

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: SOCS 100

Title: AMERICAN POLITICS

Full Title: American Politics

Last Reviewed: 3/19/1992

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	3.00	Lecture Scheduled	3.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	52.50
Minimum	3.00	Lab Scheduled	0	6	Lab Scheduled	0
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	3.00		Contact Total	52.50
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 105.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 157.50

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable

Grading: Grade or P/NP

Repeatability: 00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

Also Listed As:

Formerly: SOCS 300

Catalog Description:
Thematic survey of the development and operation of major American political and socio-economic institutions.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended Preparation:
Eligibility for ENGL 100 or ESL 100.

Limits on Enrollment:

Schedule of Classes Information:
Description: Thematic survey of the development & operation of major American political & socio-economic institutions. (Grade or P/NP)
Prerequisites/Corequisites:
Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 100 or ESL 100.
Limits on Enrollment:
Transfer Credit:
Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:

AS Degree:	Area D F	Social and Behavioral Sciences American Institutions	Effective: Fall 1989	Inactive: Summer 2011
CSU GE:	Transfer Area		Effective:	Inactive:
IGETC:	Transfer Area		Effective:	Inactive:
CSU Transfer:		Effective:	Inactive:	
UC Transfer:		Effective:	Inactive:	

CID:

Certificate/Major Applicable:

Major Applicable Course

COURSE CONTENT

Outcomes and Objectives:

The students will:

1. Record and integrate material from text and lecture. This will be constantly related to current events.
2. Define terms, and identify political and economic institutions and persons related to the current American culture.
3. Daily discuss ongoing political and economic problems facing the nation.
4. Relate current problems to past policies of American institutions.
5. In class discussions, apply thematic information of the course to current national circumstances.
6. Use communication and analytical skills learned in class to demonstrate their proficiency on in class exams.
7. Will be encouraged to question their values and popular political myths.
8. Motivated to observe the world around them and question the goals and outcomes of their society's actions.

Topics and Scope:

1. Introduction.
 - A. Course requirements.
 - B. Study of politics.
 - C. Definitions.
 - D. The political spectrum.
2. The historical background.
 - A. The colonization of North America.
 - B. The colonial political experience.
 - C. The American Revolution.
 - D. Post-war problems.

3. The constitution of 1787.
 - A. The convention.
 - B. The constitution itself.
 - C. The principles of the constitution.
4. The presidency.
 - A. Background.
 - B. Constitutional roles/requirements.
 - C. Non-constitutional roles.
 - D. Institutional aspects of the presidency.
5. The bureaucracy.
 - A. Characteristics of a bureaucracy.
 - B. Description of our National Bureaucracy.
 - C. Role of the bureaucracy.
 - D. Measuring the bureaucracy.
6. Congress.
 - A. Description of congress.
 - B. Role of congresspersons - re-election.
 - C. The legislative process.
 - D. Why things end the way they do.
7. Macro-economics.
 - A. Background.
 - B. Fiscal policy.
 - C. Monetary policy.
 - D. The interdependent world.
8. The court system.
 - A. The federal courts.
 - B. The state courts.
 - C. Political distinctions between federal and state.
9. Civil Liberties.
 - A. Freedom to expression.
 - B. Freedom to participate.
 - C. Freedom from harassment.
10. Civil Rights.
 - A. Attempts to enter the system.
 - B. Tactics from the grass roots.
11. Interest groups.
 - A. Definition and description.
 - B. Tactics.
 - C. Case histories.
12. The media.
 - A. Television.
 - B. Press.
 - C. Control of the media.
 - D. Manipulation of the media.
13. Voters.
 - A. Political socialization.
 - B. Apathy.
 - C. Voting past and present.
14. Political Parties.
 - A. Background.
 - B. Role of parties.
 - C. Parties today.

- D. California parties.
15. Campaigns.
- A. Money.
 - B. The primaries.
 - C. The conventions.
 - D. The general election.

Assignment:

1. Read and study appropriate chapters of the text.
2. Maintain awareness of current events shaping American political and economic landscape.
3. Regular attendance of class.
4. Frequent in-class participation.
5. Note taking of material presented in class.
6. Preparation for in-class, closed-book, no-notes examination.

Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:

Writing: Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Essay exams	Writing 10 - 30%
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Problem Solving: Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

Quizzes, Exams	Problem solving 10 - 30%
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Skill Demonstrations: All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

Class performances	Skill Demonstrations 0 - 0%
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Exams: All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Multiple choice, True/false, Matching items	Exams 50 - 70%
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Other: Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

None	Other Category 0 - 0%
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Representative Textbooks and Materials:

THE BASICS OF AMERICAN POLITICS, Little Brown Company.