# Lake-Sumter Community College Course Syllabus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course / Prefix Number</th>
<th>POS 2041</th>
<th>Course Title:</th>
<th>American National Government</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRN:</td>
<td>30173</td>
<td>Credit:</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term:</td>
<td>Summer</td>
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**Course Catalog Description:**
A comprehensive examination of the theory, practice, ideals and realities of government and politics in the United States. Major areas of study include political theory and behavior, political participation, the legislative process, the presidency, and the judicial process.

**Instructor:**
Jeremy Norton

**Contact Information:**
nortonj@lscc.edu

**Office Location:**
Leesburg Campus Library

**Office Hours:**
Wednesday 2-4 or by appointment

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**All students are required to use LakerMail for official college e-mail communications. See the college webpage for instructions on activating LakerMail.**

**Prerequisites:**
None

**Textbook and Other Course Materials:**

**Technology and Online Computer Access Requirements:**
Internet access and email

**Course Objectives:**
*what the course will do*
This course examines the way government works at the national level. You will learn about major aspects the American political system that will allow you to understand how a policy is made, what factors influence political decisions, and what issues these decisions face.

**Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) Assessed in this Course:**
Social Responsibility

**Academic Integrity:**
The successful functioning of the academic community demands honesty, which is the basis of respect for both ideas and persons. In the academic community, there is an ongoing assumption of academic integrity at all levels. There is the expectation that work will be independently thoughtful and responsible as to its sources of information and inspiration. Honesty is an appropriate consideration in other ways as well, including but not limited to the responsible use of library resources, responsible conduct in examinations, and the responsible use of the Internet. (See college catalog for complete statement.)
**Important Information for Students with Disabilities:**
Any student with a documented disability who requires assistance or academic accommodations should contact the Office for Students with Disabilities immediately to discuss eligibility. The Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) is located on the Leesburg Campus, but arrangements can be made to meet with a student on any campus. An appointment can be made by calling 352-365-3574 and specific information about the OSD and potential services can be found at www.lssc.edu, then go to “Quick Links” and click on Disability Services.

**Privacy Policy (FERPA):**
The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of a student’s education records. In order for your information to be released, a form must be signed and in your records located in the Admissions/Registrar’s Office.

**Attendance / Withdrawal Policies:**
Mastery of course material requires regular attendance in class. Departmental policy requires satisfactory attendance on the part of all students. This generally means no more than three (3) hours of unexcused absence during the term. Failure to comply with attendance policies can result in a lower course grade.

If you wish to withdraw from the course, you must go to the Admissions Office and complete the formal course withdrawal form by July 11th. If you do not complete the course and do not formally withdraw, you will receive a grade of “F”.

**Withdrawal Deadline:**
Wednesday, July 11th

**Methods of Evaluation:**
Students are evaluated through exams, homework, and class participation.

Your grade is based on the following components:

- **Exams:** 40%
- **Assignments:** 40%
- **Class Participation:** 20%

There are a total of four examinations during the semester and each account for 15% of the final grade. The fourth exam is comprehensive and is held during exam week. There will also be several assignments that count for total of 30% of your final grade.

**Please keep a copy of each paper submitted.** If you cheat on either papers or exams, you will receive a grade of “F” for the course. Class participation will count for 10% of your grade. Your class participation grade is based on your thoughtful contribution to class discussion.

**Grading Scale:**

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 – 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 – 89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 – 79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 – 69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 – 59</td>
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This is a Hybrix/Mixed Course so be aware of seated and non-seated dates:

We will meet in class on:  
May 9, 23 (half), 30 (Test)  
June 13, 20 (Test)  
July 11, 18 (Test)  
August 1, 8 (Final Exam)

Note that test days are half days

**Unit 1** explores the foundations of the political system in the United States: the political culture we share, the structure of government, and the process of governing established by the Constitution and the American notion of federalism.

- The Declaration of Independence
- The U.S. Constitution
- Chapter 1: American Political Culture
- Chapter 2: Constitutional Democracy
- Chapter 3: Federalism

**Test #1**  May 30

**Unit 2** investigates the inputs into the policy-making process. Public opinion, interest groups, political parties, the media, voting, and elections are examined to determine how they work in influencing policy making.

- Chapter 6: Public Opinion
- Chapter 7: Political Participation and Voting
- Chapter 8: Political Parties
- Chapter 9: Interest Groups
- Chapter 10: News Media

**Test #2**  June 20

**Unit 3** analyzes the institutions that make up the structure of government. The decision-making process characteristic of Congress, the Presidency, the bureaucracy and the Courts will be discussed.

- Chapter 11: Congress
- Chapter 12: The Presidency
- Chapter 13: The Federal Bureaucracy
- Chapter 14: The Judiciary

**Test #3**  July 18

**Unit 4** concludes with the outputs of the American Political System including laws, programs, and other policy actions taken by the federal government.

- Chapter 15: Economic and Environmental Policy
- Chapter 16: Welfare and Education Policy
- Chapter 17: Foreign and Defense Policy

**Final Exam**  August 8
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<th>Classroom Rules and Policies:</th>
<th>Students will respect the views of others and complete assignments on time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Violence Statement:</td>
<td>Lake-Sumter Community College has a policy of zero tolerance for violence as stated in College Board Rule 2.17. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with Board Rule 2.17.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Syllabus Disclaimer:</td>
<td>Information contained in this syllabus is, to the best knowledge of this instructor, considered correct and complete when distributed to the student. The instructor reserves the right, acting within policies and procedures of Lake-Sumter Community College, to make necessary changes in course content or instructional techniques without prior notice or obligation to the student.</td>
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