Alexandria Technical and Community College

POLS 1460: Constitutional Democracy and Government

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3
Lecture Hours/Week: 3
Lab Hours/Week: *.*
OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites:
This course requires any of these three prerequisites
READ 0900 - College Prep Reading (Minimum grade: 2.0 GPA Equivalent and Number of Years Valid: 5)
Reading College Level
A score of 2 on test Reading

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

This course examines the philosophy, politics & practices of government in the US. The role of the US Constitution in the creation & maintenance of democracy & individual liberties provides the course's central & organizing principle; however, the role of political parties, voting participation & interest groups provide the context for understanding the federal government & making sense of the political scene. It traces the incorporation of democratic political philosophies, their interpretation through US Supreme Court decisions & their impact on day-to-day politics. Specific focus is placed on an understanding of the first three articles of the Constitution: the concept of separation of powers, due process, and equal protection and the 1st, 4th, 5th & 6th Amendments. Course content is from lectures, current news sources, textbook & the Internet.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 08/26/2002 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Freedom, Order & Equality.
4. The U.S. Constitution.
5. Federalism.
6. The Presidency.
7. The Bureaucracy.
8. The Congress.
11. Order & Civil Liberties.
D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. The learner will gain an understanding of the founding principles of the new American government.
2. The learner will gain an increased appreciation for the role of the U. S. Constitution in establishing the structure and powers of the national government.
3. The learner will gain an understanding of the impact of political parties, voter participation and interest groups on the application of principles of democracy to government actions.
4. The learner will understand the application of specific constitutional principles to current social issues of major importance and the central role played by the Constitution in resolving those issues.

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

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