

Course Outline

COURSE: POLS 1 **DIVISION:** 10 **ALSO LISTED AS:**

TERM EFFECTIVE: Fall 2020 **CURRICULUM APPROVAL DATE:** 06/09/2020

SHORT TITLE: INTRO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

LONG TITLE: Introduction to American Government

<u>Units</u>	<u>Number of Weeks</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Contact Hours/Week</u>	<u>Total Contact Hours</u>
3	18	Lecture:	3	54
		Lab:	0	0
		Other:	0	0
		Total:	3	54
		Total Learning Hrs:	162	

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Explores the development of American political institutions and their utilization in dealing with issues arising at the international, national and state levels. Emphasis is placed on those problems which have defined our federal system of government. California government and appropriate state institutions will be included as a vital part of our federal system of government. (C-ID: POLS 110)

PREREQUISITES:

COREQUISITES:

CREDIT STATUS: D - Credit - Degree Applicable

GRADING MODES

L - Standard Letter Grade

REPEATABILITY: N - Course may not be repeated

SCHEDULE TYPES:

- 02 - Lecture and/or discussion
- 05 - Hybrid
- 71 - Dist. Ed Internet Simultaneous
- 72 - Dist. Ed Internet Delayed

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this course, a student should:

1. Describe and analyze the critical issues in the evolution of the U.S. Constitution.
2. Identify and evaluate the role of the three major branches of the American national government.
3. Identify and evaluate the leading theories on American governance.
4. Identify the major interest groups in American society and assess their impact on the democratic process.
5. Identify and evaluate America's progress in its pursuit of equal opportunity and justice for all.
6. Analyze the role of culture, diversity and ideology in shaping public opinion and public policy in the U.S. and California.

CONTENT, STUDENT PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES, OUT-OF-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

Curriculum Approval Date: 06/09/2020

3 Hours

Content: Introduction to the Study of Politics

Performance Objectives: (1) Critically examine the concepts politics and government; (2)

Critically examine and evaluate democracy; (3) Examine why politics and government matter

Assignments: Introduction, pp1-9. Quiz 1. Homework problem set 1.

3 Hours

Content: Constitution of the United

States

Performance Objectives: (1) Critically examine the path to the U.S. Constitution; (2) Examine the various features of the Constitution; (3) Explain how judicial review came to the Supreme

Court.

Assignments: Chapter 1. Quiz 2. Homework problem set 2.

3 Hours

Content: Federalism-States in the Union

Performance Objectives: (1) Examine and evaluate American federalism in the 19th century;

(2) Examine and evaluate American federalism in the 21st century.

Assignments: Chapter 2. Quiz 3. Homework problem set 3.

3 Hours

Content: Politics in California

Performance Objectives: (1) Critically

evaluate the role of politics in California; (2) Critically examine the impact of the federal government on CA politics; Explain the fundamentals of the CA state budget process; Explain and critically

assess the fundamentals of campaigns and elections in CA.

Assignments: Chapter 3. Quiz 4. Homework problem set 4.

3 Hours

Content: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Performance Objectives: (1)

Critically evaluate civil rights in America; (2) Explain the fundamentals of American criminal justice; (3)

Explain and evaluate racial and sexual equality in 20th century America

Assignments: Chapter

4. Quiz 5. Homework problem set 5.

3 Hours

Content: Political Ideologies

Performance Objectives: (1) Critically examine the role and importance of political ideologies; (2) Compare and contrast the

various American political ideologies: Liberalism, Conservatism, the New Right, Libertarianism. and Democratic Socialism

Assignments: Chapter 5. Quiz 6. Homework problem set 6.

3 Hours

Content: Public

Opinion

Performance Objectives: (1) Examine what Americans think about politics; (2) Critically examine the sources of public opinion

Assignments: Chapter 6. Quiz 7. Homework problem set 7.

3

Hours

Content: Political Participation

Content: The Mass Media

Performance Objectives: (1) Explain the "Fifth Branch" of government; (2) Critically examine and evaluate the role of the mass media in

21st century American life; (3) Examine the relationship between politics and the media; (4) Critically evaluate whether and to what extent the mass media is biased

Assignments: Chapter 7. Quiz 8.

Homework problem set 8.

3 Hours

Content: Interest Groups

Performance Objectives: (1) Examine the role of interest groups in the American political system; (2) A historical analysis of the role of

interest groups; (3) Compare and contrast the role of interest groups in state and local politics

Assignments: Chapter 8. Quiz 9. Homework problem set 9.

3 Hours

Content: Campaigns and

Elections

Performance Objectives: (1) Critically examine the voter's perspective-to vote or not to vote, that is the question; (2) An examination of campaigns from a candidate's perspective-running

for Congress; (3) Analyze who runs for President and why; (4) Discuss and analyze the various election strategies and tactics

Assignments: Chapter 9. Quiz 10. Homework problem set 10.

3

Hours

Content: Congress

Performance Objectives: (1) Critically analyze the Constitutional powers of Congress; (2) Critically analyze the members of Congress-who are they, how do they see their role,

how long do they stay, how much do they do, what do they do, how do they see each other, how does a bill become a law and what role for a changing Congress in the 21st century?

Assignments: Chapter

10. Quiz 11. Homework problem set 11.

3 Hours

Content: The Presidency

Performance Objectives: (1) Examine and evaluate the President and symbolic leadership; (2) Critically analyze the relationship

between the President and Congress-foreign and domestic policymaking; (3) Critically examine the relationship between the President and the media as well as what role for a changing Presidency in the 21st century?

Assignments: Chapter 11. Quiz 12. Homework problem set 12.

3 Hours

Content: The American National Court System

Performance Objectives: (1) Examine what American courts do; (2) A critical assessment of the Supreme Court at work

Assignments: Chapter 12. Quiz 13. Homework problem set 13. Debates 1-3

3 Hours

Content: Public Policy and Economics

Performance Objectives: (1) Examine and

analyze the role of the national government and economic policymaking; (2) Critically analyze the deficit and the national budget; (3) Explain the development of federal social welfare policy; (4)

Explain and evaluate the national government as social insurer-social security, Medicare, unemployment compensation, Medicaid, food stamps, and welfare; (5) Critically assess the role of the federal government in ensuring economics and equality

Assignments: Chapter 13. Quiz 14. Homework problem set 14. Debates 4-6

3 Hours

Content: American Foreign Policy

Performance Objectives: (1) Describe what

foreign policy is; (2) Describe America's role in the world; (3) Critically assess the foreign policy machinery- Departments of State and Defense, the CIA and the NSA. Domestic policy and national security; (4) Critically examine current issues in foreign and defense policy since 9-11-01

Assignments: Chapter 14. Quiz 15. Homework problem set 15. Debates 7-10

3 Hours

Debates 7-10

3 Hours

Final

Exam

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

1. Lecture-Discussion.
2. Video presentations, when appropriate.
3. Guest speakers.

OUT OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:

Required Outside Hours: 50

Assignment Description:

Assigned readings

text and long form Canvas lectures

Required Outside Hours: 20

Assignment Description:

Group Debate Project

Group debate prep work

Required Outside Hours: 20

Assignment Description:

Research Project

Research, edit, complete writing research paper

Required Outside Hours: 18

Assignment Description:

Critical Thinking Assignments

Complete critical thinking assignments in Canvas

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

Writing assignments

Percent of total grade: 70.00 %

Research paper, Critical thinking assignments, current events project

Objective examinations

Percent of total grade: 30.00 %

Objective final exam and chapter quizzes

REPRESENTATIVE TEXTBOOKS:

Tom Dye. Required: Politics in America 2018 Elections edition. Boston: Pearson,2020.

Basic freshmen college political science text. Not overly sophisticated, expresses concepts using direct and widely used language

ISBN: ISBN: 9780135202753, 0135202752

Reading Level of Text, Grade: 13 Verified by: Dana Young

ARTICULATION and CERTIFICATE INFORMATION

Associate Degree:

GAV D1, effective 201570

GAV D2, effective 201570

GAV F, effective 201570

CSU GE:

CSU D, effective 201570

CSU D2, effective 201570

CSU D8, effective 201530

IGETC:

IGETC 4H, effective 201570

IGETC 7A, effective 201570

CSU TRANSFER:

Transferable CSU, effective 201570

UC TRANSFER:

Transferable UC, effective 201570

SUPPLEMENTAL DATA:

Basic Skills: N

Classification: Y

Noncredit Category: Y

Cooperative Education:

Program Status: 1 Program Applicable

Special Class Status: N

CAN: GOVT2

CAN Sequence: XXXXXXXX

CSU Crosswalk Course Department: POLS

CSU Crosswalk Course Number: 110

Prior to College Level: Y

Non Credit Enhanced Funding: N

Funding Agency Code: Y

In-Service: N

Occupational Course: E

Maximum Hours:

Minimum Hours:

Course Control Number: CCC000139095

Sports/Physical Education Course: N

Taxonomy of Program: 220700