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

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. [Core Curriculum Goal Area(s) 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. 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.
  10. understand the changing meanings of group identities in the United States, history and culture.
  11. understand the development of group identities in the United States, history and culture.
  12. 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.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT
   As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION
   None noted