

# Bemidji State University

## POL 1200: Introduction to American 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

An introductory survey to the institutions and actors, such as the media, interest groups, political parties, congress, and presidency of contemporary American government and politics. Liberal Education Goal Area 5 & 9.

**B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 10/02/1997 - Present

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Foundations:  
Perspectives on American Government  
The Founding and the Constitution  
Federalism  
Civil Liberties  
Civil Rights
2. Institutions:  
The Congress  
The Presidency  
The Federal Bureaucracy  
The Judiciary
3. Political Behavior:  
Public Opinion  
Interest Groups  
The Media and Politics  
Political Parties  
Voting and Participation  
Campaigns and Elections

### D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. be provided with the basic tools for thinking about and understanding the American political system
2. be encouraged to think critically about the strengths and weaknesses of the American political system
3. have their awareness of American political processes raised and their ability to engage both in constructive political dialogue and political participation.

## **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.

### Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

1. Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.

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

1. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
2. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
3. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

### Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

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

## **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

## **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted