



POLS 1120 G-American National Government section name section credit
hours Credits
Syllabus

Course Information

Meeting times and location: section meeting_times section location

Catalog description: This course explains the role of American national government, its formation and principles of the Constitution; relation of state to the national government; political parties and their relationship to interest groups. This course also explains the structure of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.

Prerequisites: ENGL-1110

Terms offered: Fall and Spring

Section-specific Course Description:

Course Level Objectives

Student Learning Outcomes

Students should be able to:

- 1.Explain the historical and political foundations of the government of the United States;
- 2.Explain the precursors to, and the development and adoption of the United States Constitution;
- 3.Explain the United States federal system, the basics of federalism, and the changing relationship of state and federal power;
- 4.Describe the power, structure and operation of the main institutions of government, namely the legislative, executive, judicial, and the federal bureaucracy;

5. Explain the development and role of political parties and interest groups;
6. Identify the constitutional basis of civil rights and civil liberties and their changing interpretation; and
7. Describe the role of demographics, public opinion and the media in American politics.

Students should be able to:

1. Understanding of American political institutions and processes
2. Ability to analyze issues of power and justice as they play out in American politics
3. Critical thinking about current issues and processes in American politics
4. Upon completion of the course students will be able to:
 - a. Describe the major institutions of American government and the power relationships among the institutions
 - b. Analyze the reasoning behind these institutions and power relations
 - c. List major actors in the political system, and understand the roles and relationships among those actors
 - d. Understand the competing interests and values that drive American politics
 - e. Think critically about the American political system

General Education Student Learning Outcomes

This course meets the requirements set forth by the state of New Mexico for a general education course that is transferable to any public institution of higher education in New Mexico. Each general education course addresses three essential skills as outlined in the table below.

General Education Content Area	Essential Skills Associated with the Content Area
Communication	Communication, Critical Thinking, Information & Digital Literacy
Creative and Fine Arts	Communication, Critical Thinking, Personal & Social Responsibility
Humanities	Critical Thinking, Information & Digital Literacy, Personal & Social Responsibility
Mathematics	Communication, Critical Thinking, Quantitative Reasoning
Science	Critical Thinking, Personal & Social Responsibility, Quantitative Reasoning
Social & Behavioral Sciences	Communication, Critical Thinking, Personal & Social Responsibility

For further information on the Essential Skills, visit the [General Education Essential Skills](#) page.

Required Technology and Software

- Canvas
- Chrome, Safari, or Firefox

Technical Support

Technical support is available through the San Juan College Help Desk 24/7/365. The help desk can be reached at 505-566-3266 or by creating a ticket at [San Juan College Help Desk](#).

For tickets and password reset: [San Juan College Help Desk](#)

For Canvas support information: [Canvas Support](#)

Accessibility/Privacy Policies for all Technology Tools Used

[Accessibility/Privacy Policies for all Technology Tools Used](#)

Course Requirements

Students will do the following activities:

Weekly Discussions

Go to the Module for the week and will find assignments listed in chronological order. The assignments will consist of readings in the textbook and/or readings from a variety of web-based sources, Discussions, and Quizzes.

Once you have read the assigned reading, go to the Discussion for that week. Each week there will be a discussion question. These discussions will consist of questions designed to help you to think critically about what you have read. Each student must post a thorough response answering those questions. Citations are not necessary except for direct quotes.

Since these are discussions, each person is also required to respond to the essay of at least 2 other student. Those responses should be thorough as well and you should agree or disagree with what your classmate has posted. Post those responses as Replies.

Remember, a thorough response should include an introduction with a thesis, evidence to support the thesis in the body of the essay, and a conclusion.

The Discussions are Pass/Fail.

All Discussion MAIN ESSAYS are due at 11:55pm on Sunday of the week it is assigned. ESSAY RESPONSES are due on Tuesdays. Please make note of dates and times.

Research Paper

You may choose any topic that interests you provided it deals with American government and politics. Find details for the paper Research Paper Module. Your paper must be submitted on the due date. Exceptions will only be made for those with catastrophic, life altering events.

COVID Safe Practices for Being on Campus

Masks / cloth face coverings must be worn while on campus in accordance with the New Mexico public health order. If you feel that you cannot wear a mask due to health complications, please contact Disabilities Services: disabilityservices@sanjuancollege.edu or call (505) 566-3271. Hand sanitizer stations

are at all building entrances, please “wash in, wash out”--clean your hands when you enter and before you leave. Classrooms and labs have been arranged to allow for social distancing; please respect your classmates and instructors by staying 6 feet away from everyone. You will be expected to disinfect your table or area prior to class and after class, cleaning products will be provided for this purpose. Check with your instructor for specific policies for their course. Please do not congregate in hallways or common areas, instead utilize our beautiful outside spaces and weather to visit with your friends and colleagues from a safe distance.

If you have been in contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19, has symptoms, or is waiting on test results, contact your instructor and DO NOT come to class. If you have tested positive, have symptoms or are waiting on test results, contact your instructor and DO NOT come to class. Your health care provider or the assigned contact tracer will let you know when it is safe for you to be around others.

Student Support

Student Services and Support

The Student Support webpage provides information on counseling, tutoring, technical support, and many other support services available to San Juan College students.

[Student Support](#)

Academic Support

Academic Support webpage provides information on academic advising, the library, Testing Center, and the honors program.

[Academic Support](#)

Participation and Attendance Policy

Poor grades are a reflection of poor class attendance. Although this is an online class, be sure to check in regularly (several times per week) so that you keep up with assignments and announcements.

Other Classroom Policies and Expectations

Decorum

It's been said that politics and religion are the two subjects you should never talk about at parties. This class is entirely about politics. At parties, you have free reign to offer your opinions, provided you don't mind losing friends. Here, we want to keep the discussions civil and fact-based. Your essays that answer the discussion questions need to be based on fact, not on beliefs that have no basis in fact. This does not mean that there cannot be differences in interpretation of the facts. Those differences provide for enlightening discussions. But the discussions must be civil.

Canvas Participation and Expectations

This course is asynchronous, meaning that there are no specified meeting times. You may do the work at your own pace, but due dates are not negotiable.

This means you must regularly log in to CANVAS, do the readings, and complete the assignments. All assignments are submitted through CANVAS.

Instructor Response Time

I typically respond to all messages the same day, or at most, within 24 hours. If for some reason, I am unavailable for an extended amount of time during the day, I will email you and let you know ahead of time. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns.

Course Time Commitment

Your commitment to the course is reflected in your grades. The more time you spend on reading, evaluating, and writing the assignments, the better your grades, generally.

Grading

Final grades are calculated based on the following...

Participation/Discussions - 50%

Quizzes - 20%

Research Paper - 30%

Total - 100%

Note: A grade of Incomplete will be given only if the student has completed at least three-quarters of the assignments and cannot complete the class-work due to

unavoidable circumstance. The only assignment that may be submitted to turn an Incomplete into a letter grade is the Research Paper.

Key Dates to Remember

[Full Academic Calendar](#)

College Policies

The following information also applies to your work in this class. If you have special needs for campus emergency situations, please inform me immediately.

1. **Academic Accommodations - American with Disabilities Act (ADA)**

If you believe you need academic accommodations due to physical or learning disabilities, you are encouraged to inform them as soon as possible. The coordinator can work with you in verifying your disabilities and developing accommodation strategies. Please go to [Disability Services Office](#), click the button for "Request for Services" and complete all the steps.

You can also contact the college's disability coordinator in the Advising/Counseling Center at 566-3271 or disabilityservices@sanjuancollege.edu. More information is available on the website listed above.

2. **The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**

Your personal information and grade are confidential. Aside from routine reporting to the college required for this course, I will not share such information with anyone unless I have your permission.

3. **Academic Honesty Rules**

San Juan College expects all students to adhere to the [Academic Honesty Rules](#) as posted online. These are the official guidelines for all classes at San Juan College (July 2006).

4. **Student Conduct Statement**

College is preparation for professional opportunities, and professional conduct is expected in courses, including online classes, as well as any written communications, and interactions with members of the college community. As part of our learning community, students are expected to interact and communicate in a mature, respectful, thoughtful, and supportive manner. Students who demonstrate disrespectful, hostile, belittling, bullying or other disruptive behavior will be subject to potential consequences and possible dismissal from the college. The college will take appropriate action when students demonstrate threatening behavior (to others or self). Students should refer to the Code of Conduct in the

Student Handbook for additional information.

5. **Student Safety**

Keeping students safe is a priority, and part of that is ensuring that we have the ability to communicate emergency messages – whether for school closures due to weather or for more or urgent situations. Rave is San Juan College’s emergency messaging system. Through your SJC student email, you will automatically receive email messages, however, it is also vital that you receive text messages. In order to receive the messages, you must register in a simple process with [Rave](#). When registering, please make sure that your mobile status is “confirmed.”

The Department of Public Safety is available 24 hours per day. In an emergency, they can be accessed by calling 215-3091 or 566-3333.

In the event of an emergency, a Rave message will be sent, and depending on the situation, you will be instructed to do one of the following:

- Evacuate the building
- Shelter in place (Campus doors are locked, and operations continue as normal. During this situation, no one other than law enforcement is allowed in or out of the campus.)
- Lockdown (Campus doors are locked. All operations cease, and you should take cover in your immediate area. No one other than law enforcement is allowed in or out of the campus.

6. **Non-Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, and Retaliation.**

San Juan College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, genetic, veteran’s status, or on the basis of any other category protected under federal, state and local laws. If you have experienced sexual harassment, sexual assault, or any other form of protected class discrimination, we encourage you to make a report. If you report to a faculty member, she/he/they are obligated by policy to share knowledge, notice, and/or reports of harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation with the Title IX Coordinator. These disclosures include but are not limited to reports of sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. You may also make a confidential report to a SJC Counselor. Please refer to San Juan College’s [Title IX](#) site for further details.

San Juan College's Title IX Coordinator is Stacey Allen, Assistant Director of Human Resources/Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Officer. The office is located at the Educational Services Center Building, 2nd Floor, Human Resources, Room 4243 at (505) 566-3515 or allens@sanjuancollege.edu.

7. **Drop for Non-Attendance and/or Non-Participation**

Class Attendance and Participation Expectation:

Face-to-Face -- Students are expected to attend and participate in class regularly. Any student missing more than 10% of consecutive class time, (For example, in a regular 15-week class that meets twice a week, this equates to the student missing 3 consecutive classes) without consultation with the instructor may be considered as having abandoned the course.

On-line -- Students are expected to participate regularly and submit all course assignments, based on the course guide definition. A student who does not submit any assignments during a consecutive 10% of the course (1.5 weeks of a 15-week semester) without consulting the instructor, may be considered as having abandoned the course. Logging in does not meet the attendance standard.

Competency-Based Education Classes -- Students are expected to have regular and substantive interactions with their instructor and to actively work on course content. A student who has not submitted coursework, nor had substantive interactions with the instructor over a consecutive 10% of the term, without the instructor's prior approval, will be considered to have abandoned the competency progression. Last date of attendance will be recorded as the last date that coursework was submitted or that the student met with the instructor. For on-line learners, logging in does not meet the attendance standard.

8. Failure to Meet Class Participation Expectation:

Students who fail to meet participation expectations will have their last date of attendance recorded. This date will be used to recalculate any financial aid received/veteran's benefits received, and the student may be required to repay the institution/government. If the student does not drop the course, an 'X' grade will be recorded. An 'X' grade impacts the grade point average the same as an 'F'.

9. Grading Policies

Incomplete: Incomplete Grade Assignment ([Incomplete Grades Information](#))

The grade of I (Incomplete) is given for passing work that could not be completed during the semester because of circumstances beyond the student's control. Ordinarily, the assignment of an I is given by the course instructor at the time final grades are due

In no case is an I grade to be used to avoid assignment of D or F grades for

marginal or failing work or to require a student to enroll in the class the next semester because work was not completed on time. Circumstances warranting the issuance of an I grade must be beyond the student's control and must be documented on the appropriate form prior to approval.

I grades can be removed only during the subsequent 16 weeks from the end of term, or within the time limit set by the instructor. Removal of an I is accomplished by completing the work in a manner acceptable to the instructor. Re-enrollment in the course under the repeat option does not remove the prior grade of I. Students should not re-enroll for the course. An I not made up within 16 weeks or within the time limit set by the instructor will change to an F grade thereafter and cannot be changed by work completion.

10. **Grade Appeals**

The policy for grade appeals is in the Academic Catalog. ([Grade Appeal Policy](#))

Student Handbook

The Student Handbook provides information on Student support, student organizations, and San Juan College policies.

[Student Handbook](#)