



Syllabus: American National Government

Tohono O'odham Community College

Course Information	
Course Prefix/Number: POS 110	Credit Hours:
Semester: Fall 2017	3 transferable to universities
Class Days/Times:	Course Title:
Tuesday and Thursday 4:00-5:15pm	American National Government
	Room: A5

Instructor Information:	Phone/Voice Mail: 831.227.7036
Name: Laurie Morris – Harvey	E-mail: lmorris@tocc.edu
BA Political Science MA History	Office hours: Tuesday - Thursday by appointment

Course Description: The course will cover the basic concepts, institutions and substance of American politics: Separation of powers, representational democracy, rule of law, equality under law, federalism, and the election process, political analysis methods, references to the cultural environment of the American politics, impact of gender, class and immigration status, development of rights of the American Indians, expansion of civil liberties for all Americans, transformations of public opinion adhering to fundamental values and the election process for federal officials.. The value of freedom and respect for the individual resulted in economic and social policy making which will be examined as well as the expansion of American foreign policy and continual global interdependence.

Course Objectives:

The course will cite the foundations of government experienced by Americans since the colonial days of US History. The influence of Native American democracies and legacies from ancient Mesopotamians, Greeks, Romans and the English evolution of democracy during the Age of Enlightenment created the government we still practice today. The design of the course will familiarize the student with the structure and functions of the US Government as delineated in the US Constitution. The process of acquiring political science skills will utilize the concepts and structure of government to enable students to develop a personal ideology, research, evaluate and create public policy in a required final research project.

Evaluation and Grading & Assignments:

Participation 35% Weekly homework, notes and quiz

Exams 35% Midterm October 6 FINAL December 5

Writings 30%: Three essays and one research document written and presented

90% of available points 4=A

80% of available points 3=B

70% of available points 2=C

60% of available points 1=D

Grade will be determined by class participation documented in timely completion of weekly text and news related assignments, participation in class discussions prepared by listening to national news and reading and taking notes from the textbooks and newspapers or news on radio, television, magazines, or websites. Attendance will determine a major portion of participation grade (5 absences may only earn C) Missed quiz = 0 Missed exam = F

Exams consist of performance on two exams: Midterm October 6 and Final December 5

Writing: Three essays and one major research document presented to class. Research paper due November 21, before Thanksgiving to rewrite to A turned back in before final. (late papers may only receive C)

Texts and Materials:

Textbook; Government in America: People, Politics, and Policy George C. Edwards
 Publisher: Pearson Longman ISBN 0-321-12957-11th or 16th edition ISBN 978-0-205-86561-1 Look online for any edition of this text title and author.
 Readings and study guide materials relating to the course will be distributed within the course in class.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) :

During and after completion of the course students will...

*distinguish and describe the various influences leading to the development of a democratic government in the US

*utilize the structure of the US Constitution to distinguish the separation of powers, the function of federalism, the evolution of rights for citizens in the amendment process

- *list and distinguish the specific and shared powers of the three branches of the federal government,
 - *explain where the ideas arose from Greco-Roman, English and native American roots of American democracy, that lead to the adoption of the US Constitution.
 - *examine and find examples of individual civil rights under the Bill of Rights and 14th Amendment.
 - *list and find every day and historical examples of federalism with states and tribes,
 - *list and describe process of adding amendments to the US Constitution,
 - *list the sole duties and obligation of the National Government as "supreme law of the land,"
 - *list characteristics of the two - party system from its inception at the time of the ratification of the US Constitution in 1791,
 - *read the text and use Cornell method of note taking before class discussion on the weekly chapter,
 - *describe the process and development of representational democracy,
 - *determine the various sides of political ideology from the left and right and determine their own personal ideology.
- write essays on various issues facing the national government and in the past and in the present citing evidence for at least two sides and how the problem can be or was resolved politically. Appraise in writing the election of 2016 following the results on November 8.

Research Paper Expectations:

In researching one specific issue of personal importance for a research paper, student will Choose one area of policy making from Part 4- IV of your textbook: Ch. 16 Economic and Social Welfare, Ch.17 Health Care and the Environment, Ch. 18 National Security. Research the historical and current laws and policies and state laws you propose and policies to improve enforcement the laws that uphold your beliefs about how government could work best. Cite evidence current and historically to support an argument written in college level writing standards (7 to 10 pages) with complete citations using MLA format or endnotes or footnotes. The bibliography (10 best 2 books plus articles) must include books, articles and websites and research will be presented to the class. Students will utilize Owl Purdue writing guide found in TOCC reference page and turnitin.com to assure adhering to highest academic and ethical standards in conducting research and writing. Present your findings to the class in the last day of November.

Paper required to pass writing segment of grade.

Himdag Cultural Component:

Class members will strengthen our respect *T-PiK Elida* for all people of our nation and the world with all of our similarities and differences and to protect the land we live to create better social and economic policies for the well- being *T- Apedag* of all people in our communities and all the states surrounding Tohono O'odham Nation. One's well researched political ideology or personal beliefs *T-Wohocudadag* will strengthen our emotional, spiritual and mental states. *T-Apedag* knowing we are all equal as human beings with needs and wants for a better world for our children and families. We will work together to develop sound ideas for creating government policies for the future demonstrating our abilities to collaborate *I-Wemta*.

Course Outline:

Part 1- Constitutional Foundations

Week One August 15 and 17 Legacies from the ancient world including Native American democracies, Greek Athenian democracy, Roman Republic – Mesopotamian Rule of law, The Iroquois- consensus building, representative democracy in North American Tribes
Ch. 1 “Introducing Government in America”

Week Two August 22 and 24 Ch. 2 “The Constitution”

Week Three August 29 and 31 Ch. 3 “Federalism”

Week Four September 5 and 7 Ch. 4 “Civil Liberties and Public Policies”

Essay #1 Due September 21 Foundations of American Government- Where did the founders of American government get their ideas? 200 word minimum

Week Five September 12 and 14 Ch.5 “Civil Rights and Public Policy”

Part II People and Politics

Week Six September 19 and 21 Ch.6 “Public Opinion and Political Action” **Essay #1 DUE**

Week Seven September 26 and 28 Ch. 7 “The Mass Media and the Political Agenda”

Week Eight No Class October 3 and 5 Take home Midterm Ch.1-7

Week Nine October 10 **Midterm Chapters 1-7 DUE** or take in classtime
October 13 Ch. 8 “Political Parties”

Week Ten October 19 and 21 Ch. 9 “Campaigns and Voting Behavior”

Essay #2 Evaluation of current election and personal choices for candidates and take on issues. Due November 9 - 200 word minimum

Week Eleven October 25 and 27 Ch.10 “Interest Groups”

Part III The Policymakers

Week Twelve November 1 and 3 Ch.11 “Congress”

Week Thirteen November 8 and 10 Ch.12 “The Presidency”

Week Fourteen November 14 and 16 Ch.13 “The Budget: The Politics of Taxing and Spending”

Week Fifteen November 21 **Essay Due: How could budget be prioritized; what could be omitted or added?** Ch.14 “The Federal Bureaucracy” **No Class November 23**

Week Sixteen November 28 and 30 Student presentations of research using Part IV: Chapters 15, 16 and 17 of text as guide. Review for final exam.

FINAL Tuesday December 5 Open Note. No textbook or phone use,

Policies and expectations- *Participation grade will be determined by attendance and class participation demonstrated by taking notes, producing homework notes from text, weekly quizzes and other written assignments and by regularly reading or listening to national and local news. Attendance required for Midterm October 6 and Final December 6 with no exceptions. Excused and unexcused absences and missed homework will detract from participation grade. Tardiness forces me to repeat information detracting for time in class to acquire information or skills so out of respect for all please be prompt. We expect academic integrity and will tolerate no form of plagiarism. Two open note exams will be given and missing test will result in failing grade on the exam. Writing assignment received late may only receive a C at best. I expect respectful student behavior and no social use of phone or checking social media. Please advise the instructor if any accommodation will be necessary to fully function in this course. ADA statement is available. We respect diversity of people and opinion at all times as we develop our own personal political ideology.*

