

Bemidji State University

POL 1200: Introduction to American Politics

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 0

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci, Goal 07 - Human Diversity

An introductory survey to the institutions and actors, such as the media, interest groups, political parties, congress, and presidency of contemporary American government and politics. Liberal Education Goal Area 5 & 7.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 10/02/1997 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Foundations:
 - Perspectives on American Government
 - The Founding and the Constitution
 - Federalism
 - Civil Liberties
 - Civil Rights
2. Institutions:
 - The Congress
 - The Presidency
 - The Federal Bureaucracy
 - The Judiciary
3. Political Behavior:
 - Public Opinion
 - Interest Groups
 - The Media and Politics
 - Political Parties
 - Voting and Participation
 - Campaigns and Elections

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
2. demonstrate an awareness of the individual dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in contemporary society.
3. demonstrate an awareness of the institutional dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in contemporary society.
4. employ the data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
5. employ the methods that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
6. examine social institutions across a range of historical periods and cultures.
7. examine social processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
8. recognize and articulate the value assumptions which underlie and affect decisions, interpretations, analyses, and evaluations made by ourselves and others.
9. recognize and articulate the value assumptions which underlie and affect decisions, interpretations, analyses, and evaluations made by ourselves and others.
10. students will be able to discuss the experience and contributions (political, social, economic, etc.) of the many groups that shape American society and culture, in particular those groups that have suffered discrimination and exclusion.
11. understand the changing meanings of group identities in the United States, history and culture.
12. understand the development of group identities in the United States, history and culture.
13. use alternative explanatory systems or theories.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
3. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.

Goal 07 - Human Diversity

1. Understand the development of and the changing meanings of group identities in the United States' history and culture.
2. Demonstrate an awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in contemporary society.
3. Describe and discuss the experience and contributions (political, social, economic, etc.) of the many groups that shape American society and culture, in particular those groups that have suffered discrimination and exclusion.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted