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 seven prerequisites
READ 0900 - College Prep Reading (Minimum grade: 2.0 GPA Equivalent and Number of Years Valid: 5)
- A score of 1047 on test MN Comprehensive Assessment Reading
- A score of 2 on test Reading
- A score of 21 on test ACT Reading
- A score of 480 on test SAT Evidence-Based Read/Write Composite
- A score of 70 on test Accuplacer Reading Comprehension
- A score of 250 on test Accuplacer NG Reading

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

This course meets Minnesota Transfer Curriculum (MnTC) goal area 9. This course examines the philosophy, politics, and practices of government in the United States. The role of the United States Constitution in the creation and maintenance of democracy and individual liberties provides the course's central and organizing principle; however, the role of political parties, voting participation, and interest groups provide the context for understanding the federal government and making sense of the political scene. The course traces the incorporation of democratic political philosophies, their interpretation through United States Supreme Court decisions, and 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 First, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Amendments. Course content is from lectures, current news sources, the textbook, and the Internet. Prerequisite: College level reading score on a placement test or a minimum grade of "C" in College Prep Reading (READ0900).

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