

# Dakota County Technical College

## POLS 1100: The American Political System

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: \*.\*

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

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

This course is a survey of American Government with a focus on political theory and history, the U.S. Constitution, the branches of the federal government, and the concept of civil liberties and rights. Students will be introduced to the party system and political process in the U.S., the impact of public opinion, mass media/Internet, and interest groups. And overview of public policy and state and local government will also be provided.

Prerequisites: None.

### B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 05/21/2012 - Present

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

### D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Political Theory and History: Student will define the difference between anarchy and social contract.
2. Political Theory and History: Students will be able to identify the forms of government and the theory behind U.S. democracy
3. Branches of Federal Government: Students will demonstrate knowledge of and the role of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of government at the federal level and the role played by bureaucracy
4. People and Politics: Students will demonstrate an understanding of the U.S. political party system and the nature of the voting process
5. People and Politics: Students will identify the role of public opinion, mass media/Internet and interest groups on the political landscape in the U.S.
6. Political Theory and History: Student will demonstrate an understanding of the concepts of federalism, civil liberties, and civil rights
7. Political Theory and History: Students will be able to identify the purpose, nature and critical elements of the U.S, Constitution and changes made to the document since its adoption
8. Public Policy: Students will compare and contrast domestic/economic and foreign/domestic policy
9. State and Local Government: Students will demonstrate knowledge of state and local governing bodies and how they interact with each other and the federal government

## **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. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
3. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
4. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.
5. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

## **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

## **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted