

# Course Syllabus

## Course Information

**Course Title:** American Federal Government

**Subject and Number:** POS 2041

**Course Description:** The American Constitution and its development, the organization and functions of the national government, political parties and the electoral process, and the relationship of the individual to the federal government.

**Class Number:** LOREM IPSUM

**Term and Year:** LOREM IPSUM

**Course Modality:** [MDC Modalities](https://www.mdc.edu/registration/options/default.aspx)

## Instructor Information

**Name:** LOREM IPSUM

**Department and Campus:** LOREM IPSUM

**Office location:** LOREM IPSUM

**Office hours:** *(communicate course office hours with students)*

**Phone number:** 123-456-7890

**Email:** LOREM IPSUM

**Communication Policy:** *(Faculty will establish protocols for communication with students)*

## Required Textbook, Course Materials, and Technology

**Required course materials:** *(Textbook(s), library reserves, shark pack, and/or other required readings. Include ISBN Number and author(s))*

**List optional/supplemental materials/OER:** LOREM IPSUM

**Technology & Technical Skill Requirements:** *(Technology tools or equipment students need to complete this course are included)*

## Grading Policy & Assessment Methods

*List all activities, papers, quizzes, tests, etc. including grading scale used for final grade calculation. Relationships between the final grade and the learner’s accumulated points or percentages/weights breakdown for each assessment or component of the course grade.*

*Include policy on late submissions.*

*For MDC Live and MDC Online courses, include policy regarding exams (e.g., ProctorU, Respondus Lockdown and Monitor, etc.)*

*If applicable, include guidelines for extra credit.*

**Incomplete Grades:** [View the college’s procedures for Incomplete Grades](https://www.mdc.edu/procedures/Chapter8/8381.pdf)

## Miami Dade College Policies

**Attendance Policy:** *(Faculty include precise statements about illnesses/emergencies/ tardiness, missed assignments/make-up.)*

**Students Rights and Responsibilities:** *Policies addressing academic integrity and plagiarism, code of conduct, grade appeals, religious observations, services for students with special needs, student complaints, and other.*

[For more information, visit the Student’s Rights and Responsibilities page](https://www.mdc.edu/rightsandresponsibilities/)

## Available Support Services & Resources

* [Tutoring Labs and Technology – Learning Resources](https://www.mdc.edu/learning-resources/tutoring-labs-technology/)
* [Virtual Tutoring through Learning Resources or Smarthinking Online Tutoring](https://libraryguides.mdc.edu/BbLTutoring)
* [ACCESS: A Comprehensive Center for Exceptional Student Services](https://www.mdc.edu/access/)
* [Advisement](https://www.mdc.edu/advisement/)
* [Password and Login Technical Support](https://www.mdc.edu/registration/password.aspx)
* [Technical Support for MDC Live and MDC Online Courses](https://www.mdc.edu/online/resources/tech-support.aspx)
* [SMART Plan](https://www.mdc.edu/smart/)

*(Faculty select from the above if applicable and include additional course/campus specific resources)*

## Available Support Services & Resources

* [Public Safety - Services](https://www.mdc.edu/safety/services/)
* [Hurricane and Other Natural Disasters:](https://www.mdc.edu/safety/in-case-of-emergency/) In the event of a hurricane or other disaster, the class follows the schedule established by the College for campus-based courses. Please visit the MDC website or call the MDC Hotline (305-237-7500) for situation updates.

## Course Description

**POS2041 | American Federal Government | 3 credits**

The American Constitution and its development, the organization and functions of the national government, political parties and the electoral process, and the relationship of the individual to the federal government.

## Course Competencies

### Competency 1:

The student will demonstrate an understanding of democracy by:

* Identifying the Greek, Roman, Judeo- Christian, German, and English contributions to its evolution.
* Describing the contributions of the Enlightenment, Liberalism, and modern secular and egalitarian movements to its development.
* Discussing its characteristics and various forms.

Learning Outcomes

* Communication
* Critical thinking
* Cultural / Global Perspective
* Information Literacy

### Competency 2:

The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the foundations of American Government by:

* Studying the principal colonial, political, and economic institutions and analyzing the causes of the American War of Independence.
* Analyzing the Declaration of Independence, and the Articles of Confederation.
* Discussing the reasons for the Philadelphia Convention, and its many controversies and political compromises.

Learning Outcomes

* Communication
* Critical thinking
* Cultural / Global Perspective
* Information Literacy

### Competency 3:

The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the Constitution of the United States by:

* Reading the articles of the Constitution as well as its amendments.
* Defining its main characteristics, including federalism, separation of powers and checks and balances.
* Reasoning why the Bill of Rights and other amendments were added to the Constitution.

Learning Outcomes

* Communication
* Critical thinking
* Cultural / Global Perspective
* Information Literacy

### Competency 4:

The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the relations linking people with their governments by:

* Discussing the nature of public opinion and political socialization.
* Analyzing the role of the mass media, the factors which influence its coverage, and its impact on society.
* Describing the socio-economic, political, and ideological factors which affect voting.
* Explaining the functioning of political parties and interest groups.
* Knowing how federal elections take place in the United States.

Learning Outcomes

* Communication
* Critical thinking
* Cultural / Global Perspective
* Information Literacy

### Competency 5:

The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the structure of the central government by:

* Describing the functions, organizations, powers and limitations of the Congress, the Presidency, the Judiciary, and the Bureaucracy.
* Discussing the many ways in which the citizenry can impact on these institutions.

Learning Outcomes

* Communication
* Critical thinking
* Cultural / Global Perspective
* Information Literacy

### Competency 6:

The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of civil liberties and civil rights by:

* Learning about the Bill of Rights and Supreme Court decisions which protect civil liberties from government intrusion.
* Identifying amendments to the Constitution and legislation for the protection of the citizenry.
* Studying the differences between conservative and liberal interpretations of the Constitution.

Learning Outcomes

* Communication
* Critical thinking
* Cultural / Global Perspective
* Information Literacy

### Competency 7:

The student will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the making of public policy by:

* Analyzing the political process involved in making economic, domestic and international policies.
* Studying the many points of view, including libertarian, anarchist, conservative, liberal, socialist, and autocratic, held by the American people, and how they lead to political tension and compromise.
* Describing the many issues which face Americans and others in the United States, including abortion, education, health care, fiscal policies, immigration, monetary policies, social security, and others.

Learning Outcomes

* Communication
* Critical thinking
* Cultural / Global Perspective
* Information Literacy