



NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

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INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

- Professor: Jason Shell
- Email: shellj@nwfsc.edu
- Phone: 850-863-6536
- Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday: 8-9:30am & 11:30am-12:30pm. If you need to meet outside these hours please email me at shellj@nwfsc.edu to setup a day/time that best works for you.
- Office Location: Ft. Walton Beach Campus, Bldg 4. Room 404

INSTRUCTOR COMMUNICATION

Your NWFSC email is the official communication medium of the College. Please check your College email regularly for any class and College notifications.

When sending an email, please follow the email guidance below:

- 1) Email must be sent from your NWFSC email address.
- 2) Use the subject line of the email to write your course number, CRN, last name, and purpose of the email. (Example: POS 1041-30481, Smith, Exam Question)
- 3) Begin your email with a formal address of the instructor as **Professor Shell**.
- 4) State clearly and briefly the purpose of your email. Inform the instructor of the questions and/or concerns you may have regarding an assignment.

COURSE INFORMATION

- Course Name and Number: American Government CRN 20601
- Class Location: Ft. Walton Beach Campus, Bldg. 3 (FW-43) Rm. 367
- Class Modality: Traditional
- Class Days: Mondays & Wednesdays
- Class Times: 9:30am – 10:50am
- Online Classroom with Gradebook: [Canvas class shell](#)
- Final Exam: Last week of semester

COURSE DESCRIPTION**In Accordance with Florida State Legislation:**

In this course, students will investigate how the national government is structured and how the American constitutional republic operates. It covers the philosophical and historical foundations of American Government, including but not limited to the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution and all its amendments, and the Federalist Papers. The course examines the branches of government and the government's laws, policies and programs. It also examines the ways in which citizens participate in their government.

POS1041 American Government: 3 credit hours

Overview of the course:

Welcome to the American Government course. This course's intent is to allow students to examine and better understand government, political ideals, and institutions. Strong emphasis is placed on political thought, the origin of the American federal system, and the distribution of powers between state and national governments. Each topic that students explore covers topics in American government. Through assignments and course objectives (critical thinking exercises, quizzes, discussion, student learning outcomes), students will learn to explore, discover, and describe various topics of American Government and meet degree requirements for specific programs at this college.

COURSE-LEVEL STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**In accordance with Florida State Legislation:****STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Demonstrate an understanding of the basic principles and practices of American democracy and how they are applied in our republican form of government (local, state, and federal).

Assess the changing nature of political parties, party platforms, voting patterns among the American populace, and different methods to measure public opinion.

Evaluate the three branches of the United States federal government to demonstrate an understanding of the duties of each specific branch and the application of checks and balances.

Understand the interdependence of each institution of government and why the relationship developed.

Explain the procedures and techniques used by various officials in the performance of their duties.

Describe the process of policy making (foreign and domestic).

Develop and demonstrate an understanding of the United States Constitution and amendments and their application.

Develop and demonstrate knowledge of the founding documents and how they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of self-governance.

Develop and demonstrate an understanding of landmark Supreme Court cases, landmark legislation, and landmark executive actions and their impact on law and society.

Goals and Objectives:

Course Level Learning Goals

GOAL 1: Students will be able to Demonstrate Basic Content Knowledge about American Government

1. Objective 1: Describe the meaning and content of the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation and the nation's founding documents
2. Objective 2: Understand the origins and foundations of American government & federalism
3. Objective 3: Identify the various forms of government and economic and political systems

GOAL 2: Students will be able to Recognize Basic Concepts of the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Presidency and the U.S. Judicial Branch

1. Objective 1: Identify the roles and responsibilities of the Legislative Branch
2. Objective 2: Identify the roles and responsibilities of the Executive Branch
3. Objective 2: Identify the roles and responsibilities of the Judicial Branch

GOAL 3: Students will be able to Understand Ideas Related to Civil Liberties and Civil Rights, the federal bureaucracy, public opinion and the political parties and elections.

1. Objective 1: Comprehend basic Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
2. Objective 2: Understand how the federal bureaucracy functions
3. Objective 3: Analyze the politics of public opinion, voting, elections and political parties

Unit Level Measurable Objectives

GOAL 1: Students will be Able to Demonstrate Basic Content Knowledge about American Government

Objective 1: Describe the meaning and content of the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation and the nation's founding documents

1. Test Questions
2. Discussion Board Posts (online course)

3. Group Projects

Objective 2: Understand the origins and foundations of American government & federalism

1. Test Questions
2. Discussion Board Posts (online course)
3. Group Projects

Objective 3: Identify the various forms of government and economic and political systems

1. Test Questions
2. Discussion Board Posts (online course)
3. Group Projects

GOAL 2: Students will be able to Recognize Basic Concepts of the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Presidency and the U.S. Judicial Branch

Objective 1: Identify the roles and responsibilities of the Legislative Branch

1. Test Questions
2. Discussion Board Posts (online course)
3. Group Projects

Objective 2: Identify the roles and responsibilities of the Executive Branch

1. Test Questions
2. Discussion Board Posts (online course)
3. Group Projects

Objective 3: Identify the roles and responsibilities of the Judicial Branch

1. Test Questions
2. Discussion Board Posts (online course)
3. Group Projects

GOAL 3: Students will be able to Understand Ideas Related to Civil Liberties and Civil Rights, the federal bureaucracy, public opinion and the political parties and elections.

Objective 1: Comprehend basic Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

1. Test Questions
2. Discussion Board Posts (online course)
3. Group Projects

Objective 2: Understand how the federal bureaucracy functions

1. Test Questions

2. Discussion Board Posts (online course)
3. Group Projects

Objective 3: Analyze the politics of public opinion, voting, elections and political parties

1. Test Questions
2. Discussion Board Posts (online course)
3. Group Projects

COURSE PREREQUISITES

A passing score on the standardized placement test measuring communications/verbal/reading achievement, successful completion of any required developmental English and Reading coursework with a grade of “C” or better, or exemption from placement testing.

COURSE MATERIALS

Our course text is **the OpenStax textbook** on American Government. This is free online.
<https://openstax.org/books/american-government-3e/pages/1-introduction>

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS AND RESOURCES

NWFSC aims for excellence in education and scholarly pursuits. Campus policies and procedures support this goal by protecting the health, safety, welfare, and property of the College and its students. To view all campus policies, please see the [college catalog](#). Several essential policies are provided below.

NWFSC POLICY	DESCRIPTION
<u>Academic Integrity</u>	Students are expected to behave responsibly as members of the College community and be honest and forthright in their academic endeavors. They are also expected to behave professionally and refrain from disrupting other students’ learning environments.
<u>Accommodations</u>	The <u>Accommodation Resource Center</u> at Northwest Florida State College is committed to providing equal access and opportunities for educational success to all students with disabilities as guided by the American Disabilities Act and other disability-related laws.
<u>Attendance</u>	Regular attendance and participation in the course is expected.
<u>Tutoring Services</u>	Tutoring services are available in person and online.
<u>Counseling Services</u>	All actively enrolled students can receive an initial assessment and up to five therapeutic sessions with a Behavioral Health provider at no cost to the student.

<u>Student Code of Conduct</u>	Students are expected to adhere to the rules, regulations, and policies outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.
<u>Student Complaints</u>	NWFSC desires to resolve student grievances, complaints, and concerns expeditiously, fairly, and in an amicable manner. A student who desires to resolve a grievance may initiate the resolution process using the information in the link provided to the left.
<u>Student Rights and Responsibilities</u>	Understanding your role as a student.

ASSIGNMENTS, GRADING SCHEME AND PROCEDURES

Assignments

There are 4 lecture exams. Exams cover the material discussed during lecture and within the textbook. Each exam is comprised of 40 multiple choice questions worth 2.5 points each (100 total points). There is a maximum time limit of 1 hour for each exam.

For traditional in-class courses (not applicable to online courses), there are graded in-class discussions and group activities throughout the course. Students who miss these activities will receive a score of zero unless prior arrangements are made (an excused absence for example).

Assignment Category	Points/Percentage of Grade	Due Date
Exam #1	20% of overall grade	Week 4
Exam #2	20% of overall grade	Week 8
Exam #3	20% of overall grade	Week 12
Exam #4	20% of overall grade	Final week of class
Class Projects	20% of overall grade	Monthly
Total	100	

Grading Scheme

Grade	Range
A	90 – 100 %
B	80 – 89 %
C	70 – 79 %
D	60 – 69 %
F	59 and less %

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

TECHNICAL SKILLS AND SPECIALIZED TECHNOLOGY

For online courses only (does not apply to traditional courses). This course is entirely online. Students must provide their device(s) to access and complete this class online. In addition to baseline word processing skills and sending/receiving emails with attachments, students will be expected to search the Internet and upload/download files. If you encounter technology challenges using course resources in the Learning Management System, email the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning at online@nwfsc.edu or call 850-729-6464.

EMERGENCY COLLEGE CLOSURE

This course's schedule, requirements, and procedures are subject to change in the event of unusual or extraordinary circumstances. If the College closes for inclement weather or another emergency, any exams, presentations, or assignments previously scheduled during the closure period will automatically be rescheduled for the first regular class meeting held once the college reopens. If changes to graded activities are required, students will not be penalized due to the adjustments but will be responsible for meeting revised deadlines and course requirements.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY TOOLS

Northwest Florida State College subscribes to Turnitin, an online plagiarism detection and prevention service. By enrolling in this class, students consent to upload their papers to Turnitin, where they will be checked for plagiarism. Papers submitted to Turnitin may be saved as source documents within these databases to detect plagiarism in other papers. Please note: All assignments submitted in this course are analyzed for plagiarism and originality.

ACADEMIC CONTINUITY PLAN

NWFSC is dedicated to protecting the health and well-being of its students, staff, and faculty. The College is dedicated to working with faculty and students to ensure timely course and program completion during emergencies. In the event of a College closure, the format of this course may be modified to enable completion of the course through other means, including but not limited to online course delivery through online classrooms. Check your RaiderNet College email and LMS classroom online for any updates.

WELCOME TO CLASS

Thank you for choosing NWFSC for your education—and welcome to class!