

Northwest Arkansas Community College
(Social & Behavioral Sciences Division)

Discipline Code

PLSC

Course Number

2003H

Course Title

American National Government, Honors

Catalog Description

This course will provide an in-depth study of the organization, functions, and problems of the major institutions of the national government: Congress, the Presidency, and the Judiciary. Additionally, the United States Constitution, political parties, interest groups, voting and elections will be explored. Emphasis will also be placed on major decisions of the Supreme Court in relation to civil liberties and civil rights. Current activities and other aspects of government will be discussed. This is an honors course. Please refer to the NWACC Honors Program section in the current catalog for more information.

Prerequisites

N/A

Credit Hours

3 credit hours

Contact hours

45 contact hours

Load hours

3 load hours

Semesters Offered

On-Demand

ACTS Equivalent

PLSC 2003

Grade Mode

A-F

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Analyze the formation, concepts, and components of the United States Constitution.
- Explain the role of states and the national government in American federalism.
- Discuss America's political culture and identify the traits and beliefs of the American voter.
- Identify America's major political parties and their ideology.
- Analyze the role of interest groups in American politics.
- Outline the electoral process in the United States.
- Analyze the organization and purpose of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government.
- Describe the role and structure of the federal bureaucracy.
- Examine the concepts of civil rights and civil liberties and summarize their impact on American society.

Honors Outcomes

Honors classes (and the Honors Program) promote the following core values:

Community *students will demonstrate civic engagement through Service Learning and exploration of local, national, and global communities.*

Curiosity *students will cultivate personal and intellectual curiosity through investigation, discussion, and scholarship.*

Diversity *students will explore multiple perspectives through interdisciplinary learning.*

General Education Outcomes Supported

Students gain greater awareness of cultural perspectives.

Standard Practices Topics list

- The Founding of the American state
- The US Constitution
- American Federalism
- Civil Liberties
- Civil Rights
- Public Opinion
- Interest Groups
- Elections
- Media
- Political Parties
- Congress
- Presidency
- Courts
- Federal Bureaucracy
- Domestic Policy
- Foreign Policy

Learning activities

- Individual projects/presentations
- Group projects/presentations
- Field Trips/events
- Guest Speakers
- Service Learning and/or
- Conference Poster

Assessments

- Reflexive Essay that measures greater awareness of cultural perspectives

Grading guidelines

- N/A