

# **POLS 1013 - American National Government**

*Fall 2024*

Department of Government, Law & Policy  
Arkansas State University

*12/15/2024*

## **Course Overview**

This course provided students with a comprehensive introduction to American national government during the Fall 2024 semester. We covered the Constitution, federalism, civil liberties and rights, political institutions, and contemporary policy challenges.

## **Final Enrollment**

**Students:** 78

**Meeting Time:** MWF 10:00-10:50 AM

**Location:** HSS 1001

## **Course Highlights**

### **Major Topics Covered**

- Constitutional foundations and federalism
- Civil liberties and civil rights
- Congress, presidency, and federal judiciary
- Political parties and interest groups
- Public opinion and political participation
- Domestic and foreign policy processes

### **Student Projects**

- Research papers on contemporary policy issues
- Group presentations on Supreme Court cases
- Mock congressional hearings on current legislation

## Assessment Results

- **Class Average:** B+ (87.3%)
- **Research Paper Average:** 85.2%
- **Exam Performance:** Strong understanding of institutional processes
- **Participation:** High engagement in political discussions

## Course Improvements for Future

Based on student feedback and learning outcomes: - Add more current events integration - Include more diverse political perspectives - Expand Supreme Court case studies - Increase interactive learning activities

## Student Feedback Highlights

*“Professor Wimpy made complex political concepts easy to understand and always encouraged thoughtful discussion.”*

*“The research paper really helped me understand how government affects daily life.”*

*“Great balance of theory and real-world examples.”*

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## Course Materials

- **Textbook:** American Government: Stories of a Nation (Abernathy)
- **Supplemental readings:** Congressional Quarterly articles
- **Guest speakers:** Local elected officials
- **Field trip:** Arkansas State Capitol (optional)