

Montgomery County Community College  
POL 124  
American National Government  
3-3-0

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

An examination of the basic structure and functions of American National Government, with emphasis on the power relationships between the Congress, the President, and the Judiciary. Political parties, pressure groups, civil rights, and the federal structure of our government will be stressed.

**REQUISITES:**

*Previous Course Requirements*

None

*Concurrent Course Requirements*

None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Demonstrate reading and writing skills within the conceptual framework of American national government.	Lecture/Discussion AV/LRC Materials Written and Oral Reports Guest Speakers	Assignment: Congressional Research Assignment Part I Assignment: Congressional Research Assignment Part II Classroom Discussion Exams
2. Demonstrate oral communication skills within the conceptual framework of American national government.	Lecture/Discussion AV/LRC Materials Written and Oral Reports Guest Speakers	Classroom Discussion
3. Identify, analyze and question the principle conceptual issues in American national government.	Lecture/Discussion AV/LRC Materials Written and Oral Reports Guest Speakers	Assignment: Congressional Research Assignment Part I Assignment: Congressional Research Assignment Part II Classroom Discussion Exams

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
4. Describe the various components of American national government and express an appreciation of their global and multicultural nature.	Lecture/Discussion AV/LRC Materials Written and Oral Reports Guest Speakers	Assignment: Congressional Research Assignment Part I Assignment: Congressional Research Assignment Part II Classroom Discussion Exams Classroom Discussion Exams
5. Examine the ethical issues contained in American national government.	Lecture/Discussion AV/LRC Materials Written and Oral Reports Guest Speakers	Assignment: Congressional Research Assignment Part I Assignment: Congressional Research Assignment Part II Classroom Discussion Exams Classroom Discussion Exams
6. Examine the nature and importance of the aesthetic within American national government.	Lecture/Discussion AV/LRC Materials Written and Oral Reports Guest Speakers	Assignment: Congressional Research Assignment Part I Assignment: Congressional Research Assignment Part II Classroom Discussion Exams Classroom Discussion Exams
7. Utilize the major technological tools used in American national government.	Lecture/Discussion AV/LRC Materials Written and Oral Reports Guest Speakers	Assignment: Congressional Research Assignment Part I Assignment: Congressional Research Assignment Part II Classroom Discussion Exams Classroom Discussion Exams

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria.*

SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

Part I: Foundations

1. Understanding American Politics
2. The Constitution and the Founding
3. Federalism
4. Civil Liberties
5. Civil Rights

Part II: Politics

6. Public Opinion and Political Socialization
7. Political Parties
8. Elections
9. Interest Groups

Part III: Institutions

10. Congress
11. The Presidency
12. The Bureaucracy
13. The Courts

Part IV: Policy

14. Economic and Social Policy
15. Foreign Policy

LEARNING MATERIALS:

Text(s) will be selected, as needed, by the Political Science Faculty.

Suggested text:

Bianco, William T. and David T. Canon, *American Politics Today* Fifth Essentials Edition). W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

COURSE APPROVAL:

Prepared by: Carol-Rae Sodano, D. Creciun	Date: 7/1995
Reviewed by: Professor Rhoda McFadden	Date: 9/1998
Revised by: Thomas Kolsky and Jodi Empol-Schwartz	Date: 3/2009
VPAA/Provost Compliance Verification: Dr. John C. Flynn, Jr.	Date: 9/11/2009
Revised by: Thomas Kolsky	Date: 7/6/2012
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.	Date: 7/25/2012
Revised by: Jodi Empol-Schwartz	Date: 8/7/2013
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification: Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.	Date: 8/12/2013

Revised by: Jodi Empol-Schwartz  
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:

Date: 1/10/2018  
Date: 1/30/2018



*This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.*