

JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
State University of New York

INSTITUTIONAL COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title: American Politics

Course Abbreviation and Number: POL 1510

Credit Hours: 3

Course Type: Lecture

Course Description: Students will study and examine national, state, and local government and politics with an emphasis on national public policy making. Students will learn the different types of democracy, the varieties of political culture and ideology, the role and history of U.S. political parties, the structure of the U.S. constitution, including federalism, and the functioning of the political economy.

Eligibility: ENG 1510 without supports or Corequisite: ENG 1510 with supports.

General Education Requirements Met

SUNY

Social Sciences

US History & Civic Engagement

JCC

Scientific Reasoning

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

1. Describe major concepts and theories of at least one discipline in the social sciences. [SUNY Gen Ed – Social Sciences]
 2. Demonstrate an understanding of the methods social scientists use to explore social phenomena. [SUNY Gen Ed – Social Sciences]
 3. Demonstrate understanding of United States' society and/or history, including the diversity of individuals and communities that make up the nation. [SUNY Gen Ed – US History & Civic Engagement]
 4. Understand the role of individual participation in US communities and government. [SUNY Gen Ed – US History & Civic Engagement]
 5. Apply historical and contemporary evidence to draw, support, or verify conclusions. [SUNY Gen Ed – US History & Civic Engagement]
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Topics Covered:

- Development of political attitudes
 - US governmental and political system
 - US presidential system
 - US separation of powers and the role of political parties/elections/voting behavior
 - Head of State v. Head of Government
 - Majority v. Minority governments, including coalition governments
 - US Constitution and the Massachusetts Constitution of 1780, the Articles of Confederation, the Federalist papers, and the proceedings of the US Constitutional convention
 - Unitary, confederated, and federalist systems
 - The Nation-State
 - Democracy
 - Political philosophies and religious ideologies
 - Individual Rights
 - Public policy within the American system of federalism
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Information for Students

- Expectations of Students
 - [Civility Statement](#)
 - [Student Responsibility Statement](#)
 - [Academic Integrity Statement](#)
- [Accessibility Services](#)
Students who require accommodations to complete the requirements and expectations of this course because of a disability must make their accommodation requests to the Accessibility Services Coordinator.
- [Get Help: JCC & Community Resources](#)

- [Emergency Closing Procedures](#)
- Course grade is determined by the instructor based on a combination of factors, including but not limited to, homework, quizzes, exams, projects, and participation. Final course grade can be translated into a grade point value according to the following:

A=4.0	B+=3.5	B=3	C+=2.5	C=2	D+=1.5	D=1	F=0
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- Veterans and active duty military personnel with special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployments, drill requirements, VA appointments) are welcome and encouraged to communicate these to the instructor.

Effective Date: Fall 2023