

Course Syllabus

[Jump to Today](#)

 [Edit](#)

Syllabus: American National Government

Course Information

Course Title: American National Government

Room: Online (Live via Zoom and online discussion)

Course Prefix/Number: POS 101 1

Semester: Fall 2020

Class Days/Times: Class is from 9:00-10:15AM, each Monday and Wednesday, except for scheduled holidays and class breaks.

Credit Hours: 3

Instructor Information

Name: David Beeksma

Phone/Voice Mail: (520) 236-8796

E-mail: dbeeksma@tocc.edu

Office location: Online

Office hours: Students may contact instructor by e-mail at any time. Phone and video calls will be scheduled as needed.

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.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will –

1. Become familiar with the origins, structure, and operation of the U.S. government.
2. Develop an understanding of the relationship between Tribal governments and the U.S. national government.
3. Apply critical thinking in assessing public policy.
4. Exercise and refine skills in research, analysis, and writing.

Course Structure

The course will fuse lecture and online activities to provide students with maximum opportunities to engage with one another, the instructor, and assigned course material.

Writing will be a major component of the course.

Writing assignments emphasize critical inquiry – including skills of gathering, interpreting, and evaluating information appropriate to the area of study – through attention to the process of writing. Practice of various strategies, such as focusing ideas, drafting, revising, critical reading and research using outside sources, support the writing process.

During this class, students will have three major writing assignments:

1. A take home quiz requiring short essay responses.
2. A mid-term essay related to a topic covered in course readings or lecture. Students will be provided subjects. Essay's will be 750-1,000 words.
3. A final research paper on a topic from a list of subjects provided by the instructor. The paper will be 7-10 pages in length (~ 1,750 to 2,500 words), be double spaced, and include a cover page and bibliography (not included in page count).

In addition, students will participate in weekly forum discussions.

Students will be invited to respond to a discussion question from the instructor each week. Responses should be 350 to 500 words in length, not counting reference lists. Initial responses are due no later than 11:59 MST each Friday.

Following their initial posts, students will respond to the posts of at least two of their classmates. Responses should include direct questions, offer additional sources of information, or provide a new perspective on the topic being discussed. Responses should be between 150 and 250 words and are due no later than 11:59 MST each Sunday.

Course Learning Materials and Textbook Information

American Government and Politics Today: The Essentials, 2015-2016 Edition by Bardes, Shelley, and Schmidt. Published by CENAGE Learning (2016), ISBN – 10:1-285-85315-6.

Supplemental reading materials will be posted to the forum throughout the course.

Courses Outline and Important Dates

Week 1: Introduction, course standards and objectives, plagiarism – The Democratic Republic

Week 1 Online Discussion

Chapter 1 of *American Government and Politics Today*

Week 2: The Constitution & Federalism

Week 2 Online Discussion

Chapter 2-3 of *American Government and Politics Today*

Week 3: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

No Class Monday – Labor Day

Instructor provides Research Paper subjects

Week 3 Online Discussion

In-Class Quiz #1 Wednesday (Weeks 1-3)

Chapter 4-5 of *American Government and Politics Today*

Week 4: Public Opinion and Political Socialization, Interest Groups and Lobbying

Week 4 Online Discussion

Submit topic for Research Paper – Due Wednesday

Chapter 6-7 of *American Government and Politics Today*

Week 5: Political Parties - History, Positions, Role

Week 5 Online Discussion

In-Class Quiz #2 Wednesday (Weeks 4-5)

Chapter 8 of *American Government and Politics Today*

Week 6: No Class Monday and Wednesday - Fall Break

Instructor provides topics for Mid-Term Essay

Week 6 Online Discussion (Optional)

Review Chapters 1-8 of *American Government and Politics Today*

Week 7: Campaigns and Elections

Week 7 Online Discussion

In-Class Quiz #3 Wednesday (Weeks 6-7)

Chapter 9 of *American Government and Politics Today*

Week 8: The Media

Week 8 Online Discussion

Mid-Term Essay – Due Wednesday

Chapter 10 of *American Government and Politics Today*

Week 9: The Congress

Week 9 Online Discussion

In-Class Quiz #4 Wednesday (Weeks 8-9)

Chapter 11 of *American Government and Politics Today*

Week 10: The President

Week 10 Online Discussion

Chapter 12 of *American Government and Politics Today*

Week 11: The Bureaucracy

Week 11 Online Discussion (Optional)

Chapter 13 of *American Government and Politics Today*

Week 12: The Courts

No Class Wednesday – Veterans Day

Week 12 Online Discussion (Optional)

Chapter 14 of *American Government and Politics Today*

Week 13: Tribal Government

Week 13 Online Discussion

Take Home Quiz provided to class (Weeks 1-13)

Review online references

Week 14: Domestic and Economic Policies

Week 14 Online Discussion (Optional)

Take Home Quiz – Due Wednesday

Chapter 15 of *American Government and Politics Today*

Week 15: Foreign Policy

Week 15 Online Discussion (Optional)

Research Paper – Due Wednesday

Chapter 16 of *American Government and Politics Today*

Week 16: Toward a More Perfect Union

Week 16 Online Discussion (Optional)

Review online references

Evaluations and Grading & Assignments:

Your grade will be determined by the following -

Students will have an opportunity to earn up to 1,000 points during the course. Points will be awarded as follows -

Four in-class quizzes:	20% (200 points – 50 points per quiz)
Take Home quiz:	10% (100 points)
Mid-Term Essay:	20% (200 points)
Research paper:	40% (400 points)
Attendance and Discussion Participation:	10% (100 points)

These will be totaled and converted to an overall percentage that will determine your final grade.

90 and above is an A

80 - 89 is a B

70 - 79 is a C

60 - 69 is a D

Under 60 is Failing

Note: Students will have an opportunity to participate in optional discussion forums. Up to 50 points of extra credit may be earned by contributing to these forums and responding to the posts of classmates. Additional extra credit opportunities will be available, enabling students to earn up to an additional 100 points (beyond the 50 points for optional forum posts) during the course.

Himdag Cultural Component

Legitimate government is an expression of the will of the people it governs. It is based on social contracts, incorporating mutual respect, cooperative action, consensus, and a commitment to community.

A study of the structure and operation of the U.S. national government, as well as state and tribal government, both reinforces as is reinforced by Himdag.

Students will have an opportunity to:

Reflect on how the values and interests of American government align with Himdag: T-Wohocudadag.

Consider the impact of government on the physical, spiritual, and emotional health of the citizen and his or her community: T-Apedag.

Examine the connection between respect and the rights and privileges of citizenship: T-Pi:k Elida.

Work with classmates, sharing skills, practicing teamwork, and building a sense of community: I-We:mta.

Policies and Expectations

General Policies:

Students are expected to attend each class, arriving on time, except in the case of an excused emergency.

Students will contact the instructor prior to absences, coming late to class or leaving early.

Unexcused late arrivals or early departures will count against attendance record.

Class participation and preparation are essential to student success. Students must read textual material, prepare for projects, complete required research as stated on the course schedule.

Students are expected to come to class prepared for class and having done any preliminary work required as per the course schedule.

Students are expected to stay in class and work diligently throughout the whole time. Sleeping, frequent/continued exiting from the class during the class period will constitute one absence.

No cell phone use is allowed during class. Use of cell phones during class, unless permitted by instructor, is a violation of the T-So:son.

Failure to submit a project results in a grade of zero.

Classroom Behavior:

Visitors may be only allowed at class sessions or on field trips with instructor approval, visitor's safety and behavior are the responsibility of the student.

Possession of drugs, alcohol or firearms on college property is illegal.

Food and beverages are allowed in classrooms at discretion of the instructor.

Cellphones should be turned off during class, unless the instructor is allowing students to use their tools (calculator, internet access).

Students creating disturbances that interfere with the conduct of the class or the learning of others will be asked to leave.

Student behavior is also detailed in student handbook under Student Code of Conduct Violations

Late Coursework:

Students must contact the instructor if they believe they will be unable to participate in the course for more than one week and are responsible for making up required classwork. Failure to inform the instructor of a late submission or a late submission without cause (e.g. illness, family emergency) will result in a reduction of one letter grade for each week the coursework is delayed. All late assignments must be submitted no later than one week after the end of the course to be considered for credit.

Academic Integrity:

Violations of scholastic ethics are considered serious offenses by Tohono O'odham Community College, the Student Services Department, and your instructor. Students may consult the TOCC Student Handbook sections on student code of conduct, scholastic ethics, and the grade appeal procedure. Copies are available at Tohono O'odham Community College.

All work done for this class must be your own, or the original work of your group. While you may discuss assignments with other class members, the final written project must be original. You may use work from books and other materials if it is properly cited. Copying from a book or other source without proper reference will result in an "F" for the assignment and, at the instructor's discretion, may lead to an "F" for the course. If you are uncertain about proper citations, ask your instructor or the librarian.

Course Feedback:

Assignments will be graded and returned to the students promptly, typically within a week of submission. E-mail and phone messages will be returned within two days. A student or the instructor may request a student conference at any time during the semester. Quarterly grade reports will be provided to each student, either in person, by email or via the electronic system of Canvas.

Attendance Policy:

You are expected to arrive to class on time and be prepared to participate in each class period. Four unexcused absences may result in withdrawal and a "W" or "Y" will be recorded. You may request to be excused from class for religious observances and practices, for illness, for school or work-related travel or for personal or family emergency. If you will be absent, please notify the instructor as soon as possible (approved by Faculty Senate April 2014).

Incomplete Policy:

Incomplete (I) grades are not awarded automatically. The student must request an "I" from the instructor, who can choose to award an Incomplete only if all three of the following conditions are met:

1. The student must be in compliance with the attendance policy.
2. The student must have unavoidable circumstance that would prohibit the student from completing the course.
3. The student must have completed over 75% of the course requirements with at least a "C" grade.

Incompletes are not a substitute for incomplete work due to frequent absences or poor academic performance. Incomplete grades that are not made up by the end of the ninth week of the following

semester will be automatically changed to an F if the agreed upon work, as stipulated on the written form signed by the instructor and the student when the I grade is awarded, is not completed.

Instructor Withdrawals:

Students who have missed four consecutive classes or have failed to submit any assignments by the 45th day census report may be withdrawn at the instructor's discretion.

Student Withdrawals:

Students may withdraw from class at any time during the first 2/3 of the semester without instructor permission and without incurring any grade penalty. Please be sure to withdraw yourself prior to the deadline in the TOCC Academic

Calendar if you do not expect to complete the class. Failure to do so may result in a grade of "F."

Special Withdrawals (Y) Grade:

The "Y" grade is an administrative withdrawal given at the instructor's option when no other grade is deemed appropriate. Your instructor must file a form stating the specific rationale for awarding this grade. "Y" grades are discouraged since they often affect students negatively. Your instructor will not award a "Y" grade without a strong reason.

Equal Access Statement/Disability Accommodations:

Tohono O'odham Community College seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. The College will comply with all applicable regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to ensure an equal educational opportunity. This process includes self-identifying as a student with a disability, providing supporting documentation of their disability, and being approved for services through the Disability Resources Office (DRO). It is the student's responsibility to make known to their instructor(s) the student's specific needs within the context of each class in order to receive appropriate accommodations. We will work together to develop an accommodation plan specifically designed to meet the individual student's requirements.

For more information or to request academic accommodations, please contact Anthony Osborn, TOCC Disabilities Resource Coordinator, aosborn@tocc.edu, or 520-383-0033 for additional information and assistance.

Title IX:

Tohono O'odham Community College encourages each student to have the knowledge and skills to be an active bystander who intervenes when anyone is observed or being harassed or endangered by sexual violence. Sexual discrimination and sexual violence can undermine students' academic success and quality of life on campus and beyond. We encourage students who have experienced or witnessed any form of sexual misconduct to talk about their experience and seek the support they need.

Confidential support and academic advocacy can be found with: Student Services Title IX Coordinator/Counselor, Alberta Espinoza, M.Ed. located in I-We:mta Ki: Room 18. Phone 520-383-0033 email: aespinoza@tocc.edu

Conduct: Bias, Bullying, Discrimination and Harassment:

Tohono O'odham Community College faculty and staff are dedicated to creating a safe and supportive campus environment as a core value. Harassment based on age, class, color, culture, disability and ability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, immigration status, marital status, political ideology, race, religion/spirituality, sex, sexual orientation, and tribal sovereign status will not be tolerated.

Technical Requirements for Online Learning

Software capabilities:

- Ability to run Google Chrome Version 78+
- Updated virus protection, if using PC or Mac. (TOCC recommends the free Windows Defender for Windows machines)
- Security: Must have a password/passcode (login) to access the device. This is responsible computing. Students will be bound by the TOCC IT Policy related to passwords, security, and appropriate usage.

Is there specific software that needs to be installed?

- TOCC recommends installing the Google Chrome browser as it works well with G Suite. Students collaborate with Google Docs and Microsoft 365 on a regular basis.

Can I use Alternative Browsers?

- Firefox, Internet Explorer, Opera, and other unlisted browsers will not be supported.

Which Operating System should the device run?

The decision for the student's device is a matter of personal preference, but the device needs to be able to run the Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, or Apple Safari Browser. Devices can run Windows, Mac OS, or Chrome OS as long as the minimum requirements listed here:




- Operating System:
 - Windows 8.1, 10
 - MacOS 10.11 or Higher
 - Chrome Version 78 or Higher
- Battery life: 5 hours
- Startup time: No longer than 120 seconds
- Wireless: Integrated
- Keyboard: Integrated, but can be wireless
- Audio: Headphone jack with headphones/earbuds
- Microphone: Integrated
- Camera: Integrated
- Processor: 1.6 GHZ or faster 64-bit processor
- Memory: 4 GB RAM or higher
- Disk Space: 16gb GB or higher
- Screen Size: 10 inches or larger
- Monitor Resolution: 1024 x 768

DISCLAIMER: This syllabus is designed to evolve and change throughout the semester based on class progress and interests. You will be notified of any changes as they occur.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Sun Sep 6, 2020	 Week 1 - Introductory Forum https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/1803/assignments/20391	due by 11:59pm
	 Week 1 Discussion - The Democratic Republic https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/1803/assignments/20444	due by 11:59pm
	 Week 2 Forum - A Plan for Government: The Constitution and Federalism https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/1803/assignments/20387	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	due by
Sun Sep 13, 2020	 Week 3 Forum - Civil Liberties and Rights (https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/1803/assignments/20446)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 14, 2020	 In-Class Quiz #1 (https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/1803/assignments/20596)	due by 1pm
Sun Sep 20, 2020	 Week 4 Forum: Opinion, Identity, Interest (https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/1803/assignments/20674)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Sep 23, 2020	 In-Class Quiz #2 (https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/1803/assignments/20912)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 27, 2020	 Extra Credit Challenge #1 (https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/1803/assignments/20721)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 27, 2020	 Extra Credit Challenge #2 (https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/1803/assignments/21169)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 27, 2020	 Week 5 Forum: Political Parties (https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/1803/assignments/20896)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 4, 2020	 Week 6 (OPTIONAL Forum - Extra Credit) (https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/1803/assignments/21183)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 11, 2020	 In-Class Quiz #3 (https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/1803/assignments/21404)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 11, 2020	 Week 7 Forum: Campaigns and Elections (https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/1803/assignments/21334)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Oct 14, 2020	 Mid-Term Essay (Due: 14 Oct) (https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/1803/assignments/21335)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 18, 2020	 Week 8 Forum: The Media - Politics, Big Business, and Freedom of the Press (https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/1803/assignments/21526)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details
Sun Dec 13, 2020	 Discussion Rubric (Week 1 Only) (https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/1803/assignments/17650)
	due by 11:59pm
Sun Dec 13, 2020	 Discussion Rubric (Week 2 and Beyond) (https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/1803/assignments/17560)
	due by 11:59pm
Sun Dec 13, 2020	 Roll Call Attendance (https://tocc.instructure.com/courses/1803/assignments/20403)