

# IOWA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### POL 111: AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

TERM: WINTERIM 2017

#### I. FACULTY INFORMATION:

Instructor: Cathy Trecek, JD	E-mail: ctrecek@iwcc.edu
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#### II. COURSE INFORMATION:

Course Prefix/Number	Course Name	Credits	Lecture	Lab
POL 111	American National Government	3	3	0

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

AMERICAN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PROVIDES AN INTRODUCTION TO THE AMERICAN SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT, FOCUSING ON THE POLITICAL PROCESSES AND THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. THE FOUNDATION OF THE AMERICAN SYSTEM, THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION, IS EXAMINED CLOSELY WITH EMPHASIS ON THE CONCEPT OF FEDERALISM, THE INSTITUTIONS OF GOVERNMENT (CONGRESS, THE PRESIDENCY, AND THE COURTS), CIVIL LIBERTIES AND CIVIL RIGHTS, AND PUBLIC POLICY MAKING. IN ADDITION POLITICAL PARTIES AND THE NOMINATION, ELECTION AND CAMPAIGN PROCESSES ARE EXAMINED.

#### PREREQUISITES: NONE

**COURSE MEETING TIMES:** Online course attendance, interaction, and activity are expected and will be verified through course attendance reports.

#### COURSE LOCATION: REMOTE

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:** *AMERICAN GOVERNMENT & POLITICS 2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION*, BY BESSETTE & PITNEY ISBN-13: 978-1-133-58790-3

#### SUGGESTED SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES:

Office 365 Suite is required for many online coursework assignments. To facilitate interaction between classmates, students can download the free version from their ROC Portal Page for use in their online courses.

**MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES TO BE FURNISHED BY STUDENT:**

Students are responsible for protecting their own computer equipment through use of anti-virus and anti-malware tools. IWCC students may consider *these free options*.

Students are further responsible for working in their online courses within the IWCC Acceptable Use Policy and the Computer Ethics and Use Policy. (Both policies are located on the ROC Student Portal Page under the *Technology* menu button FAQ area.)

**COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND COURSE COMPETENCIES:**

The Learning Objectives for this course are (upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to):

- A. Identify the unique features of the United States Constitution.
- B. Examine the legislative branch of federal government.
- C. Examine the executive branch of federal government.
- D. Examine the federal judiciary..

**COURSE PRACTICES:****PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS**

Online courses require a clear pattern of participation for all students. The attendance standard for IWCC is that each student logs in and participates in some meaningful way, i.e. assignment completion, forum discussion, quiz completion, etc., inside of the online course—at a minimum—at least one time each week, as measured from Monday to Sunday. If this standard isn't met for any week in the semester points will be deducted.

**STANDARDS FOR WRITTEN WORK**

All written work must be typed and submitted via the ROC course site. This is a college class and college level work is expected. Points will be deducted for spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc, errors. Additionally formatting is important for some assignments. All work must be submitted as Microsoft Word documents to the appropriate Course Dropbox. Do NOT use Google docs, open documents, pdfs or zipped files.

**LATE PAPERS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

Late work is not acceptable and will earn NO points.

**MISSED EXAMS**

Tests are expected to be taken on the date provided (either in the syllabus or as changed by the professor). Tests are open book, open note. Tests are not proctored but are timed. Late tests are not permitted.

**EXTRA CREDIT**

There is no planned extra credit. Should the unlikely opportunity arise, extra credit may be offered to the entire class.

**ONLINE CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT AND BEHAVIOR:**

It is expected that all students in the online environment address classmates and the instructor cordially and professionally. While debate and discussion may be the norm in a college classroom, doing so respectfully is the class standard. (I will address you in a

way that recognizes the respect and dignity you deserve as a scholar at this institution, and I expect the same from you to each member of the course. This standard applies to all of us even during moments of disagreement.) Any violation of this policy could result in consequences from a reprimand to expulsion from class, depending upon the severity of the incident. All course work must be submitted through the ROCLMS. Emailed work will not be accepted.

### COMMUNICATION WITH INSTRUCTOR:

The BEST, and really only way on this short term, to communicate with me (Mrs T) is via email. My email address is listed at the top of the first page. Students must use their IWCC email when contacting the instructor about matters related to the course. I will almost always answer emails within 24 hours and usually much more quickly. I will not promise to answer emails from Friday until Monday morning, but I often do. If you have an assignment due on Monday, you need to ask your questions BEFORE Friday to be certain that you receive a timely answer. Typically assignments will be returned within a week of the due date, often by the next day. Assignments are NEVER graded before the due date. If the assignment is particularly lengthy or happens to come at a particularly busy time in the term (like the last few days of term), the assignment may take a bit longer to score. Students must use their IWCC email when contacting the instructor about matters related to the course.

### INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNIQUES AND PRACTICES

This is a totally online course. We will utilize typed lectures, reading assignments, discussion, videos, etc. Work must be completed in a timely manner. There are no field trips or off-campus activities. There are no collaborative assignments (all work is expected to be your own). Collaboration is in violation of the Student Code of Conduct. No in-class presentations are required.

### GRADING

**Tests:** There are eleven chapters scheduled for this semester, each chapter has a test. Additionally there is a syllabus quiz. There is no cumulative final. Tests may be composed of true-false, matching, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, or short answer questions. Each test is worth 10 points each. **Tests are not open for post-test review – ever . . .** think of this as similar to the ACT or SAT tests. This is a measure to insure test integrity and **is not open to negotiation.**

**Assignments:** There are several assignments in this class! All assignments are written assignments and will require some amount of research. Each assignment has a specific due date. Remember there are NO late assignments. Specific assignment requirements are found inside our course site. Total point value of assignments is 100 points.

Tests: 120 points

Assignments: 100 points

Final Grade Scale: A = 220-198/B = 197-176/C = 175-154/D = 153-132/F = 131 or below

### **VIEWING FINAL GRADES**

Final grades are viewable on ROC the Tuesday after the end of the semester: Self-Services Menu, Students, and Academic Record.

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

The official school calendar is “Academic Calendar” found in ROC. Specific dates are noted in the College Academic Calendar, however dates that I believe are pertinent to this class are:

Dec. 18	Winterim Term Begins
Dec. 21- Jan. 1	College Holiday – Campus Offices are closed
Jan. 5	Winterim Term Ends

### **PROBLEM RESOLUTION**

If you have a conflict with me, concerns about my teaching and/or the course material, please discuss this first with me. If we cannot resolve the difficulty, contact contact Richard McFayden, Dean, LEW 112, 712-325-3371, [rmcfayden@iwcc.edu](mailto:rmcfayden@iwcc.edu).

### **NOTICE OF CAMPUS SITUATIONS/COURSE INTERRUPTIONS**

1. Emergency closing of entire campus such as for weather – Students will be notified through the Reiver Alert system. Students must register for this service; find Reiver Alert on your ROC homepage.
2. Course Interruption – Students will be notified in the unlikely event that the ROC system would not be accessible for an extended period of time.

### **COURSE TOPICAL OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE**

The full course schedule concludes this document.

## **III. INFORMATION/COLLEGE POLICY**

### **CYBER-LIBRARY**

Students can access books, magazines, journals, newspapers, films and audio books 24/7 through the Cyber-Library by clicking on the Cyber Library under Academics in ROC. Students can contact the library for assistance with research and citations. Check out our help features on the Cyber Library page in ROC.

For questions about finding information at your campus or center, email [cyberlibrary@iwcc.edu](mailto:cyberlibrary@iwcc.edu) or call 712-325-3247 for the Council Bluffs Campus or 712-542-5117 for the Clarinda Campus. You can find the library hours posted on ROC.

### **ACADEMIC SUPPORT**

FREE tutoring and academic assistance for a variety of core, general requirement classes are available through the Tutoring Center, located on the second floor of the Student Center on the Council Bluffs campus. One-on-one assistance is available on a drop-in basis.

FREE online tutoring is available through Brainfuse on ROC. To access Brainfuse, locate Online Tutoring next to My ROC Classes.

For more information about tutoring services or help in your classes, email [tutoring@iwcc.edu](mailto:tutoring@iwcc.edu) or call 712-388-6841. A full tutoring schedule by subject area is posted on ROC.

### **DROPPING CLASSES**

While we encourage you to do everything you can to complete your classes, it is always better to drop a class than to fail it. If it becomes necessary for you to drop a class you can drop a class online through ROC up to the last day to drop. We recommend that you always talk to your advisor and financial aid before you drop a class. For more information on dropping classes see the Advising Information Site in ROC under the Academics tab.

### **PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

To provide an environment conducive to learning, Iowa Western Community College requires that cellular phones, pagers, and other personal electronic devices be turned off or set to vibrate when entering classrooms, computer labs, library, offices, auditoriums, or arena areas. Cellular phones with picture taking capabilities are not allowed in bathrooms, locker rooms, or other areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. Faculty members do have the right to prohibit the use of any electronic device in their classroom.

### **HONOR CODE – ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Upon enrolling at Iowa Western Community College, each student assumes an obligation to conduct her/his academic affairs in a manner compatible with the standards of academic honesty established by the College and its faculty. If this obligation is neglected or ignored by the student, disciplinary action will be taken. Please refer to the Student Code of Conduct for the Academic Dishonesty Policy.

### **FERPA**

Student rights concerning access to education records are spelled out in Federal Public Law 98-380 as amended by Public Law 93-568 and in regulations published by the Department of Education. The law and regulations require educational institutions to limit the disclosure of information from the student's record to those who have the student's written consent or to officials specifically permitted within the law. Students who wish to grant access to their education (class schedule, transcript of final grades, and progress reports) or financial records (grants, loans, financial aid documents, statements and billing) may do so by submitting an Access to Student Information Consent Form to the Records and Registration Office. Access to information is only given at the Records and Registration Office or Financial Aid and Cashier Offices.

For more information, including the full Access to Student Information policy, refer to the Iowa Western Community College General Catalog or contact the Records and Registration Office.

### **DIVERSITY STATEMENT:**

Iowa Western Community College values diversity and supports learning experiences that promote intellectual growth and human enrichment.

**AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT STATEMENT:**

If you are an individual with a disability who requires an accommodation to fully participate in academic programs or campus activities, please email [disabilityservices@iwcc.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@iwcc.edu) or call 712-325-3299. Accommodations are arranged through the Disability Services Office, on the second floor of the Student Center on the Council Bluffs campus. Please allow adequate time to implement your accommodations.

Any student with mobility impairments should prepare for an emergency ahead of time by instructing faculty and/or classmates on how to assist in case of an evacuation.

**NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

It is the policy of Iowa Western Community College not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or age in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code sections 216.9 and 256.10(2), Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d and 2000e), the Equal Pay Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 206, et seq.), Title IX (Educational Amendments, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1688), Section 504 (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794), and the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq.).

Individuals having questions or complaints related to compliance with this policy should contact Kim Henry, Dean of Student Life and Student Success, phone number, 712/325-3207 or the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661, phone number 312/730-1560 fax, 312/730-1576.

**EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY AND NON-HARASSMENT**

Iowa Western Community College is committed to a policy of equal educational opportunity. Therefore the College prohibits discrimination on the basis of unlawful criteria such as race, color, creed, religion, national or ethnic origin, ancestry, genetic information, physical or mental disability, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, marital status, veteran status, AIDS/HIV status, citizenship, or medical condition, as those terms are defined under applicable laws, in admitting students to its programs and facilities and in administering its admissions policies, educational policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic programs, and other institutionally administered programs or programs made available to students. In keeping with this policy of equal educational opportunity, the College is committed to creating and maintaining an atmosphere free from all forms of harassment.

**IV. COURSE TOPICAL OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE**

This component of the syllabus provides an outline of the topics we will cover in this course. It provides a course structure for the student.

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignment
December 18-19	Constitution	Chapter Two	Syllabus Quiz Chapter 2 Test Constitution Assignment
December 19-20	Federalism	Chapter Three	Chapter 3 Test
December 21-22	Civil Liberties	Chapter Five	Chapter 5 Test
December 22-23	Civil Rights	Chapter Six	Chapter 6 Test Civil Rights Assignment
December 24-25	Interest Groups	Chapter Eight	Chapter 8 Test
December 26-27	Political Parties	Chapter Nine	Chapter 9 Test
December 28	Elections	Chapter Ten	Chapter 10 Test Elections Assignment
December 29-30	Congress	Chapter Twelve	Chapter 12 Test Congressional Assignment
December 31-Jan 1	Presidency	Chapter Thirteen	Chapter 13 Test Presidential Assignment
Jan 2-3	Agencies	Chapter Fourteen	Chapter 14 Test
Jan 4-5	Judiciary	Chapter 15	Chapter 15 Test Judiciary Assignment