



POLS 1120 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 Only

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

Required Technology and Software

- Canvas
- Chrome, Safari, or Firefox

Course Requirements

Varies by individual instructor.

Other Classroom Policies and Expectations

Varies by individual instructor.

Grading

Varies by individual instructor.

Course Time Commitment

Varies by individual instructor.

Canvas Participation and Expectations

Varies by individual instructor.

Participation and Attendance Policy

Varies by individual instructor.

Instructor Response Times & Regular Interaction Expectations

Varies by individual instructor.

Key Dates to Remember

[Full Academic Calendar](#)

Course Schedule

Varies by individual instructor.

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 password reset and Canvas support, visit the [Student Technology Guide](#) website.

Accessibility/Privacy Policies for all Technology Tools Used

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

Student Support

At San Juan College, we are committed to supporting your academic success and overall well-being. We recognize that college life can be challenging and stressful, impacting both learning and personal health. We are here to help you succeed.

Academic Support and Resources

We provide a range of academic support services to help you stay on track on your educational journey. Free resources include tutoring, computer loans, life skills workshops, and so much more. Visit the [Academic Support and Resources](#) webpage to learn more about support and resources available through Academic Advising, the Tutoring Center, the Student Resource Center (formerly Student Achievement Center) and the Testing Center.

Student Support and Resources

If you or someone you know could benefit from counseling, accessibility services, career exploration, veteran transitional assistance, or any of our other support services, visit the [Student Support and Resources](#) webpage where you'll find detailed information about various resources available to you as an SJC student.

We encourage you to take advantage of these free resources to enhance your college experience and ensure your success.

College Policies and Resources for Current Students

The [Student Handbook](#) provides information on student support, student organizations, and student conduct policies at San Juan College.

The San Juan College catalog outlines the [Academic Policies](#) students need to know.

Healthy and Safe Practices for Being on Campus

We want a healthy and safe campus for students, faculty, staff, and guests.

Contagious diseases and your responsibility:

If you have COVID-19 symptoms, fever, flu or even the common cold, you should stay home. Do not come to campus if you are feeling sick. Contact your instructor about missing class (and review your instructor's policies on missed or late work). Being sick does not necessarily excuse you from completing your work on time.

Safety on campus and your responsibility:

If you are on campus and experience or witness an emergency, call 9-1-1 first and then the Department of Public Safety at 505-566-3333 (or just 3333 if calling from a campus phone).

When you are on campus, be aware of your surroundings. If you need an escort to your vehicle, call 505-566-4444 (DPS non-emergency line) or 505-215-3091 (officer on duty line).

The College will send information for campus emergencies through SJC AlertAware, email and the webpage. Stay informed and stay safe.

Inclement Weather Information

Students will receive notification of class delays and cancellations due to inclement weather via the SJC AlertAware and SJC student email. Face-to-face classes will not meet in person; however, students are advised to check with instructors about alternative meeting options, as some may choose to meet via zoom. Hybrid classes will meet as scheduled via zoom. For questions regarding your class delay or cancelation, please contact your instructor.

Online Course Fee

Online Courses - San Juan College requires all online courses to include some form of assessment to demonstrate the mastery of course objectives. This could include exams, capstone projects, e-portfolios, presentations, final papers or other appropriate assessments. The use of a proctoring platform, plagiarism detection software or other method to ensure that assessments are completed by the enrolled student is required.

A course fee of \$5.00 is assessed for all online courses at San Juan College to cover the cost of the above services. Students who are required to take a proctored exam and choose to use a physical testing center outside the SJC Testing Center or SJC Disability Services will be responsible for the cost of using that center.