

COURSE OUTLINE

Political Science 101 (C-ID Number: POLS 110) Introduction to Government (C-ID Title: Introduction to American Government and Politics)

Catalog Statement

POL S 101 is an introduction to the principles, institutions, policies, and politics of government in the United States and California.

Total Lecture Units: 3.0

Total Laboratory Units: 0.0

Total Course Units: 3.0

Total Lecture Hours: 48.0

Total Laboratory Hours: 0.0

Total Laboratory Hours To Be Arranged: 0.0

Total Faculty Contact Hours: 48.0

Prerequisite: Eligibility for ENGL 120 or ESL 151

Note: Starting Spring 2014, POL S 101 allows only one unit of credit for students who have completed POL S 105 or SOC S 132, and allows two units of credit for students who have completed POL S 106. POL S 101 satisfies both the CSU and GCC American Institutions and State and Local Government graduation requirements.

Course Entry Expectations

Prior to enrolling in the course, the student should be able to:

- analyze short essays (approximately 2-6 pages in length) to identify thesis, topic, developmental and concluding sentences, as well as transitional expressions used to increase coherence;
- evaluate compositions for unity, sufficiency of development, evidence, coherence, and variety of sentence structure;
- organize and write an essay which:
 - addresses the topic and is directed by a thesis statement;
 - has an introduction, body, and conclusion and demonstrates a basic understanding of essay organization;
 - shows some awareness of critical thinking: e.g., linkage of evidence with assertion,
 - some awareness of pro-con sides to an issue, ability to compare/contrast two short

- readings in a focused way;
- develops ideas, moving from general to specific;
- is easy to read and follow;
- uses a variety of sentence types.

Course Exit Standards

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

- describe the theoretical basis of government;
- describe and evaluate the impact of federalism;
- analyze the elements of the federal Constitution and the California Constitution;
- evaluate the basic institutions of American government and the State of California;
- evaluate political processes such as elections and interest groups affecting American government and California;
- critique selected public policies
- analyze the role of culture, diversity, and ideology in shaping public opinion and public policy in the United States and California.

Course Content

Total Faculty Contact Hours = 48.0

Introduction to Power, Authority and Government (5 hours)

Theoretical basis of government
Structures and philosophies
Analytical criteria
The nature of politics

National and State Constitutions (8 hours)

Structure and powers of the federal government
The principle of federalism
The peoples' rights and liberties
State Constitutions: Emphasis on California

Institutions of American Government (12 hours)

The presidency
Congress
Bureaucracy
The courts

Institutions of California Government (3 hours)

The legislature
The executive
The judiciary
Local government

The Background to California Government and Politics (3 hours)

Historical development
Socioeconomic change
Political change

Elections and Democracy (5 hours)

Suffrage

- Elections
 - Elections and direct democracy in California
- Political Processes (**5 hours**)
 - Political parties
 - Pressure groups
 - Elites
 - Parties and groups in California
- Public Policy (**3 hours**)
 - Foreign Policy
 - Domestic policies
 - Solving California's problems
 - Patterns of population
 - Problems of future growth
- The Political Context (**4 hours**)
 - Political culture
 - Ideology
 - Socialization
 - Political economy
 - Public opinion
 - Race and ethnicity

Methods of Instruction

The following methods of instruction may be used in this course:

- classroom lecture and discussion;
- audio-visual presentations;
- student presentations and discussions.

Out of Class Assignments

The following out of class assignments may be used in this course:

- written report on public lectures or presentations comparing and contrasting institutions of government (e.g. a report on the effectiveness of local government after a student has attended a local city council meeting);
- research paper on government designed to develop analytical and critical thinking skills (e.g. a research paper on the role of special interests in the policymaking process).

Methods of Evaluation

The following methods of evaluation may be used in this course:

- essay examinations;
- evaluation of student presentations and discussions;
- final essay examination requiring demonstration of course exit standards.

Textbooks

Greenberg, Edward and Benjamin Page. *The Struggle for Democracy, 2012 Election Edition*. 11th ed. Boston: Longman, 2012. Print.
13th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 978-0205909049

Krugman, Paul. *The Conscience of a Liberal*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2009. Print.
13th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 978-0393333138

This is the most recent edition of this book. (See accompanying evidence of textbook recency.)

Patterson, Thomas. *We the People*. Chicago: McGraw Hill, 2012. Print.
13th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 978-0073379173

Greenberg, Edward and Benjamin Page. *America's Democratic Republic*. 4th ed. Chicago: McGraw Hill, 2010. Print.
13th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 978-0205806744

Field, Mona. *California Government and Politics Today*. Boston: Longman, 2012. Print.
13th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN: 978-020525780

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

- critically analyze and evaluate the institutions and political process of American and California government and politics.