

PSC 201 Master Syllabus

Your College, Your Future



Established 1969

PSC 201 AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Course Number	PSC 201
Course Title	American Government
Credit Hours	3
Prerequisites	None
Course Description	<p>This course is a study of American federal governmental institutions with a focus on the Constitution and key founding documents; the functions of executive, legislative and judicial branches; civil liberties and rights; and the role and influence of the electorate, interest groups, and the media.</p>
Course Objectives	<p>Meet South Carolina's REACH Act requirements by reading the entirety of the United States' Founding Documents including the United States Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation Proclamation, five Federalist Papers, and one document foundational to the African American freedom struggle.</p> <p>Compare the three branches of the federal government and the federal bureaucracy as they relate to concepts including oversight, checks and balances, and separation of powers.</p> <p>Trace the origins and evolution of American federalism.</p> <p>Identify how evolving societal norms change interpretation of constitutional protections of civil liberties and civil rights.</p> <p>Explain the various aspects of political behavior of individuals and groups including political parties, public opinion, interest groups, media, nominations, campaigns, and elections.</p>
Course Developer	Louisa Kennedy

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Means of Instruction	On-Campus, Hybrid or Online. Lecture, discussion, video/audio recordings may be used.
Required Textbook/Written Materials/Supplies	See Booklist online for current book.
REACH Act Statement	The REACH Act requires students completing a baccalaureate degree from an SC public college complete at least three semester credit hours that include reading in their entirety the following documents: the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation Proclamation, five Federalist Papers, and at least one document that is foundational to the African American Freedom struggle. HIS 201 and PSC 201 meet the requirements of the REACH Act and are recommended course options for students who intend to transfer to an SC public college.
REACH Act Resources	<p>REACH Act Resources Available Online</p> <p>Open Education Resources on the SC Technical College System OER Hub https://oercommons.org/hubs/SCTCS</p> <p>The United States Constitution https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution-transcript</p> <p>The Declaration of Independence https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript</p> <p>The Emancipation Proclamation https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/emancipation-proclamation</p> <p>The Federalist Papers https://guides.loc.gov/federalist-papers</p> <p>Documents that are foundational to the African American Freedom Struggle https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/primary-documents-african-american-history/ https://powerlibrary.org/black-freedom-struggle/#.Yw4_r_HMLtM</p>
Link to the REACH Act	https://www.scstatehouse.gov/code/t59c029.php#59-29-120

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General Education Core Competencies

General Education Core Competencies	Course Methodology, Content and/or Assessment
<p>Communication: Students will be able to communicate effectively through reading, writing, speaking and listening.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepare written documents in a professional manner.• Develop oral communication skills to present information in a professional and appropriate manner.• Demonstrate appropriate listening skills in one-on-one and small and large group settings.	<p>AP U.S. Government and Politics provides a college-level, nonpartisan introduction to key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. Students will study U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other texts and visuals to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions among political institutions, processes, and behaviors. They will also engage in disciplinary practices that require them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments. In addition, they will complete a political science research or applied civics project.</p>
<p>Mathematical Reasoning: Students will apply those mathematical skills appropriate to their program of study.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyze and solve mathematical problems needed in the workplace, daily life and educational environment.• Interpret data using analytical methods.	
<p>Critical Thinking: Students will employ effective processes for resolving problems and making decisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify problems and potential causes.• Solve problems using basic research, analysis and interpretation.• Evaluate results of solutions and revise strategies as indicated by findings.	

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<p>Technology Utilization: Students will apply knowledge of computers on a level compatible with job and/or educational demands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate a basic knowledge of computer applications including word processing, spreadsheets, databases, and presentation software. • Use basic operating system functions competently (e.g. store and retrieve data, load software). • Demonstrate communication and research skills through use of the internet. 	
<p>Interpersonal Skills: Students will deal effectively and appropriately with others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interact well with individuals and groups from diverse backgrounds and cultures. • Work with others in situational analysis, problem solving, and task accomplishment. • Demonstrate respect for the rights, work, and views of others. 	
<p>Professionalism: Students will exhibit professionalism through observances of a code of ethics, a sense of responsibility, good habits, and a positive attitude.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate personal and business integrity and ethics. • Recognize, manage, and cope with the transitions of change. • Utilize informational resources for lifelong learning. 	

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College Policies

Policy Type	Policy Description
<p>Attendance Policy</p>	<p>Williamsburg Technical College requires 80% attendance in courses. If a student misses more than twenty percent (20%) of their scheduled class meetings (lectures and/or labs), whether excused or unexcused, they will be dropped from the course. If a student is late for, or leaves early from, a class meeting, the student will be considered tardy, and a "T" will be entered into the student's attendance record for the course. Three tardies will be considered one absence. Individual programs (i.e., nursing or industrial programs) may set higher required attendance and tardy standards.</p> <p>In addition, students must attend during the first two weeks of class or inform the instructor of their intent to attend to remain on the class roster. If no prior arrangements have been made and the student does not attend during the first two weeks following the semester start date, the student will be dropped as a “no show” from that course following the second week of class. Class rosters will be final as of the end of the second week of classes.</p> <p>Students may withdraw from a class at any time by completing a withdrawal form in the Student Services Office. A student can only receive a “WP” grade if withdrawal is completed in the Student Services Office prior to the last date to receive a “WP” grade Published in the academic calendar. Students who fail to withdraw by the specified time will receive a letter grade for the course. For specific procedures related to this policy, refer to WTC Procedure D-23.1.</p>
Policy Type	Policy Description
<p>Policy for Students with Disabilities</p>	<p>The Student Affairs Division provides counseling and support services which help students with disabilities to pursue academic programs of their choice and participate fully in campus life.</p> <p>The VP for Student Affairs can arrange counseling, special parking, priority registration, and other reasonable services needed by students with disabilities. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the VP for Student Affairs to discuss needs and concerns as they arise.</p>
<p>Policy for Academic Misconduct</p>	<p>All forms of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on tests, plagiarism, collusion, and falsification of information will call for discipline. See the Student Code & Grievance Procedure in the Williamsburg Technical College Catalog for details.</p>

<p>Grading Policy</p>	<p>The College operates on the semester hour system, and the following symbols are used in grading:</p> <p>A-- Excellent B -- Above Average C -- Average D -- Passing F -- Failure I -- Incomplete WF -- Withdrawal while failing WP -- Withdrawal while passing</p>
<p>Policy for Class Safety and Emergencies</p>	<p>Injuries must be reported to the AVP for Student Affairs immediately. Insurance claim forms are available in the Student Affairs division. Please refer to the college catalogue for more information on how Williamsburg Technical College addresses safety and emergency issues. For additional information, contact Student Affairs at 843.355.4162.</p> <p>Students taking coursework at off-site locations are responsible for reading and adhering to all safety instructions and guidance at the off-site location.</p> <p>Health Services and First Aid</p> <p>Williamsburg Technical College is a commuter institution; therefore, infirmary facilities are not provided. Basic first aid for minor injuries is available, and first aid kits are located in various departments of the College. Major illness or injury will be treated by health professionals. The campus is located adjacent to Williamsburg Regional Hospital.</p> <p>Each student is covered by accident insurance at no additional cost. This group insurance covers the student while on campus and during college-sponsored group travel.</p>