

## Course Overview: PSC 100

<b>Course title:</b> Power, Politics, Processes
<b>Pre-requisites:</b> None
<b>Number of credits:</b> 3
<b>Catalog course description:</b> This course is designed to engage students in the study of politics by introducing them to the role of government in the creation of public policy and the role of the public in the running of government. This course will provide a strong foundation in the role of government here in the U.S. as well as a perspective on how U.S. policy and institutions differ from other nations.
<b>Required instructor qualifications:</b> M.A. or Ph.D. in Political Science or equivalent. Master's in Education considered with appropriate experience teaching political science or related courses.
<b>Course's audience and role in Eastern's curriculum:</b> This course is part of Eastern's liberal arts core curriculum, so it is taken by students across the university, usually in their first or second year. This course fulfills the liberal arts learning outcome of <a href="#">critical thinking</a> as well as the social science requirement.  The course is also required for all Political Science majors and minors and taken by many students in the Liberal Studies major, who are training to be elementary or early childhood educators, to prepare them to teach social studies.
<b>Learning outcomes:</b>  By the end of the semester students will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Define/explain the basic philosophical concepts that undergird the U.S. Constitution</li><li>• Explain the defining characteristics of a nation-state</li><li>• Define federalism, globalization, and pluralism</li><li>• Describe the different branches of government</li><li>• Articulate why we have a government</li></ul>
<b>Primary modes of instruction:</b> Each course in Eastern's liberal arts core includes at least one high impact practice. The high impact practice you must include in this course is collaborative assignments and projects, following the <a href="#">AAC&amp;U definition</a> .
<b>Primary modes of assessment:</b> The instructor may exercise some freedom in adjusting grade percentages, but please note that only 30% of the course grade on the sample syllabus comes from quizzes or tests. As such, your class should also include substantial written and group assignments rather than resting largely on exams.  On campus, the course grade is determined as follows:

- Class attendance and participation (10%)
- Group projects (20%)
- Chapter quizzes (30%)
- Discussion posts on our course management system (20%)
- Final paper (20%)

Detailed descriptions of each of these assignments are included on the sample syllabus.

**Other notes for instructors:** On campus, instructors use Christine Barbour and Gerald Wright's *Keeping the Republic: Power and Citizenship in American Politics* as the course textbook. Instructors may select a different text in consultation with the Eastern faculty liaison.

**Approved by the Department of Political Science, Philosophy, and Geography**  
on 04/23/2025

**Signature of department chair or faculty liaison:** \_\_\_\_\_

