

## 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

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### 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 Competency
- ❑ Written Communication Competency
- ❑ Critical Thinking/Problem Solving Competency
- ❑ Values/Citizenship/Community Competency
- ❑ Computer Literacy Competency
- ❑ Information Literacy Competency

### 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