

# NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## COURSE SYLLABUS

**Course Title:** American Government

**Course #:** POL 111

### **Course Description:** 3 Credits

This course is a survey of the national American political system. Although the bulk of the course will focus on the current political landscape, students will also investigate the historical context that created many of the systems, policies, and traditions that the American government follows today. Emphasis will be placed on the similarities and differences between the myths and political realities in American political life and how these concepts affect society.

**Pre-requisite:** Eligibility for ENG 101

**Goals:** The overall goals of this course include:

- acquainting students with the social, economic, and historical movements that shaped our political culture.
- developing an appreciation for the perspective of different cultural groups with attention to race, gender, ethnic, and class issues.
- recognizing the complexity and changing nature of American political life.
- developing valuable critical thinking skills.

**Outcomes:** At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Analyze primary and secondary sources.
- Define and evaluate numerous historical events that have defined political eras
- Compare and contrast different political systems
- Discuss the similarities and differences between economic and political systems
- Examine the development of an independent American political system with an emphasis on:
  - the colonial background
  - British political traditions
  - the role of the American Revolution
  - the Articles of Confederation
- Identify and evaluate the development of the U.S. Constitution with special emphasis on the Bill of Rights
- Assess the role of federalism
- Describe and evaluate the roles of the three major branches of the federal government
  - the executive branch
  - the legislative branch
  - the judicial branch
- Evaluate the success and failure of such concepts as “the separation of powers”, “checks and balances”, and “the social contract theory.”
- Outline and interpret the roles of political parties and how these powerful organizations have evolved since their inception

### **College Policies**

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty are not tolerated at Northwestern Connecticut Community College. Violators of this policy will be subject to sanctions ranging from failure of the assignment (receiving a zero), failing the course, being removed/expelled from the program

and/or the College. Please refer to your “Student Handbook” under “Policy on Student Rights,” the Section entitled “Student Discipline,” or the College catalog for additional information.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):** The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented learning, physical, or psychiatric disabilities. Students should notify Dr. Christine Woodcock, the Counselor for Students with Disabilities. She is located at Green Woods Hall, in the Center for Student Development. Her phone number is 860-738-6318 and her email is [cwoodcock@nwcc.edu](mailto:cwoodcock@nwcc.edu).

**School Cancellations:** If snowy or icy driving conditions cause the postponement or cancellation of classes, announcements will be made on local radio and television stations and posted on the College’s website at [www.nwcc.edu](http://www.nwcc.edu). Students may also call the College directly at **(860) 738-6464** to hear a recorded message concerning any inclement weather closings. Students are urged to exercise their own judgment if road conditions in their localities are hazardous.

**Use of Electronic Devices:** Some course content as presented in Blackboard Learn is not fully supported on mobile devices at this time. While mobile devices provide convenient access to check in and read information about your courses, they should not be used to perform work such as taking tests, quizzes, completing assignments, or submitting substantive discussion posts.

**Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence Resource Team:** NCCC is committed to creating a community that is safe and supportive of people of all gender and sexual identities. This pertains to the entire campus community, whether on ground or virtual, students, faculty, or staff.

Sexual assault and intimate partner violence is an affront to our national conscience, and one we cannot ignore. It is our hope that no one within our campus community will become a victim of these crimes. However, if it occurs, NCCC has created the SART Team - Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence Resource Team - to meet the victim’s needs.

SART is a campus and community based team that is fully trained to provide trauma-informed compassionate service and referrals for comprehensive care. The team works in partnership with The Susan B. Anthony Project to extend services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week throughout the year.

The NCCC team members are:

Ruth Gonzalez, Ph.D.	860-738-6315	Green Woods Hall Room 207
Susan Berg	860-738-6342	Green Woods Hall Room 223
Kathleen Chapman	860-738-6344	Green Woods Hall Room 110
Michael Emanuel	860-738-6389	Founders Hall Annex Room 308
Seth Kershner	860-738-6481	Library
Jane O’Grady	860-738-6393	Founders Hall Annex Room 212
Robin Orloski	860-738-6416	Business Office Room 201
Patricia Bouffard, Ex-Officio	860-738-6319	Founders Hall Room 103
Savannah Schmitt		Student Representative

At NCCC we care about our students, staff and faculty and their well-being. It is our intention to facilitate the resources needed to help achieve both physical and emotional health.

Last updated: 8/16