

**NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**  
**Testing Services and Department of Political Sciences**

**POLS 100•American Government and Politics**  
**Proficiency Examination**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Principles, processes, and problems of American government and politics. Examines the impact of changes in contemporary American politics.

**PROFICIENCY EXAM:** The exam consists of 120 multiple choice items. Seventy minutes of testing time are allowed.

The minimum passing score is 84 of the total items answered correctly. Upon successful completion of the exam three (3) hours of credit for POLS 100, American Government and Politics, will be granted. Also, NIU students passing this exam are deemed to have met the NIU teacher certification Constitution Test requirement.

**Note: Students may not earn proficiency credit for a course for which they have received credit; nor may they receive credit for courses which substantially overlap or are prerequisite to any in which they are enrolled or for which they have received credit. Normally, a student may attempt to gain proficiency credit for a particular course only once (*Academic Regulations*) Proficiency Examinations, Northern Illinois University Undergraduate Bulletin.**

**AREAS TO BE COVERED:**

1. National Government Structure (Executive, Legislative, Judiciary, and Bureaucratic);
2. Political Processes and the Federal System (Nominations, Elections, Representation, Voting, Political Parties, Interest Groups, and the Federal System);
3. Programs, Policies, and Civil Liberties.

**STUDY MATERIALS:** The student may prepare for this test by reviewing a high school American Government course he or she has taken, and/or by studying the chapters in any standard college level American Government textbook which deals with the topics listed above. Examples of such textbooks are:

Magleby, Light, et al., *Government by the People*. 23rd ed. Pearson.

Lynne E. Ford; Barbara A. Bardes; Steffen W. Schmidt; Mack C. Shelley, II. *American Government and Politics Today, Enhanced*. 18th Edition. Cengage.

Greer, John G. Wendy J. Schiller, Jeffrey A. Segal, Richard Herrera, Dana K. Glencross. *Gateways to Democracy: An Introduction to American Government, the Essentials*, 4th Edition. Cengage Learning.

Matthew Kerbel. *American Government, Your Voice, Your Future*. 6th edition. Academic Media Solutions.

Wilson, J. *American Government*. 16th ed. Cengage Learning.

Questions regarding test content and study materials should be directed to the Department of Political Sciences. PH: (815) 753-1011.

**REGISTRATION:** This exam must be scheduled in advance with Testing Services, [www.niu.edu/testing](http://www.niu.edu/testing), 815-753-1203, [testing@niu.edu](mailto:testing@niu.edu) .

**Examinees must bring valid photo identification to the examination.**

**RESULTS:** Results will be available immediately following completion of the exam.