

Syllabus

POLS1000 American Government

2013

Committee Members:

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Date Reviewed: _____

NCCA Council of Instructional Officers

Chair: [Signature]

Date Approved: 3-15-13

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

POLS1000

American Government

Prerequisite: None

A study of the functioning of the political system through an analysis and application of its underlying theories.

4.5 quarter credit hours

3.0 semester credit hours

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES/COMPETENCIES

The Course will:

1. Acquaint the students to the key values and concepts including power, democracy, ideology and political change.
2. Develop student awareness for the origins and operations of the Constitution and federalism.
3. Develop student awareness for the three branches of the federal government and their interrelationships.
4. Develop student awareness for the role of civil rights and civil liberties in American politics.
5. Develop student awareness for the decision-making process, governmental operations, as well as the role of bureaucracy – including domestic and/or foreign policy.
6. Develop student awareness for various forms of political activity including: campaigns, elections, political parties and interest groups.
7. Have students analyze the sources and impact of public opinion, including the role of the media.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will:

For Objective 1

- (a) Explain the key values and concepts including power, democracy, ideology and political change.

For Objective 2

- (a) Describe the origins and operations of the Constitution and federalism

For Objective 3

- (a) Describe and analyze the three branches of the federal government and their interrelationships.

For Objective 4

- (a) Discuss the role of civil rights and civil liberties in American politics

For Objective 5

- (a) Analyze the decision-making process, governmental operations, as well as the role of bureaucracy—including domestic and/or foreign policy.

For Objective 6

- (a) Discuss various forms of political activity including: campaigns, elections, political parties and interest groups

For Objective 7

- (a) Analyze the sources and impact of public opinion, including the role of the media.

IV. COURSE CONTENT/TOPICAL OUTLINE

- A. Foundations of American Government
- B. Institutions of American Government
- C. Public Policy Making
- B. Political Participation

V. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Required Text(s) – Select one or more of the following:
 - 1. Democracy Under Pressure
Cummings/Wise (Harcourt Brace)
 - 2. The Challenge of Democracy
Janda/Berry/Goldman (Houghton-Mifflin)
 - 3. American Government & Politics Today
Bardes/Shelley/Schmidt (West)
 - 4. American Government
Gitelson/Dudley/Dubnick (Houghton-Mifflin)
 - 5. American Government
O'Connor

6. American Government, Politics & Political Culture
Lyon/Scheb/Richardson/Lilliard
7. American Government
Wilson/DiIulio (Houghton/Mifflin)
8. Understanding American Government
Welch/Gruhl/Comer/Rigdon (Thomson Wadsworth)
9. Government in America
Edwards

VI. METHODS OF PRESENTATION/INSTRUCTION

Instructors should make use of varied pedagogical techniques, including several of the following: lectures, small and large discussion groups, collaborative projects, research, essays, computer-assisted instruction, multi-media and field trips.

VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

Course grades, at the determination of the instructor, will be based on class and group presentation, daily work, exams, presentations, projects, papers, and/or a portfolio. Instructor will distribute and discuss evaluation and her/his grading policies with students at the beginning of each term.

VIII. INSTITUTIONAL DEFINED SECTION

- A. It is important for students to check requirements at the transfer institution they plan to attend.
- B. Other requirements as determined by instructor/college.