

**PELLISSIPPI STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
MASTER SYLLABUS**

**UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT & POLITICS  
POLS 1030**

**Class Hours: 3.0**  
**Laboratory Hours: 0.0**

**Credit Hours: 3.0**  
**Revised: Fall 2016**

**Catalog Course Description:**

This course provides an introduction to U.S. government and politics focusing on citizen participation and governmental institutions. Topics include the Constitution, federalism, civil liberties and civil rights, voting, the media, parties and groups, public opinion, Congress, the Presidency, the federal bureaucracy, and the courts

**Prerequisites:**

None

**Textbook(s) and Other Course Materials:**

To be determined by the instructor.

**Week/Unit/Topic Basis:**

1. The Constitution
2. Federalism
3. Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
4. Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
5. Public Opinion and Political Action
6. The mass Media and Political Agenda
7. Developing Countries
8. Political Parties
9. Campaigns and Voting Behaviors
10. Campaigns and Voting Behaviors
11. Interest Groups
12. Congress
13. The Presidency
14. Federal Bureacracy
15. Final Exam Period

**Course Goals:**

Note: Roman numerals after course objectives reference TBR's general education goals.

- A. Develop an understanding of the key concepts and ideas upon which the American government is based. III.1, 111.2

- B. Demonstrate a clear understanding of how the American political process works.. III.1, 111.3, 111.4, 111.7
- C. Develop critical thinking skills necessary to evaluate political information and to participate in a democratic republic. 111.2, 111.3, 111.4, 111.5V. 3

### **Expected Student Learning Outcomes:**

Note: Capital letters after Expected Student Learning Outcomes reference the course goals listed above.

1. .Identify important themes and eras in U.S. politics from the colonial era to the present. A, B
2. Identify important topics in U.S. Constitutional study. A, B
3. Understand the federal structure and the balance of power between the President, Congress and the courts. A, B
4. Identify the mechanisms individuals use to influence government. A, B.
5. Complete written/oral projects demonstrating the ability to apply course content, using appropriate resources to access information. C

### **Evaluation:**

- A. Testing Procedures:50-70% of the grade  
The final course grade will be determined by a combination of quizzes and exams and other assignments such as written and oral reports and group projects. Examinations may come from any combination of lecture, text, videos and reading assignments
- B. Laboratory Expectations:  
Not applicable.
- C. Field Work:  
Not applicable.
- D. Other Evaluation Methods: 30-50% of grade  
In addition to quizzes and exams, students will be asked to complete other assignments such as written and oral reports and group projects
- E. Grading Scale  
The precise grading scale will be determined by individual instructors.

### **Policies:**

#### **A. Attendance Policy:**

Pellissippi State expects students to attend all scheduled instructional activities. As a minimum, students in all courses (excluding distance learning courses) must be present for at least 75 percent of their scheduled class and laboratory meetings in order to receive credit for the course. Individual departments/programs/disciplines, with the approval of the Vice President of Academic Affairs, may have requirements that are more stringent. In very specific circumstances, an appeal of the policy may be addressed to the head of

the department in which the course was taken. If further action is warranted, the appeal may be addressed to the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

#### **B. Academic Dishonesty:**

Academic misconduct committed either directly or indirectly by an individual or group is subject to disciplinary action. Prohibited activities include but are not limited to the following practices:

- Cheating, including but not limited to unauthorized assistance from material, people, or devices when taking a test, quiz, or examination; writing papers or reports; solving problems; or completing academic assignments.
- Plagiarism, including but not limited to paraphrasing, summarizing, or directly quoting published or unpublished work of another person, including online or computerized services, without proper documentation of the original source.
- Purchasing or otherwise obtaining prewritten essays, research papers, or materials prepared by another person or agency that sells term papers or other academic materials to be presented as one's own work.
- Taking an exam for another student.
- Providing others with information and/or answers regarding exams, quizzes, homework or other classroom assignments unless explicitly authorized by the instructor.
- Any of the above occurring within the Web or distance learning environment.

Please see the Pellissippi State Policies and Procedures Manual, Policy 04:02:00 Academic/Classroom Conduct and Disciplinary Sanctions for the complete policy.

#### **C. Accommodations for disabilities:**

Students that need accommodations because of a disability, have emergency medical information to share, or need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated should inform the instructor immediately, privately after class or in her or his office. Students must present a current accommodation plan from a staff member in Disability Services (DS) in order to receive accommodations in this course.

[Disability Services](http://www.pstcc.edu/sswd/) (<http://www.pstcc.edu/sswd/>) may be contacted via [email](#) or by visiting Alexander 130.

#### **D. Other Policies:**

Students are expected to demonstrate respectful behavior towards their instructor and their classmates. Conduct that disrupts the learning environment could result in a student's expulsion from the class. For more information, please refer to the "Student Disciplinary Rules" section of the college catalogue.