

Inver Hills Community College

POLS 1111: Introduction to U.S. Politics

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci, Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

Analyzes United States national government, political parties, campaigns and elections, public opinion, interest groups, media coverage and current political issues. The course will also examine principles of the Constitution, and the structure and behavior of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. In your exploration of contemporary U.S. domestic and foreign policy issues, you will critically examine your own political values, experiences and behaviors.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 01/01/1998 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. U.S. Constitution/Federalism 15%
2. Civil Liberties/Civil Rights 15%
3. Public Opinion, Political Socialization, Media 8%
4. Interest Groups and Political Parties 8%
5. Campaigns and Elections 8%
6. The Congress 8%
7. The Presidency and the Federal Bureaucracy 15%
8. The Judiciary 7%
9. U.S. Domestic and Economic Policy 8%
10. U.S. Foreign Policy 8%

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Assess U.S. government institutions, employing a variety of political science perspectives.
2. Assess U.S. government processes, employing a variety of political science perspectives.
3. Assess U.S. political culture, employing a variety of political science perspectives.
4. Reflect critically on one's own values as a citizen.
5. Develop skills that enable participation in public life.

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.
4. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

1. Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
2. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
3. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
4. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.
5. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted