

AMG 247 American Government

Purpose: The purpose of this course is to help students develop an understanding of the nature, role, and scope of American government.

Recommended Textbook: The recommended textbook for this study is *AM GOV 2015-2016*, 4th Edition. The authors are Joseph Losco, Ball State University, and Ralph Baker, Ball State University. Softcover, 512 pages. ©2015, McGraw-Hill, ISBN-13: 9781259284267.



Learning Outcomes: By the end of this study, students should be able to:

1. Describe the nature of government, its theoretical foundations and functions.
2. Relate American and global political thought, the Constitution, and governing institutions to one another.
3. Identify and explain the structures and functions of government prescribed by the Constitution.
4. Compare and contrast the federal, state and local governments with respect to their political foundations, functions, and contemporary problems.
5. Discuss the relationship between individuals and the state with emphasis on political objectives, rights and liberties.
6. Discuss the American political process, including the development of ideologies, voting behavior and other forms of political participation.
7. Explain the relationship between the governing process and public policy.
8. Explain how government affects the lives of individuals in terms of freedoms and restraints.

Structure: This course is divided into three sections. Each section has several Areas of Study which correspond to the chapters of the recommended textbook

AMG 247.1 Foundations of American Government

First Area of Study: Citizenship in Our Changing Democracy

Second Area of Study: The Constitution: The Foundation of Citizens' Rights

Third Area of Study: Federalism: Citizenship and the Dispersal of Power

Fourth Area of Study: Civil Liberties: Citizens' Rights versus Security

Fifth Area of Study: Civil Rights: Toward a More Equal Citizenry

AMG 247.2 The American Political Process

First Area of Study: Public Opinion

Second Area of Study: Political Participation: Equal Opportunities and Unequal Voices

Third Area of Study: Interest Groups in America

Fourth Area of Study: Parties and Political Campaigns

Fifth Area of Study: Media: Tuning in or Tuning Out

AMG 247.3 Structure and Function of Government

First Area of Study: Congress: Doing the People's Business

Second Area of Study: The Presidency: Power and Paradox

Third Area of Study: Bureaucracy: Citizens as Owners and Consumers

Fourth Area of Study: The Courts: Judicial Power in a Democratic Setting

Fifth Area of Study: Public Policy: Responding to Citizen

Sixth Area of Study: Foreign and Defense Policy: Protecting American Interests in the World

Academic Credit: Academic credit is earned for this course by passing the American

Government Examination. The exam has three parts which correspond to the sections listed above.