

STANDARDIZED COURSE OUTLINE

SECTION I

SUBJECT AREA COURSE NUMBER: POL*111

COURSE TITLE: American Government

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Study of the United States' national government, including the Constitution, Congress, the presidency, the judiciary, administrative agencies, and political parties, with particular attention to their evolution, organization, and functions.

LECTURE HOURS PER WEEK: 3

CREDIT HOURS: 3

LAB HOURS PER WEEK (if applicable): N/A

PREREQUISITE(S): none

SECTION II

A. SCOPE: COURSE TOPICS

This introductory course will cover the: foundations and basic structures of American government; the constitutional basis of civil liberties and civil rights; the branches of government; the societal Influences on the political process; and the political parties and the election process.

This course is a designed competency in the area of Social Phenomena Knowledge/Understanding (SP).

This course fulfills an Embedded Core Competency in the area of Appreciation of the Ethical Dimensions of Humankind (ED).

B. REQUIRED WORK: Will vary by instructor.

C. ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: Regular attendance in class and participation in discussions are expected. (Specific instructor policy should be listed in the class syllabus.)

D. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION: The methods of instruction are determined by each instructor and may include but are not limited to lecture, lecture/discussion, small group discussion, collaborative learning, experimentation/exploration, distance learning, student presentations, or use of technologies such as audiovisual materials, computer, and calculator.

E. OBJECTIVES, OUTCOMES, AND ASSESSMENT: The following objectives and outcomes represent the department's core requirements for student achievement:

Learning Objectives	Learning Outcomes	Assessment Methods
To demonstrate understanding of:	Students will:	As measured by:
1. The basic structure of the American government on the Federal, State and Local level.	Identify and explain the concept of Federalism as the foundational model for the structure and interrelation of the three levels of the US Governing process. (SP 1)	Participation in class discussion and performance on exams and written assignments.
2. The historical and constitutional foundations of the national government.	Explain the intent, theories and processes employed by the founders in the creation of the US Constitution. (SP 1)	Participation in class discussion and performance on exams and written assignments.
3. The theoretical and practical variables that shape and influence the government.	Explain the impact of cultural diversity on the evolution of political socialization. Explain the influence of and ethics related to special interest groups and the media on the shaping of public opinion and government policy. Apply concepts of American government to local, state, or national context. (SP 3, 4, 5) (ED 1)	Participation in class discussion and performance on exams and written assignments. Project on local, state, or national governmental issues. For example, an assignment related to Connecticut State legislature.

<p>4. The history of constitutional amendments and their evolution through the course of history.</p>	<p>Explain the rationale behind the initial 10 Amendments to the US Constitution. Explain the ethical and moral influences on the adoption of subsequent Amendments.</p> <p>(SP 1, 3)</p>	<p>Participation in class discussion and performance on exams and written assignments.</p>
<p>5. The history and significance of political parties, the US election process and the responsibility of an American citizens' participation in the process.</p>	<p>Explain the evolution of political parties and their role in the selection and election of legislative representatives and the Office of the President of the United States. Summarize research methods used to predict and/or impact elections. Explain the role and responsibility of the individual citizen in the election process. Analyze and explain current and/or past efforts by legislators to create bipartisan solutions to problems</p> <p>(SP 1, 2) (ED 4)</p>	<p>Participation in class discussion and performance on exams and written assignments.</p> <p>Project on current, state, and national governmental issues (e.g., assignment related to Connecticut state Capitol).</p>

Core Competency Assessment Artifact(s):

Assignments from this course that address learning outcomes noted above may be collected to assess student learning across the school.

F. TEXT(S) AND MATERIALS: Determined by instructor.

G. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: Use of Blackboard Learn, electronic mail and the Internet.