
Course Prefix/No.: PSC 201
Course Title: American Government I
Lec Hours/Week: 3.0
Lab Hours/Week: 0.0
Credit Hours/Semester: 3.0

[Distance Learning Attendance/VA Statement](#)
[Textbook Information](#)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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

COURSE COMPETENCIES

Module 1

1. Explain the Constitutional principles that comprise the American political system.
2. Discuss the Constitutional roots of the American experiment.
3. Discuss the Constitution as an instrument of government.
4. Discuss the Constitutional structure of American Federalism.
5. Explain American political culture and ideology.

Module 2

1. Discuss the American political landscape.
2. Explain the role of political parties.
3. Discuss public opinion, participation, and voting in American politics.
4. Discuss American campaigns and elections.
5. Discuss the role of the media in American politics.

Module 3

1. Explain the structure and powers of Congress.
2. Explain the structure and powers of the Presidency.
3. Discuss the role of the Judiciary Branch.
4. Discuss First Amendment freedoms.

MINIMAL STANDARDS

A minimum of 60 percent accuracy on evaluative instruments (see evaluative procedures) will be required to receive credit for this course. A minimum of 70 percent accuracy on evaluative measures will be required for the course to attain transferability.

EVALUATION STRATEGIES/GRADING

Competencies are evaluated through the use of three objective and/or essay-type exams and other means as specified by the instructor. No comprehensive examination is required for this course.

For this course, grading will be determined in the following manner:

Module 1 33.33%
Module 2 33.33%
Module 3 33.33%

Grading Scale

A 90 - 100
B 80 - 89
C 70 - 79
D 60 - 69
F Below 60

EXPECTATIONS

1. Utilize critical thinking techniques to complete class assignments.
2. Use proper spelling and grammar to compose written assignments on various political topics.
3. Follow oral and/or written instructions in completing all assignments.
4. Complete and submit all assignments in the specified time period.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance Policy

Students are responsible for attending all scheduled meetings in the courses in which they are enrolled until they have completed all course requirements. Students are responsible for all material covered and for all assignments made in all classes. Students who are absent from a class more than 10 percent of the hours assigned may be withdrawn.

Withdrawal from a Course

A student may withdraw from the course after the add/drop period until midterm with a grade of "W." To withdraw after midterm and receive a grade of "W," the student must personally see the instructor for approval. All other students will receive a grade of "WF."

Student Conduct

Students are requested to conform to all conduct codes specified in the York Technical College Handbook and Catalog.

ENTRY-LEVEL SKILLS: None

CO-REQUISITE: None

PREREQUISITE: ENG 100 or equivalent

Disabilities Statement: Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Special Resources Offices (SR) at 803-327-8007 in the 300 area of Student Services. The SRO coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.