

Minnesota State College Southeast

POLS 1120: American Government

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: *.*

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

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

A survey of the basic structure and operation of the American National Government, with emphasis on the core ideas and values that underlie it. Topics will include citizen participation, political parties, interest groups, the Presidency, Congress, and Federal Courts. (Fulfills MN Transfer Curriculum Goals 5 & 9) (Prerequisite: none) (3 credits: 3 lecture/0 lab)

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 07/27/2016 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Examine the basic elements of constitutional democracy and the American federalism, e.g. defining democracy, introduction to the U.S. Constitution, separation of powers doctrine; civil liberties and rights
2. Examine the basic structure and operation of the American federal government, e.g. Executive, Legislative, Judicial branches
3. Examine American political behavior, e.g. topics relating to political parties, elections, media, public opinion, government policy making, and interest groups

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Define and analyze democracy
2. Analyze the United States Constitution
3. Define and analyze Federalism
4. Examine the structure of American Federalism, including the relationship between national government and Native American tribal governments
5. Examine American political culture, including issues of class, gender, race, religion, and age
6. Examine the role of ethnicity and race in American politics, including those issues relating to Native Americans, African Americans, American Hispanics, etc.
7. Examine American political parties
8. Examine the role of interest groups in American federal government
9. Examine the role of the media in American federal politics
10. Examine the three branches of the American national government
11. Examine the freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution
12. Examine issues of American justice
13. Examine American federal policy making, including economic, social, foreign, and defense policies
14. Analyze and discuss historical and contemporary federal government issues
15. Examine national values and personal values
16. Develop critical thinking skills
17. Develop analytical skills

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. 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. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

This course was previously POLS 2520.