

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

PLSC 200H3 American National Government (Honors)

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite: acceptance into the Miles Friedman Honors program or consent of instructor

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

An honors course where students engage the various institutions, forces, factors and trends of American government and politics with emphasis on judicial process and United States Supreme Court cases (both historical and contemporary)

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Describe the evolution of the modern government from the early national period.
2. Discuss theories of representation.
3. Document the organizational structure of the three branches of government.
4. Demonstrate understanding of the motivations and activities of political leaders.
5. Analyze the process of law-making.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills - Students will analyze complex ideas by the study of the theory of representation and separation of powers.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate proficiently through written assignments.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will reflect upon important issues relating to the international role of American government in foreign and economic policy.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. The historical and structural evolution of the U.S. Constitution
- B. Elections and political parties
- C. Goals and strategies of the various branches of government
- D. The role of leadership
- E. Lawmaking
- F. The relationship of Congress to the Presidency and the Supreme Court
- G. Policy issues, bureaucratic function and foreign policy