

Master Syllabus

PLS 1120 - American Federal Government

Division: Liberal Arts, Communication and Social Sciences

Department: Political Science

Credit Hour Total: 3.0

Lecture Hrs: 3.0

Date Revised: June 2014

Course Description:

American political system at the national level, including process of government; democratic theory and development of the U. S. Constitution; citizen participation through voting; interest groups and political parties; structure, functions and powers of legislative, executive and judicial branches; issues of civil liberties and equal rights.

General Education Outcomes:

- Oral Communication
- Written Communication
- Critical Thinking/Problem Solving
- Values/Citizenship/Community
- Computer Literacy
- Information Literacy

Course Outcomes:

Three Branches of the Federal Government

Describe the American political system at the national level, including the structure, functions, and powers of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government and their interactions.

Assessment Method: Focus groups
Performance Criteria: Meets 70% of requirement

Assessment Method: Locally developed exams
Performance Criteria: Meets 70% of requirement

Assessment Method: Simulations
Performance Criteria: Meets 70% of requirement

Assessment Method: Written surveys and/or questionnaires
Performance Criteria: Meets 70% of requirement

Political Efficacy and Policy

Demonstrate understanding of political efficacy and influences on public policy and apply political knowledge to gain a better understanding of contemporary political, economic, and social issues.

Assessment Method: Performance appraisals
Performance Criteria: Meets 70% of rubric.

Assessment Method: Portfolios
Performance Criteria: Meets 70% of rubric.

Interactions of the Three Branches of the Federal Government.

Discuss and analyze how the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the Federal Government interact with one another to make, implement, enforce, and interpret the laws.

Assessment Method: Focus groups
Performance Criteria: Meets 70% of requirement

Assessment Method: Locally developed exams
Performance Criteria: Meets 70% of requirement

Assessment Method: Simulations
Performance Criteria: Meets 70% of requirement

Assessment Method: Written surveys and/or questionnaires
Performance Criteria: Meets 70% of requirement

Theoretical, Historical, & Legal Concepts and Impact of Institutions.

Identify, analyze, and apply theoretical, historical, and legal underpinnings of the U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, and civil liberties; and analyze how the mass media, interest groups, social movements, and political parties influence campaigns and elections, governmental institutions, and the making of public policy.

Assessment Method: Focus groups
Performance Criteria: Meets 70% of requirement.

Outline:

Government and Politics in Daily Life
American Democracy
Constitutional Foundations
Public Opinion and Mass Media
Interest Groups
Political Parties
Political Campaigns
Voting
The U. S. Congress
The Presidency
The Bureaucracy
The Federal Courts
Civil Liberties and the Constitution
Equality and the Constitution and Civil Rights