

# Course Syllabus

Roy C. Ketcham High School

Social Studies Department

DCC GOV 121

Fall of 2021

## Instructor Information

Instructor: Mr. Hogan

Room Location: Room 113

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Extra Help Time: By appointment

## Course Identification

Course Number: D-5439

Course Name: DCC GOV 121

Course Location: Room 113

## Course Learning Objectives

Course Description – Govt 121 American National Experience is a course dealing with the philosophy, structure, functions and processes of our national government. Topics include the methods of political and historical analysis, the machinery of government, the political process and political behavior. Historical events and personalities in American politics will be used to illustrate the issues and processes of American government. The course will fulfill the History, Government, Economics requirement for Liberal Arts and Humanities majors and may be designated as either a GOV or a HIS course depending on the needs of the student for transfer.

**DCC Institutional Student Learning Outcomes (ISLOs)**

**(2) Written Communication**: Students will produce writing that is well organized, well developed, and clear.

**(6) Critical Analysis and Reasoning**: Students will formulate or evaluate arguments, problems or opinions and arrive at a solution, position or hypothesis based on carefully considered evidence.

**DCC Course Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Describe and critique political action and media coverage of that action. (6)

2. Describe, analyze and draw conclusions from numerical data. (6)

3. Understand, evaluate and apply the competing explanatory theories and ideologies of the American political system. (6)

4. Demonstrate an understanding of historical development of key American institutions: congress, the presidency, the federal judiciary, the federal bureaucracy, public opinion, the mass media, political parties, campaigns and elections, social movements, and interest groups. (6)

5. Communicate in written form clearly argued and supported analysis demonstrating their ability to identify the basic principles and philosophy of the Constitution and examine the impact of these principles on the political system, and write a narrative of the development of the Constitution from 1787 until the present. (2)

6. Assess and evaluate political material on the Internet. (6)

7. Participate in group deliberation of key controversial national issues, e.g., national health care, Social Security reform, etc.

8. Demonstrate an ability to synthesize and apply concepts drawn from course materials, lectures and discussions. (6)

9. Identify and evaluate competing theories of American democracy.

10. Analyze the historical background of American government. (6)

11. Examine the Constitutional Convention and relevant historical events of the era.

12. Identify major controversies and important Supreme Court rulings, based on the Constitution and its Amendments, which affect civil rights and civil liberties for all Americans.

13. Examine the nature of public opinion, political socialization, changes in American demographics, methods of measuring public opinion, and the media’s impact on public opinion.

14. Analyze the roles and structures of the party system and evaluate the development of the American two party system. (6)

15. Identify the types, functions, and operations of interest groups in the American electoral system.

16. Describe and evaluate the structure, powers and functions of Congress, the President, the Judiciary, and the federal bureaucracy.

**Topics Covered:**

1. The role of political culture, values, and the very diverse social environment of politics in the

United States in the development of social and foreign policy.

2. The Constitution as the foundation of our political structure and how it has developed to the

present.

3. Federalism as an aspect of the constitutional political structure and its historical development.

New York State and Local Government of the present day.

4. Public opinion and mass media as linked institutions.

5. Interest groups and linkage institutions.

6. The historical development of American political parties and their role as linkage institutions.

7. The role of money, media, parties, and interest groups in campaigns and elections.

8. Congress as a political institution and its effectiveness in representing the public interest.

9. The role of the President in American politics and the development of the presidency as a

political institution.

10. The presidency and the bureaucracy-how the executive branch functions.

11. The role of the Supreme Court as a political institution and the role of the Federal court system.

12. The role of our political institutions and our linkage institutions in the development of our civil

rights.

13. The development of our civil liberties.

**Instructional Methods:**

Lecture, videos, readings: text and primary historical documents, group activities.

**Course Requirements**

Completion of **10** hours of community service, chapter outlines & study questions, current event analysis, written assignments including essays, tests, quizzes, class participation, and final exam.

**Grading Practices:**

For your RCK marking period grades:

**70%** *Assignments & Participation/Attendance*

**30%** *Unit Tests*

For your Final Grade:

*1st QTR AVG* = **40%**

*2nd QTR AVG* = **40%**

*FINAL EXAM* = **20%**

**Calculation of the Course Grade --**

***The following grading system is used at Dutchess Community College:***

| Grade | A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C+ | C | D | F |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Grade Point | 4.0 | 3.67 | 3.3 | 3.00 | 2.67 | 2.33 | 2.00 | 1.00 | 0.00 |
| Numerical  Equivalent | 93+ | 90-92 | 87-89 | 83-86 | 80-82 | 77-79 | 70-76 | 60-69 | 0-59 |

**Required Text:**

**There is NO required Text,** I will be handing out and utilizing copies of:

BY THE PEOPLE: Debating American Government, by James A. Morone & Rogan Kersh 3rd edition, published 2017

**Supplementary Readings**

Handouts -- There will be many handouts. Students should date them and put them in a folder because they will be treated as extensions of the text material.

Daily newspapers (such as *New York Times* or *Wall Street Journal)*, weekly news magazines, network news.

**Academic Honesty**

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Cheating on examinations
2. Plagiarism, the representation of another’s ideas or writing as one’s own, including but not limited to:
   1. presenting all or part of another person’s published work as something one has written;
   2. paraphrasing or summarizing another’s writing without proper acknowledgement;
   3. representing another’s artistic or technical work or creation as one’s own.
3. Willingly collaborating with others in any of the above actions which result(s) in work being submitted which is not the student’s own.
4. Stealing examinations, falsifying academic records and other such offenses.
5. Submitting work previously presented in another course without permission of instructor.
6. Unauthorized duplication of computer software.
7. Unauthorized use of copyrighted or published material.

If, based on substantial evidence, an instructor deems that a student is guilty of academic dishonesty, the instructor may initiate disciplinary action.

1. The instructor may require that the student repeat the assignment or examination, or

2. The instructor may give the student a failing grade for the assignment or examination, or

3. The instructor may give the student a failing grade for the course.

4. Additionally, the instructor may require that the student receive counseling on academic honesty through the Office of the Dean of Student Services.