



Syllabus: American National Government

Tohono O'odham Community College

Course Information	
Course Prefix/Number: POS 110	Credit Hours: 3 transferable to universities
Semester: Fall 2018	Course Title: American National Government
Class Days/Times: Tuesday and Thursday 4:00-5:15	Room: GSK 5

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

Writings 30%: Three essays and one major research document

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)

Exams consist of performance on two exams: Midterm September and Final December

Writing: Three essays and one major research document

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

Readings and study guide materials relating to 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,

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.

In researching one specific issue of personal importance for a research paper, student will accomplish the following criteria:

Choose **one area** of policy making to research 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 federal 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 of evidence using MLA format or endnotes or footnotes. The bibliography must include books, articles and websites and research will be presented to the class. Students may utilize turnitin.com to assure adhering to highest academic and ethical standards in conducting research and writing. Present research findings to the class in the last week of November or first week of December.

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 21 and 23

Legacies from ancient world including Native American democracies – Rule of law, The Iroquois- consensus building, representative democracy in America
Ch. 1 “Introducing Government in America”

Week Two August 28 and 30 Ch. 2 “The Constitution”

Week Three September 4 and 6 Ch. 3 “Federalism”

Week Four September 11 and 13 Ch. 4 “Civil Liberties and Public Policies”

Essay #1 Due September 20

**Foundations of American Government- Where did the founders get their ideas?
200 word minimum**

Week Five September 18 and 20 Ch. 5 “Civil Rights and Public Policy”

Part II People and Politics

Week Six September 25 and 27 Ch. 6 “Public Opinion and Political Action”

FALL Break October 1-5

Week Eight October 9 and 11 Ch. 7 “The Mass Media and the Political Agenda”

Midterm October 16

Week Nine Review and test October 16 and 18

Ch. 8 “Political Parties” October 23 and 25

Week Ten October 25-24 Ch. 9 “Campaigns and Voting Behavior”

Week Eleven October 30- November 1 Ch.10 “Interest Groups”

Part III The Policymakers

Week Twelve November 6 and 8 Ch.11 “Congress”

Week Thirteen November 13 and 15 Ch.12 “The Presidency”

Week Fourteen November 20 Ch.13 “The Budget: The Politics of Taxing and Spending”

Week Fifteen November 27 and 29 Ch.14 “The Federal Bureaucracy”

Week Sixteen December 4 and 6 Student presentations of research using Part IV: Chapters 15, 16 and 17 of text as guide. Review for final exam.

FINAL Tuesday December 11

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. 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 arrive promptly by 4 pm. We expect academic integrity and will tolerate no form of plagiarism. Two open note exams will be given and missing test will result in a 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 the diversity of people and opinions at all times as we develop our own personal political ideology.*

