

North Hennepin Community College

POLS 1100: American Government and Politics

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: *.*

Lab Hours/Week: *.*

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

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

This course is a general introduction to American politics with emphasis on the Constitution, citizen participation, elections, and the role of the major governmental institutions - Congress, presidency and judiciary - in the formulation of public policy in the United States.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 09/10/1997 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. This course may include but is not limited to the study of:
 - American government institutions
 - Federalism/state and local politics
 - Political processes
 - Political ideologies/theories
 - Public policies/contemporary social issues
 - Political science methodology
 - Political psychology/political socialization
 - American elections
 - Civic engagement
 - Political parties and interest groups
 - US Constitution/civil rights and civil liberties
 - Mass media

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Build a basic understanding of the American political system:
 - a) Explain the writing and ratification of our US Constitution and discuss its general design and content (NHCC ELO 1)
 - b) Identify the three major government branches (Congress, presidency, and judiciary) and the respective roles of each branch (NHCC ELO 1)
 - c) Identify and discuss current public policy debates in US politics (NHCC ELO 1)
 - d) Describe the US elections process and cycle (NHCC ELO 1)
 - e) Identify opportunities for citizen participation in US politics (MnTC Goal 9e; NHCC ELO 3)
2. Employ the methods and data that political scientists use to investigate the human condition (MnTC Goal 5a; MnTC Goal 2; NHCC ELO 2)
3. Use and critique explanatory systems or theories (MnTC Goal 5c; NHCC ELO 3)
4. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues (MnTC Goal 5d; NHCC ELO 1)
5. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g., politics, etc.) to specific issues (MnTC Goal 9b; NHCC ELO 1)
6. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues (MnTC Goal 9c; NHCC ELO 3)
7. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others (MnTC Goal 9d; NHCC ELO 3)

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

Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

1. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
2. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

1. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
2. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.
3. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

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.

Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

1. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

1. Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World--Through study in the sciences, mathematics, social sciences, humanities, histories, languages, the arts, technology and professions.
2. Intellectual and Practical Skills--Including: Inquiry and analysis; Critical and creative thinking; Written and oral communication; Quantitative literacy; Information literacy; Teamwork and problem solving.
3. Personal and Social Responsibility and Engagement--Including: Civic knowledge and involvement--campus, local and global; Intercultural knowledge and competence; Ethical reasoning and action; Foundations and skills for lifelong learning.