

PS 111, Section XX * American Government

DONNELLY COLLEGE

SEMESTER

Days/Times

Room

3 Credits

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Instructor:

Office:

Office hours:

Telephone:

E-mail address:

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

American Government is a study of the fundamental principles and constitutional developments of American government with an emphasis on the U.S. Constitution and the structure and role of the federal government. State and local government structure and elected officials are also studied. Current events are discussed, relating what is happening in government today with what is learned in class.

PREREQUISITES:

None

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK & SUPPLIES:

Fiorina, Morris P., Paul E. Peterson, Bertram Johnson, William G. Mayer
The New American Democracy. Longman: Boston, 2011

PHILOSOPHY OF GENERAL EDUCATION:

Donnelly College has consistently maintained a strong commitment to the liberal arts and sciences as a foundation for a complete education. The faculty strongly believes that the liberal arts and sciences provide the context through which students can engage with the larger questions about students' place in the world and their pursuit of truth. Therefore, the College's general education requirements are designed to ensure that liberal arts and sciences graduates develop a breadth of content knowledge and the skills and abilities which will enable them to become educated participants in a diverse global community.

DONNELLY COLLEGE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. **Communication Skills:** Students will communicate effectively in writing and speaking.
2. **Technology and Information Literacy Skills:** Students will demonstrate proficiency in information literacy skills.
3. **Symbolic Problem Solving:** Students will demonstrate competency in qualitative and quantitative problem solving.
4. **Analytical Thinking:** Students will employ reflective thinking to evaluate diverse ideas in the search for truth.
5. **Personal and Interpersonal Skills:** Students will develop an understanding across cultural differences locally, nationally, and internationally.
6. **Academic Inquiry:** Students will engage independently and effectively in lifelong learning.
7. **Values:** Students will demonstrate moral and ethical behavior in keeping with our Catholic identity.

LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES:

In addition to the general education learning outcomes – communication skills, technology and information literacy skills, symbolic problem solving, analytical thinking, personal and interpersonal skills, academic inquiry, and values – upon successful completion of the Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts degree, the graduate should be able to demonstrate:

1. Proficiency and creativity in written and verbal communication.
2. Effective use of current technology in support of academic work.
3. Proficient use of qualitative and quantitative methods in problem solving.

4. Critical and Analytic thinking across a range of disciplines.
5. A commitment to ethics and integrity in academic and professional relationships, within the community and the environment.
- 6a. The ability to conduct research using sources, strategies, and approaches across disciplines. (AA)
- 6b. Use of the scientific method. (AS)

PS 111: AMERICAN GOVERNMENT STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of PS 111, the student will have the ability to

1. Discuss current events, understanding the importance of engagement and the political process.
2. Recognize and evaluate the basic debates and issues in American government and American political history.
3. Identify the structure, functions, and processes of American government.

Donnelly College Learning Outcomes	Associate of Arts Program Learning Outcomes	Student Learning Outcomes for PS 111: American Government	Application and Assessment (Performance Indicator)
1. Students will communicate effectively in writing and speaking.	1. Students will demonstrate proficiency and creativity in written and verbal communication.	1. Student will have the ability to discuss current events, understanding the importance of engagement and the political process.	Completion of a timed presentation on a provided theme from the course.
2. Students will demonstrate proficiency in information literacy skills.	2. Students will demonstrate effective use of current technology in support of academic work.		
3. Students will demonstrate competency in qualitative and quantitative problem solving.	3. Students will demonstrate proficient use of qualitative and quantitative methods in problem solving.		
4. Students will employ reflective thinking to evaluate diverse ideas in the search for truth.	4. Students will demonstrate critical and analytic thinking across a range of disciplines.	2. Student will have the ability to recognize and evaluate the basic debates and issues in American government and American political history. and 3. Identify the structure, functions, and processes of American government.	
5. Students will develop an understanding across cultural differences locally, nationally, and internationally.	5. Students will demonstrate a commitment to ethics and integrity in academic and professional relationships, within the community and the environment.		

6. Students will engage independently and effectively in lifelong learning.	6a. Students will demonstrate the ability to conduct research using sources, strategies, and approaches across disciplines.		
7. Students will demonstrate moral and ethical behavior in keeping with our Catholic identity.	5 (repeated).Students will demonstrate a commitment to ethics and integrity in academic and professional relationships, within the community and the environment.		

Highlighted outcome(s) will be assessed in current academic year.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS and GRADING POLICY:

Assignments	Points
Total Possible Points	

GRADING SCALE:

Example: Grades will be assigned according to the following scale.

A: 90%-100%	900 - 1000
B: 80%-89%	800 - 899
C: 70%-79%	700 - 799
D: 60%-69%	600 - 699
F: Below 60%	599 points and below

EXPLANATION OF ASSIGNMENTS:

COURSE POLICIES:

WITHDRAWAL FROM COURSES OR FROM SCHOOL: It is the responsibility of the student to withdraw from class. If a student decides to withdraw from a class, ideally, they should see an advisor and the financial aid staff before taking the withdrawal form to the Registrar's office for processing. However, any verifiable contact (e-mail, fax, phone, mail, etc.) with authorized college personnel expressing the student's intent to withdraw from a class will be honored.

If students withdraw before they have earned their financial aid, they will owe Donnelly College a debt for the unearned portion of the financial aid as well as for any unpaid balances (subject to the College's refund policy). Not attending class is not a withdrawal from class.

Donnelly College reserves the right to withdraw a student from class(es) if the student does not meet their financial obligations, including two missing or incomplete payments, or loss of financial aid. Faculty may initiate an administrative withdrawal on the basis of non-attendance. In extreme circumstances (i.e. a disciplinary problem), the Vice President of Academic Affairs may initiate an administrative withdrawal. The student remains responsible for the tuition owed in this instance.

The deadlines for withdrawing from classes are as follows:

14 to 16 weeks	3 weeks before the end of the class
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**PS 111 SECTION: DAYS/TIMES
ROOM NUMBER**

6 to 8 weeks	7 weekdays before the end of class
4 to 5 weeks	4 weekdays before the end of class
Less than 4 weeks	Withdrawals are not allowed

Withdrawal deadline dates will be published in the academic calendar.

