

# Minnesota State University Moorhead

## POL 120: American National Government and Politics

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci, Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

This course examines the United States national government; how and why it works. This course will analyze the role of institutions on decision-making and the consequences for public policy. It will address what political science and other social sciences tell us about factors that influence politics, government and the policies that result from the process. MnTC Goal 5 and 9.

**B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 06/01/1995 - Present

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. US Constitution
2. Federalism
3. Civil Liberties
4. Civil Rights
5. Ideology and Public Opinion
6. Political Participation
7. Interest Groups
8. Parties and Elections
9. Media
10. Congress and Domestic Policy
11. Presidency and Foreign Policy
12. Judiciary
13. Bureaucracy

### D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Students should have a basic understanding of the institutions, influences and processes that make up American government and politics.
2. Students should have a basic understanding of the vital role of citizen participation in American politics.
3. Students should have a basic understanding of the influence of the electoral system of American institutions and policies.

## **E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies**

### Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
3. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
4. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

### Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

1. Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
2. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
3. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

## **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

## **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted