

PALOMAR COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD FOR
DEGREE CREDIT COURSE

Transfer course A.A. degree applicable course

(check all that apply)

COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: POSC 101: Introduction to Politics and American Political Institutions

UNIT VALUE: 3

MINIMUM NUMBER OF SEMESTER HOURS: 48

BASIC SKILLS REQUIREMENTS: Appropriate language skills

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS None

PREREQUISITE: None

COREQUISITE: None

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION: None

SCOPE OF COURSE:

An examination of the development of American political institutions and ideas. Special attention is given to federalism, democracy, the United States Constitution, political ideology, civil liberties and rights, political parties, interest groups, and the role of the media. In explaining the development of the present U. S. Constitution from the time of the 1787 Philadelphia Convention to the present, Political Science 101 includes (amongst other themes) the relationship between different regions of the country in regards to industrialization, tariffs, slavery, treatment of the Native American and different concepts of federalism.

SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The successful student will be able to

- I Think critically regarding the origins and development of American political institutions.
- II. Acquire the knowledge and disciplines necessary for successful further analytical study in political science.
- III. Evaluate current political issues and function as active participants in the political arena.
- IV Compare and contrast his/her political system with those of other nations.
- V Understand the role of major ethnic and social groups in the development of our present political institutions.

- VI Understand the rights and obligations of citizens in the political system established under the Constitution.
- VII Understand the political philosophies of the framers of the Constitution and the nature and operation of the United States political institutions and processes under the Constitution as amended and interpreted.

CONTENT IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC BODY OF KNOWLEDGE:

- I. The nature and role of government
- II. Democracy: theory and practice
- III. Political ideologies: liberals, conservatives, and others
- IV. The constitutional framework
 - A. Colonial experiences
 - B. The Revolution and Articles of Confederation
 - C. The Constitutional Convention—includes the political philosophies of the framers
 - D. Main principles
 - 1. Popular sovereignty
 - 2. Separation of powers; checks and balances
 - 3. Guarantees of individual rights
 - 4. Judicial review
 - 5. Amendments formal and informal
 - E. Federalism
 - 1. Theory and practice
 - 2. Historical development
 - a. Dual federalism prior to the Civil War
 - b. Cooperative federalism since the Civil War
- V. Civil Liberties—the rights and obligations of citizens
 - A. First Amendment
 - 1. Religion: establishment and free-exercise clauses
 - 2. The press: prior restraint, clear and present danger, etc.
 - 3. Limits of free expression
 - B. Procedural rights ("due process"): amendments 4-8
- VI. Civil Rights—the rights and obligations of citizens
 - A. Equality--political, legal, of opportunity, economic
 - B. Civil Rights Acts--affirmative action, jobs, housing
 - C. Historical development since the Civil War
 - 1. Blacks
 - 2. Women
 - 3. Other minorities--Hispanic, Asian, Native American
- VII. Public Opinion
 - A. Measuring: survey methodology
 - B. Political socialization--family, peers, education, media
 - C. Other influences--economic, psychological, etc.
 - D. Demography--race, religion, age, sex
- VIII. Campaigns and Elections
 - A. Strategies: money, media, PACs, etc.
 - B. The Electoral College; primaries and conventions
 - C. Voting behavior

- IX Political Parties
 - A. Development of American party system
 - B. Main characteristics--lack of ideology, decentralized, two parties dominant
 - C. Role of minor parties
- X Political Interest Groups
 - A. Types: economic, social, religious, public interest, ethnic/racial, environmental, single issue
 - B. Functions and strategies
 - 1 Lobbying
 - 2. Media campaigns
 - 3. Electoral support
- XI. The News Media
 - A. Types, characteristics, development
 - B. Roles of the media
 - C. Politicians and the press: co-dependency
 - D. Media bias and the "watchdog" role

REQUIRED READING:

The following or similar texts will be chosen by the individual instructor:

Schmidt, Steffen W., Mack C. Shelley II, Barbara A. Bardes. *American Government and Politics Today. 1997-1998 edition*, CA: West/Wadsworth.

SUGGESTED READING:

Supplemental texts and articles are on reserve in the college library. Handouts are given to the students to clarify the subject matter. One instructor requires students to read certain articles in current *Time* or *Economist* magazines.

Instructors also distribute handouts to students derived from newspapers or magazines, or from instructor research and study. These handouts reflect departmental expectations and are used to supplement lectures. Examples of handouts include the following:

Establishment of State Governments Leading to the Articles of Confederation and to adoption of our present Constitution

Work Force Shifts in the 80s

Basics of a Free Market Economy

REQUIRED WRITING:

All Political Science 101 instructors require writing. The specifics vary according to each instructor. Some may administer essay examinations involving four to fifteen handwritten pages during the semester. Others may require written papers varying in length from four to twelve typed pages. Some may require both essay exams and research papers. These writings relate directly to the course objectives and to the specific body of knowledge covered during the semester.

OUTSIDE ASSIGNMENTS:

Political Science 101 instructors require approximately 300-500 pages of reading from the basic text, from supplementary required reading, from handouts and from special projects. Some instructors also require subscription to weekly news magazines upon which students are tested. Some instructors require a knowledge of the geography of the world upon which students are also tested.

Students are expected to spend a minimum of three hours per unit per week in class and on outside assignments, prorated for short term classes.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY:

Lecture method of instruction is used with classroom discussion. Films or videotapes may be used.

Check all that apply:

- lecture
- laboratory
- lecture-laboratory combination
- directed study

This course may be offered as a distance education course and meets Title 5 regulations 55370, 55372, 55374, 55376, 55378, and 55380.

Yes No

If yes, check all that apply. (See guidelines for preparation for definitions.)

- telecourse
- mediated instruction
- computer assisted instruction

GRADING POLICY AND STANDARDS (include methods of determining whether the stated objectives have been met by students):

Most instructors base the course grade on three to five exams, quizzes, reports and attendance.

IS COURSE REPEATABLE FOR REASON(S) OTHER THAN DEFICIENT GRADE?

Yes No Number of times course may be taken for credit: One

If yes, identify specific provision of Title 5 Division 2 section(s) 55761-55763 and 58161 which qualifies course as repeatable:

CONTACT PERSON: Roy "Pat" Archer

SIGNATURES ON FILE