

POLICAL SCIENCE 101 AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

Westfield State University
Online Course (POLS 0101 550)
Winter Session
Dec. 31, 2018 ó Jan. 18, 2019

Professor Y. Hugh Jo
HJo@westfield.ma.edu
Office: Parenzo 110
Office Hours: By appointment

This is an expedited version of American National Government on-line, a college-level introductory course to American national politics. This course is part of the Common Core of Studies at Westfield State University and counts three credits in U.S. History & Government [HSGV] of the Social Science Section. This is also one of the three required courses for a major in Political Science at the University. By taking this class, Westfield State students earn 3 of the 12 required credits in the Common Core Social Science Section. For non-Westfield State students, this course can be easily transferred to other colleges and universities and count toward general education credits.

A. Course Description

This course seeks to introduce students to basic theories, key concepts, and important historical questions and policy issues in American politics. The intended audience of this class is non-political science majors, who take this course for general education credits, as well as political science majors, who seek to build a solid foundation of social sciences for their careers and a better understanding of the world we live in. Either way, this course is designed to help students broaden their insight and develop critical mind, two essential elements of liberal arts education.

This course is organized into four parts. Part One examines the theme of the democratic debate that shaped the struggle among the founding fathers over the constitution and the basic contours of political discourse today. Part Two focuses on the basic institutions of American politics: Congress, the presidency, and the courts. Part Three covers the basic processes of political participation in America: electoral mobilization, public opinion, the media, political parties, and interest groups. And Part Four explores major policy issues in this country: civil rights, economic policy, social welfare policy, and the healthcare reform.

B. Course Requirements and Grades

Students are required to participate in *six group discussions* online, with each discussion having five questions. Students will be working on 30 questions total, which will be the only means for

