collusion, and falsification of information will call for disciplinary action. Disciplinary action imposed may include one or more of the following: written reprimand, loss of credit for assignment/test, termination from course, and probation, suspension, or expulsion from the College. For further explanation of this and other conduct codes, please refer to the Student Handbook.

**CLASS/LAB
PROCEDURES:**

None.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Students who need special accommodations in this class because of a documented disability should notify Student Disability Services. You may contact Student Disability Services by calling, (864) 592-4811, toll-free 1-800-922-3679; via email through the Spartanburg Community College web site at www.sccsc.edu/SDS/; or by visiting the office located in the Dan Lee Terhune Student Services Building, room 112 of the Spartanburg Community College campus. By contacting Student Disability Services early in the semester, students with disabilities give the College an opportunity to provide necessary support services and appropriate accommodations.

**COURSE
COMPETENCIES &
OBJECTIVES:**

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- I. Explain the nature of government and the origins of American federalism.
 1. Define government and politics.
 2. Explain the origins and impact of the U.S. Constitution.
 3. Describe the federal system and the changing roles of national, state and local government.

- II. Explain America's heritage of rights and liberties, the roles of public opinion and political parties.
 1. Discuss the bill of rights.
 2. Discuss the impact of public opinion on politics.
 3. Examine the relevance of political parties.

- III. Examine the impact of interest groups and the media on the political process.
 1. Describe the campaign and election process.
 2. Describe the role of special interest groups.
 3. Explain the impact of the media on the political process.

- IV. Examine the roles of Congress, the President and the federal bureaucracy.
 1. Describe the makeup and function of Congress.
 2. Describe the power and function of the Presidency.
 3. Describe the structure and function of the federal bureaucracy.

- V. Examine the role of the Judiciary and the making of domestic and foreign policy.
 1. Describe the function of the Judiciary.
 2. Explain the making of public policy.
 3. Explain the making of foreign policy.

