



POLS 250 – American National Government

3 CREDITS

SYLLABUS

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to give students an overview of the institutions, processes, and outcomes of American government. Students are encouraged to think critically about the importance of these institutions and processes in addressing the issues that American society faces in the twenty-first century.

Prerequisites:
ENGL-111 and
RDNG-113
Or appropriate
Accuplacer scores

Semester Offered: Fall, Spring

Common Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of San Juan College programs and degrees, the student will demonstrate competency in...

BROAD AND SPECIALIZED LEARNING

Students will actively and independently acquire, apply, and adapt skills and knowledge with an awareness of global contexts.

CRITICAL THINKING

Students will think analytically and creatively to explore ideas, make connections, draw conclusions and solve problems.

CULTURAL AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Students will act purposefully, reflectively, and ethically in diverse and complex environments.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

Students will exchange ideas and information with clarity in multiple contexts.

INFORMATION LITERACY

Students will be able to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use it effectively.

INTEGRATING TECHNOLOGIES

Students will demonstrate fluency in the application and use of technologies in multiple contexts.

Student work from this class may be randomly selected and used anonymously for assessment of course, program, and/or institutional learning outcomes. For more information, please refer to the Dean of the appropriate School.

Course Learning Outcomes

COURSE GOALS:

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

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of the course students will be able to:

- Describe the major institutions of American government and the power relationships among the institutions
- Analyze the reasoning behind these institutions and power relations
- List major actors in the political system, and understand the roles and relationships among those actors
- Understand the competing interests and values that drive American politics
- Think critically about the American political system

1.