

NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY

PLS 135 - AMERICAN NATIONAL POLITICS (3 CR.)

COURSE INFORMATION

This course teaches political institutions and processes of national government. It focuses on the Congress, Presidency, the courts, political opinion, elections, political parties and interest groups, as well as civil liberties and rights. Political issues dealing with foreign and domestic policy are included. **This is a Passport Transfer Course.** Lecture 3 hours per week.

GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES

The general course objectives are to introduce the student to American national politics and its political culture.

ENTRY LEVEL COMPETENCIES

Ability to use the English language correctly and effectively as reflected in satisfactory scores on appropriate English proficiency examination for freshman students.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To define the central political values of American political culture.
2. To understand vocabulary and technical terms of government and politics.
3. To improve the basic skills of citizenship.
4. To encourage students to take a position on the important issues of American politics.
5. To improve the students' understanding of events appearing in newspapers and television.
6. To prepare students for more advanced courses in political science.
7. To understand the general principles of the U. S. Government and the interrelationships among the three branches of government.

MAJOR TOPICS

1. American democracy
2. The Constitution
3. Federalism
4. Civil liberties and rights
5. Public opinion and interest groups
6. Political parties, campaigns and elections
7. The media
8. Money and politics
9. Congress
10. The presidency
11. The bureaucracy
12. The judiciary
13. Domestic and foreign policy